



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, December 18, 2025



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Austin Johnson	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	paige.lay@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com



Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	Computer Updates / Vehicle Maintenance / RC Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	EM Visit / RC Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Office Admin / RC Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Okechobee	EM Visit / RC Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	RC Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	LMS Meeting / RC Meeting



Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5
Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Okaloosa	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	LMS Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Volusia	Comms Maintenance
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	Admin. Duties
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Polk	Off & Monitoring
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Broward	LMS Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2/4

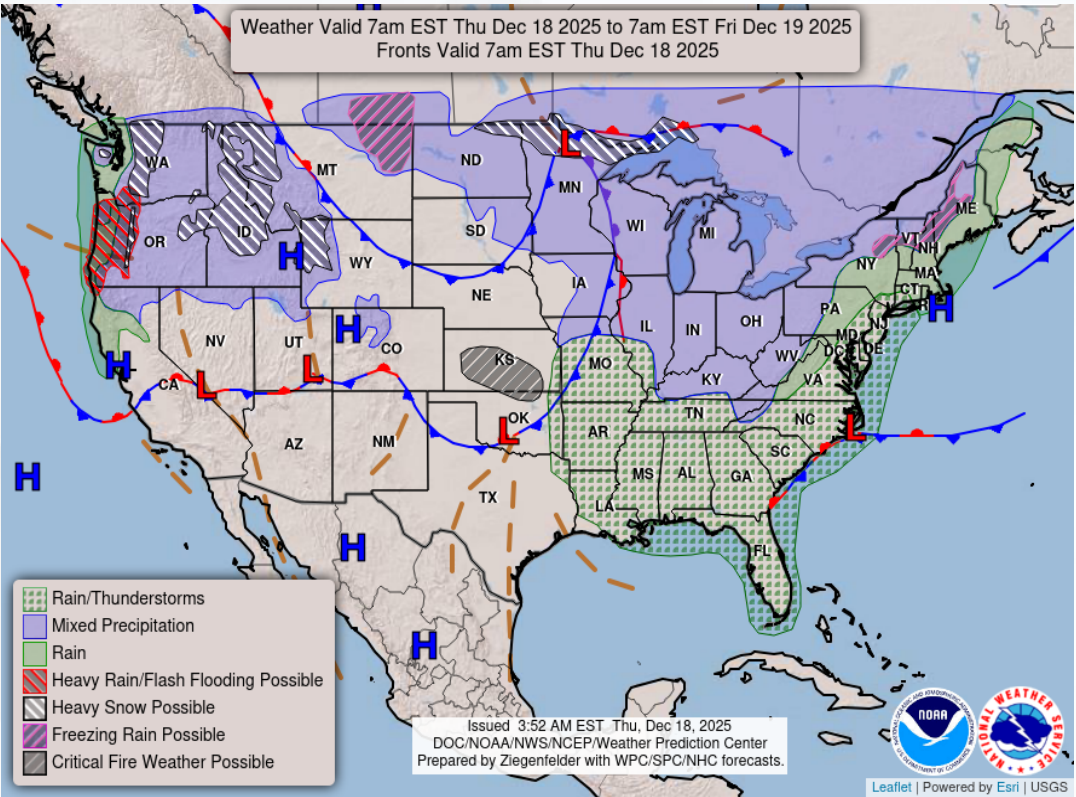
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6/8

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable

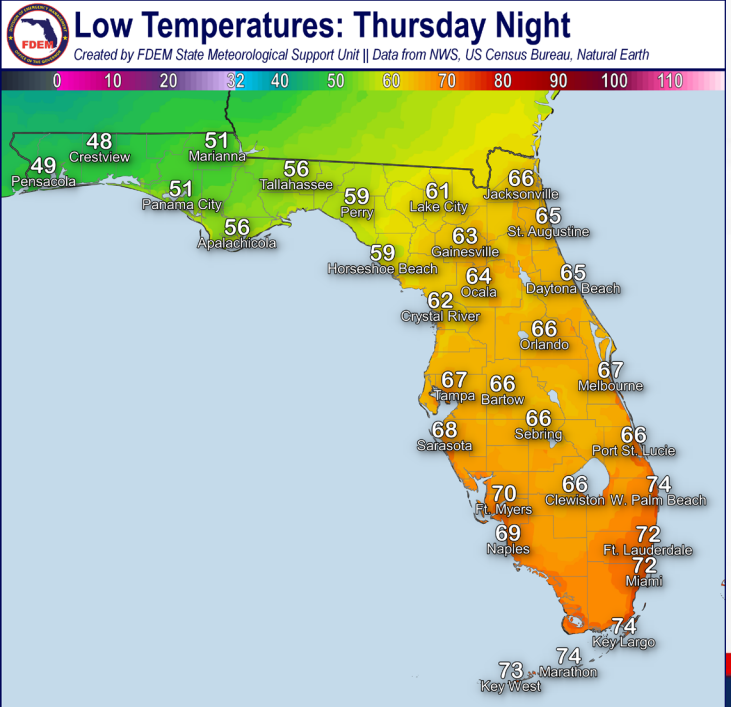
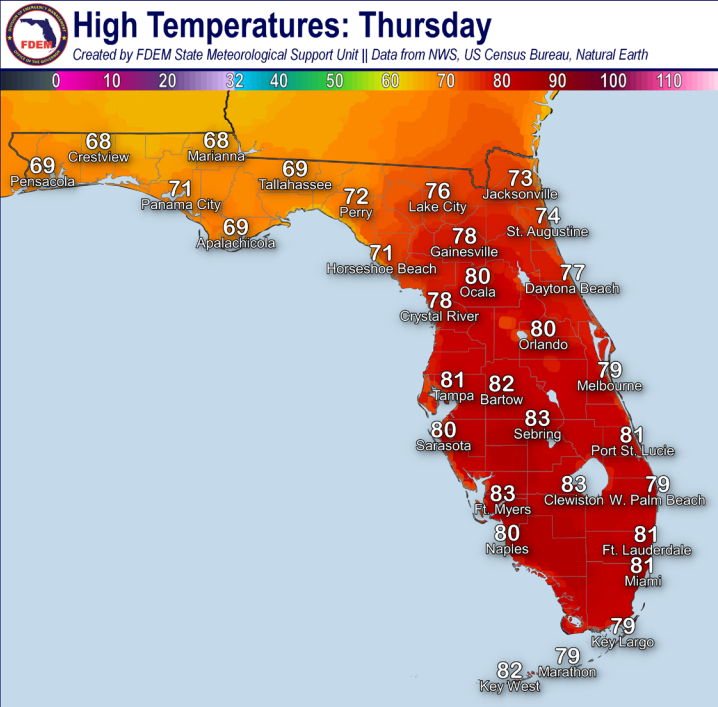


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L			L	L	
Tornado		L	L							
Damaging Wind		L	L							
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L							
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)								L	M	L
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.54 ft. (1.17 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	419 (+3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

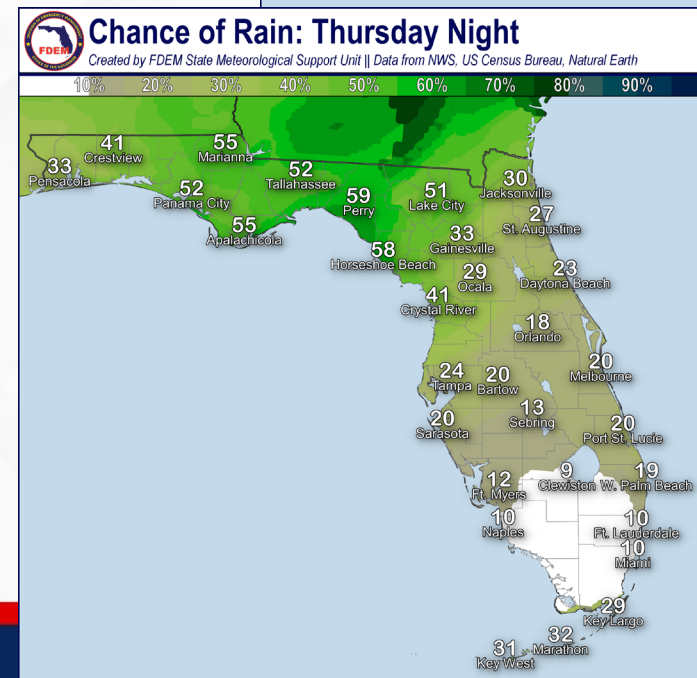
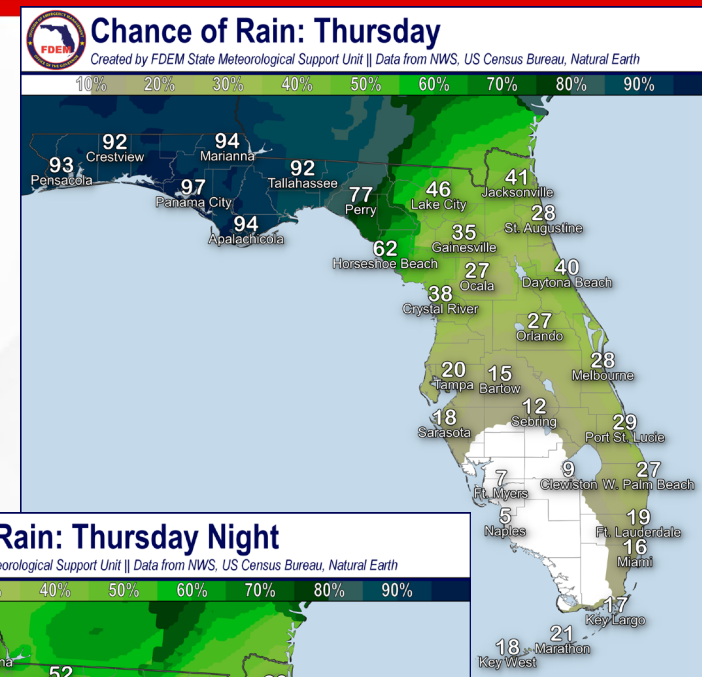
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An upper-level disturbance will continue its approach towards Florida over the northern Gulf waters today ushering in abundant tropical moisture amidst warm southerly flow. As a result, scattered to numerous showers and embedded thunderstorms will overspread the Panhandle this morning as a large area of rain over the Gulf moves onshore (80-100% chance of rain). Towards this afternoon, enough daytime heating may allow for a few additional **locally strong thunderstorms** to develop across the Big Bend and Nature Coast, though confidence is low in any widespread thunderstorm activity. If any stronger thunderstorms do develop, a few strikes of lightning or even a brief waterspout along the Forgotten and Nature Coast cannot be ruled out. Regardless, a few **locally heavy downpours** will accompany the heavier shower activity today across the Panhandle which could lead to localized instances of **nuisance flooding and ponding of water**. This activity will stream north and eastward throughout the day, with Northeast Florida getting in on some of the action later this afternoon and evening with a few isolated to scattered showers (35-50% chance of rain), however the bulk of the rain is expected to pass to the north. A few coastal showers or locally embedded thunderstorms may also drift onshore across the I-95 corridor today, though any activity will be brief in nature (20-40% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions are expected across Southwest Florida today.

High temperatures will crest into the upper 60s to middle 70s across North Florida, with lower to middle 80s expected across Central and South Florida.

A few scattered showers may linger across the Panhandle and Northeast Florida early overnight as the upper-level disturbance departs the region to the north (40-60% chance of rain). After midnight, a cold frontal passage will bring a few additional isolated showers to the Panhandle (20-30% chance of rain). A few brief sprinkles or an isolated shower is also possible across the I-4 and I-95 corridors overnight (15-20% chance of rain). Low-level moisture will linger across interior South Florida which may promote **patchy dense fog development** towards daybreak Friday. Low temperatures will begin to cool off again across the Panhandle as the cold front makes its passage, with temperatures reaching the upper 40s over the western Panhandle and middle 50s across the eastern Panhandle.

Lows in the 60s are expected for all the Peninsula, with coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys only reaching the lower to middle 70s.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Onshore southerly winds will bring a return of a **high risk for rip currents** for most Panhandle and Southeast Florida beaches today. A **moderate risk for rip currents** will persist along the rest of the East Coast due to elevated ocean swells. A low risk is expected for all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights along the East Coast will increase throughout the day today, nearing **3-5'** for nearly all beaches. Similarly, onshore winds and a building ocean swell will bring surf of **3-4'** for all Panhandle beaches, with some waves **upwards of 5'** overnight tonight in the surf zone. Waves will remain near 1' for all West Coast beaches today before a slight increase to 1-2' this evening and overnight.

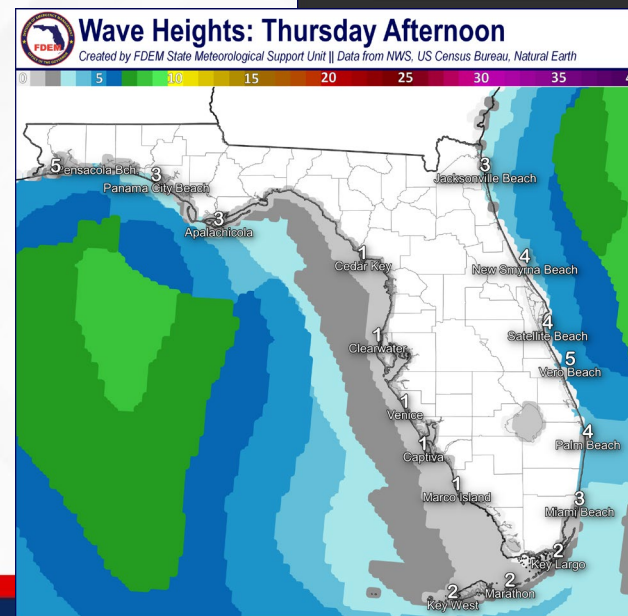
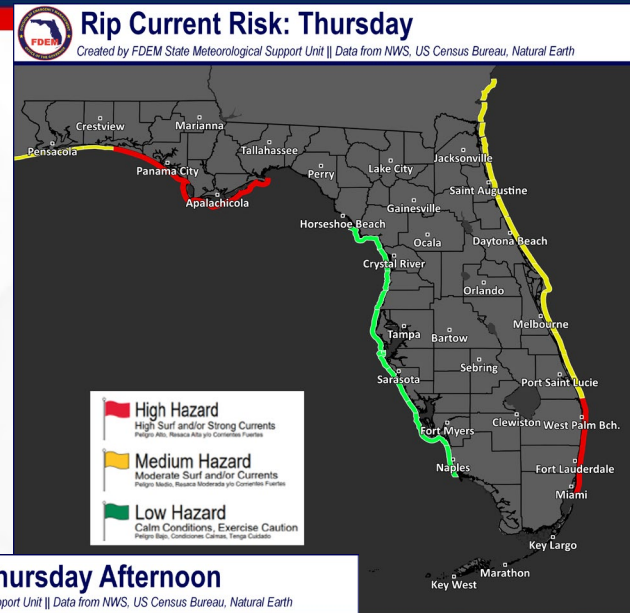
Red Tide was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in both Bay and Gulf counties and background to **low concentrations** in Franklin County. Red Tide was not observed in Southwest Florida or along the Florida East Coast (valid 12/12).

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding across Florida.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Beneficial rainfall is expected across much of the Panhandle and North Florida throughout the day with scattered to widespread showers and a few embedded thunderstorms. Some of this activity could produce a few **locally heavy downpours** and localized instances of **nuisance flooding**, however widespread flash flooding is not anticipated. Rainfall totals between 0.5-1" are expected across the Panhandle, with locally heavier amounts **upwards of 3"** possible.

Riverine Flooding: There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.54 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.17 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



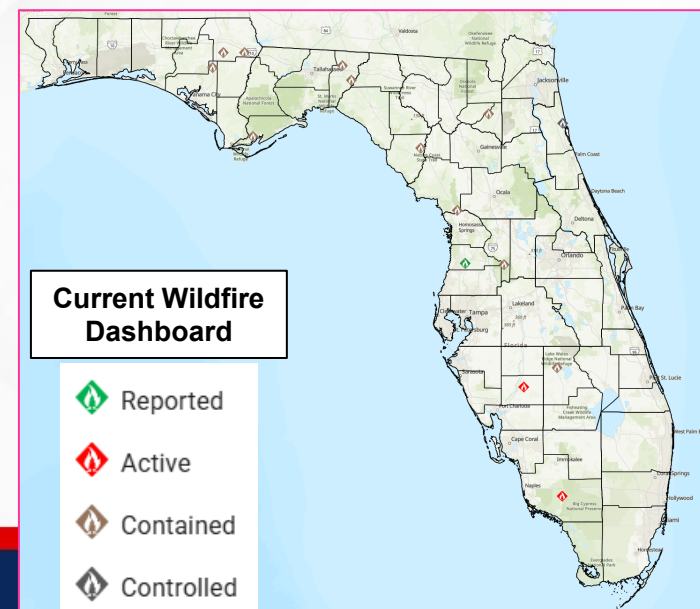
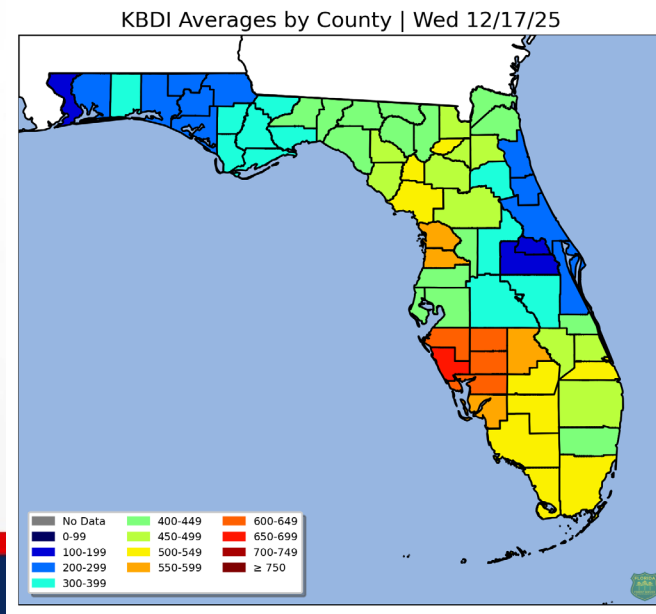
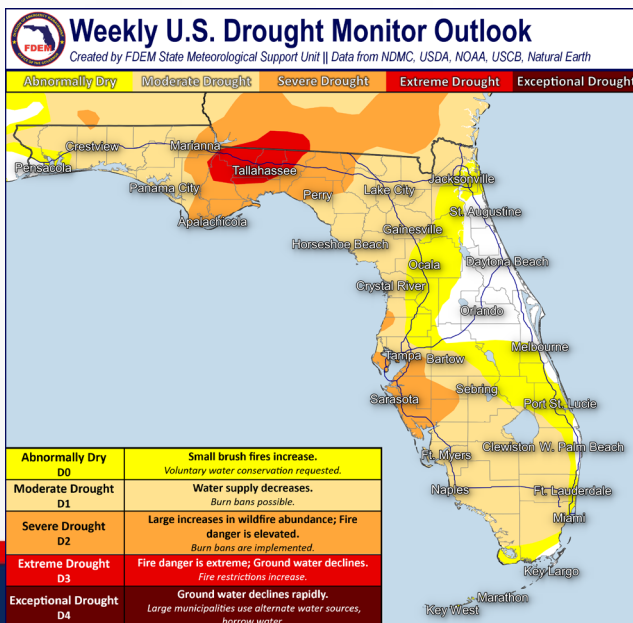


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A wet weather day is expected across much of the drought-stricken North Florida as an upper-level disturbance promotes scattered to widespread shower and thunderstorm activity. Deep tropical moisture and rainfall will keep the overall wildfire threat very low today, despite the dry background conditions. However, a few embedded **locally strong thunderstorms** could spread existing or spark new wildfires through a few lightning strikes and gusty/erratic winds. Dry conditions are expected across much of Central and South Florida, though relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds. Instances of **patchy fog** will be possible throughout interior South Florida by sunrise Friday morning, which could reduce visibilities around any existing fires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 12 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 99 acres.

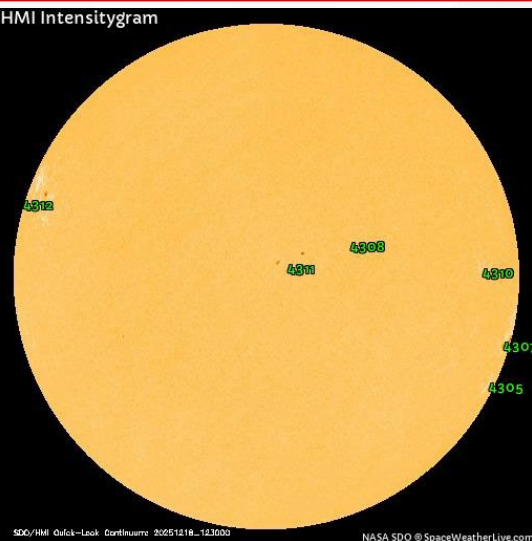
Drought (12/18): Plentiful rainfall of 3-6 inches has fallen over much of the Panhandle over the past two weeks which has allowed for some modest relief in the long-term drought conditions, outlined in this week's latest Drought Monitor outlook. West of SR 231, any severe drought from last week's outlook has been reduced to a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** where the heaviest rainfall has fallen. A **Severe Drought (level 2 of 4)** is still in place across the Big Bend region, though has been reduced back to a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** over the I-10 corridor across Northeast Florida and the Suwannee Valley. **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place across northern Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, and Jefferson counties where 2-4 inch rainfall totals have fallen in the past two weeks, with parts of Jackson, Calhoun, and Madison counties reduced to a **Severe Drought (level 2 of 4)**. However, 60-90 day rainfall departures remain below normal (3-5 inches below normal) over all North Florida which has kept at least some drought category in place despite the recent rainfall. On the contrary, rainfall has been harder to come by across West-Central Florida near the Tampa Bay metro where a **Severe Drought (level 2 of 4)** has been slightly expanded to include more of Hardee and DeSoto counties. Here, 3-month rainfall departures have begun to near 7 inches in some localized areas. A **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** remains in place across nearly all South Florida south of Lake Okeechobee, with abnormally dry (*emerging drought*) conditions in place along coastal Southeast Florida. Additional rainfall is expected on Thursday (12/18) across the Panhandle which may lead to additional drought relief, though will be reflected in the next week's outlook. Dry and warm conditions will return across the state this weekend and early next week, which may bring additional drought deterioration, especially over Central and South Florida.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **419 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **18** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

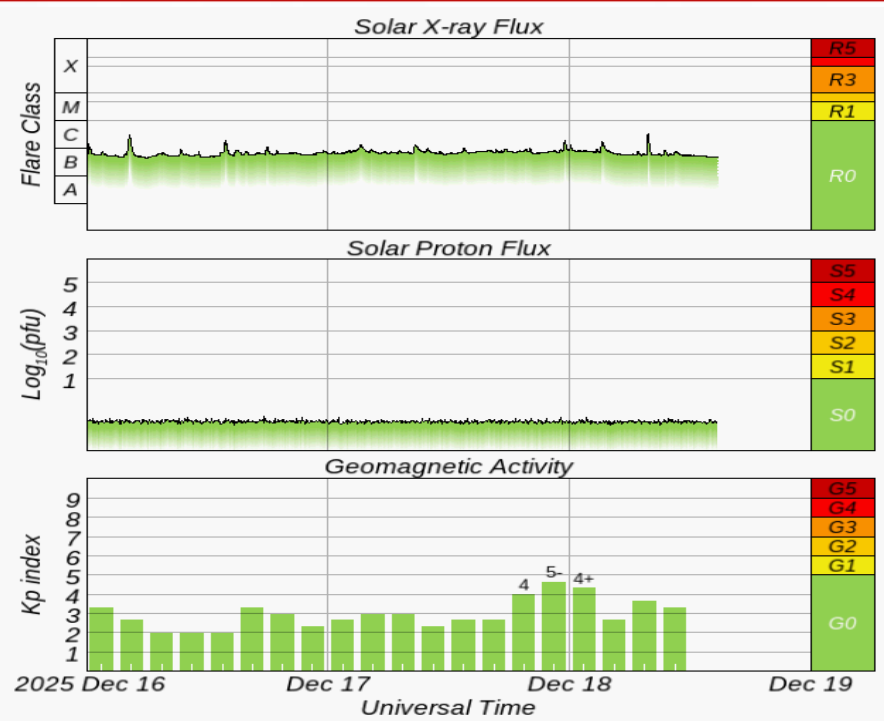
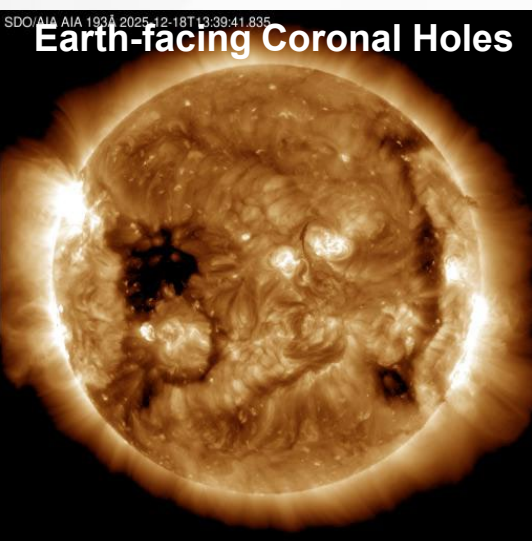




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
12/18	12/19
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: With all the current sunspots having stable magnetic fields and keeping quiet, low solar activity can be expected to persist through the end of the week. Should any strong (M-class) solar flares erupt, they will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions will continue under the influence of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds, slowly diminishing tomorrow. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be unsettled to active, with minor (G1) storming levels possible through today before returning to quiet to unsettled levels Friday and Saturday with waning CH HSS influences. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.



SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
Phone:	800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)	Operational	
Backup Landline:	850-487-3234, 850-487-3228	Operational	
Fax:	850-815-4979	Operational	
Email:	SWP@em.myflorida.com	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/	Operational	
SLERS:	DEM Statewide	Operational	
FNARS:	WGY974	Operational	
Federal NAWAS:	State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Message:	FL.000- State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Voice:	FL SWP- State Watch Office	Operational	
IPAWS:	LP.1 Stations via Emnet	Operational	
FIN:	SOFEOC	Operational	
Satellite Phones:	MSAT 888-890-5178 or Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
Website:	http://www.floridadisaster.org	Operational	

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