



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Friday, January 2, 2026



# State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



# SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	<a href="mailto:Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com">Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Octavio Rios	(850) 328-9593	<a href="mailto:Octavio.Rios@em.myflorida.com">Octavio.Rios@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:paige.lay@em.myflorida.com">paige.lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status (New Year & State Holiday)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2  
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6  
Region 10 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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Leave	See Coverage
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2/4

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

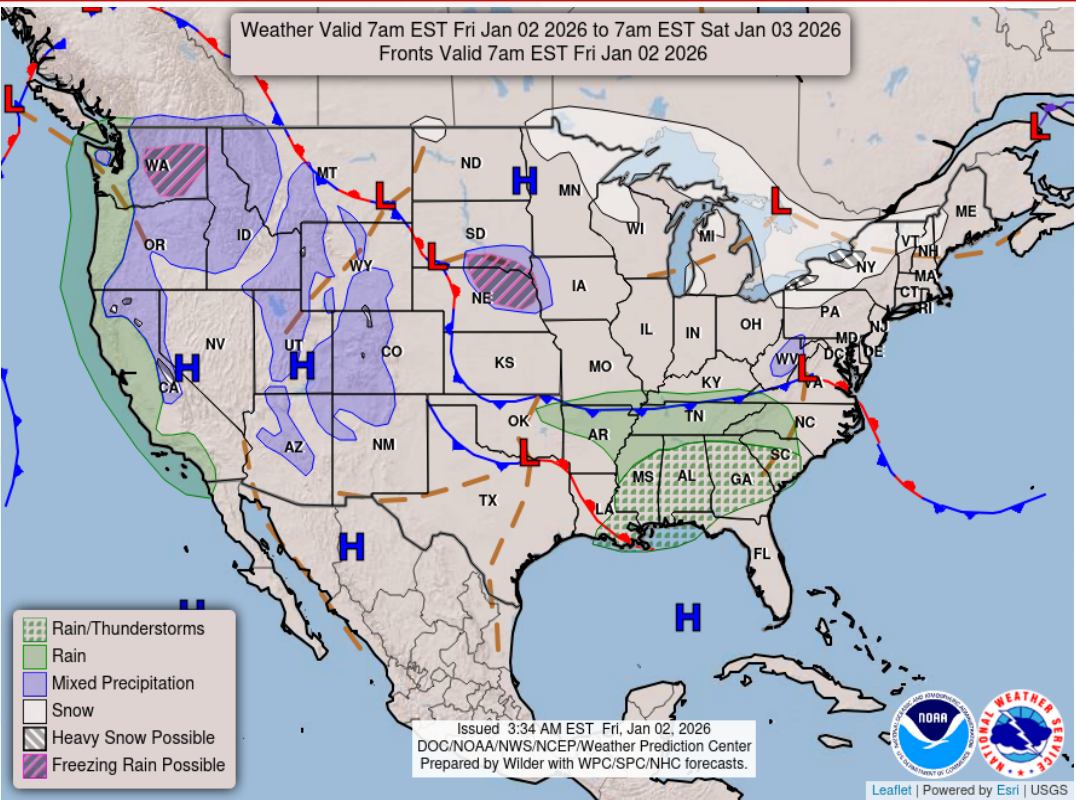
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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



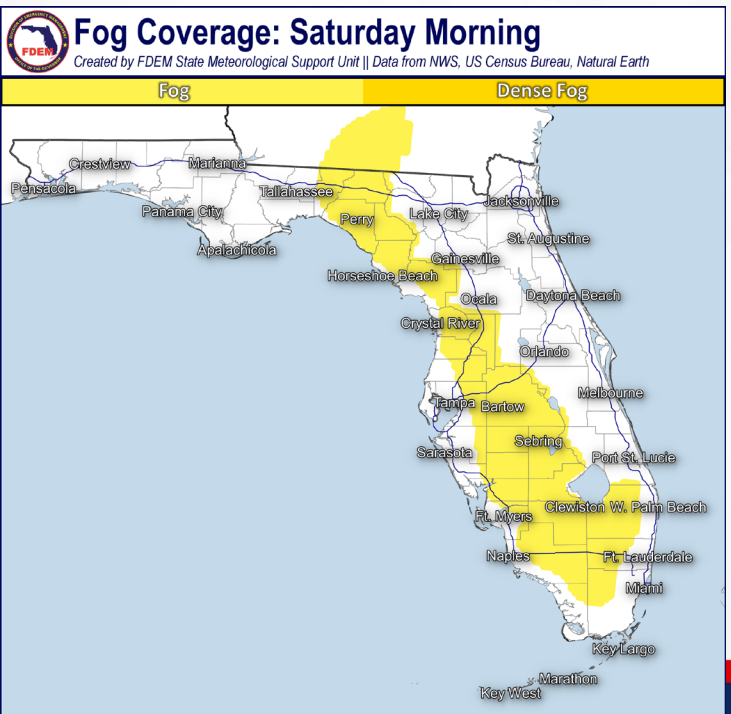
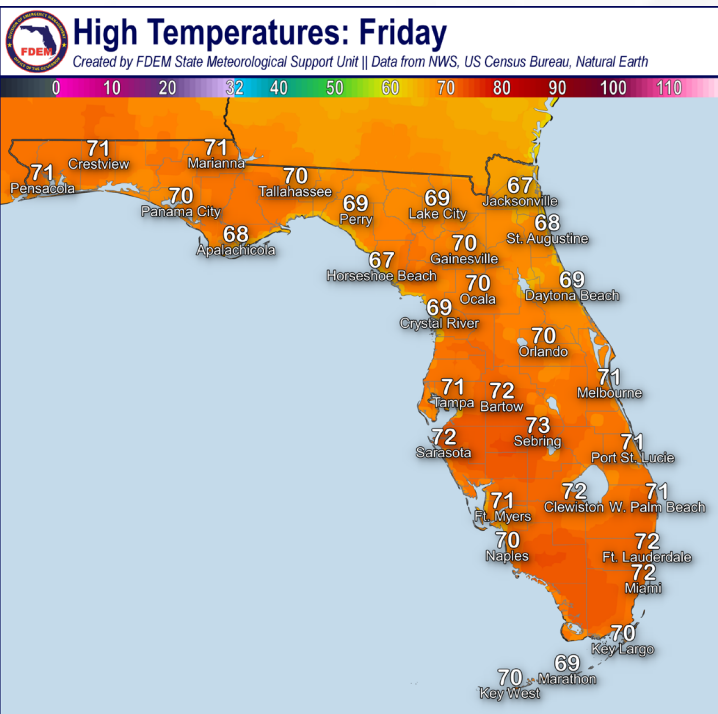


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L								
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.35 ft. (1.30 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	470 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



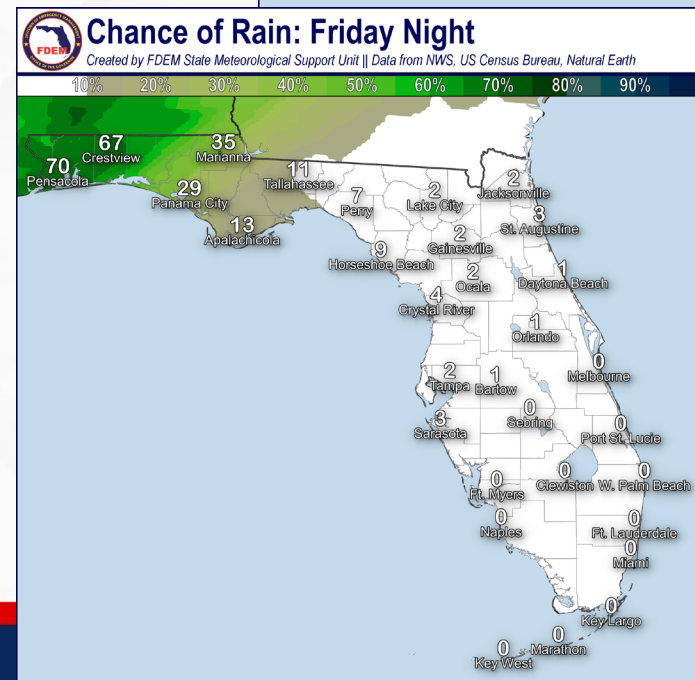
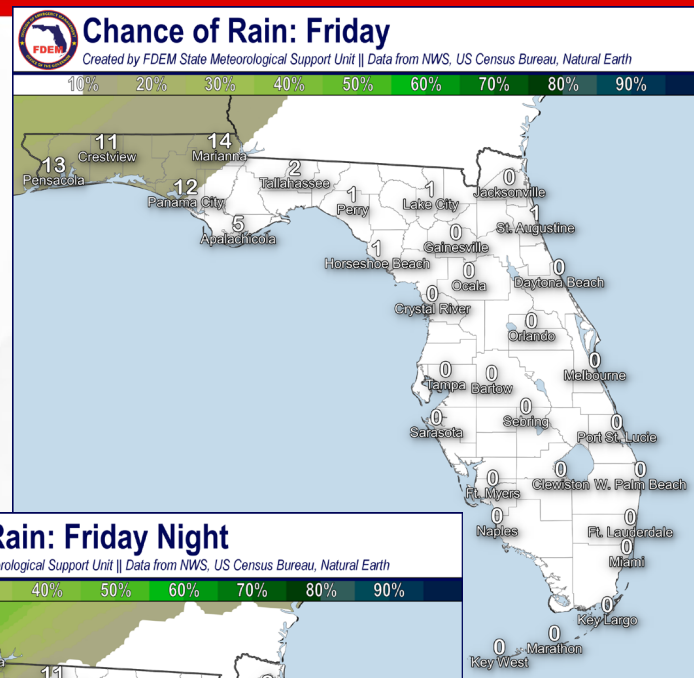


# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Our next weather system is gradually coming into focus over the Lower Mississippi Valley, with today serving as a transition period from recent cool, dry conditions toward warmer temperatures and increasing moisture. Westerly to southwesterly flow ahead of the approaching frontal system will begin drawing moisture back into the Sunshine State. This will be sufficient to introduce a low chance for a few spotty showers across the Florida Panhandle this afternoon (10-15% chance of rain). Elsewhere across the state, rain chances remain minimal. Skies will feature a mixture of sun and clouds across much of the central Florida Peninsula, while South Florida and the Florida Keys enjoy mostly sunny conditions. Afternoon high temperatures continue their rebound, reaching the upper 60s to lower 70s statewide.

Tonight, rain chances increase along and ahead of the cold front approaching the Florida Panhandle, setting the stage for a more active weather day on Saturday (40-70% chance of rain). A few thunderstorms cannot be ruled out late tonight into Saturday morning; however, the overall risk for organized severe weather is expected to hold off until daytime heating on Saturday. East of the rain and thunderstorm activity, areas of **fog and low clouds** may develop across the Florida Big Bend and portions of the western Florida Peninsula overnight. Low temperatures tonight remain mild, generally in the 50s and 60s statewide.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for most Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. As winds becoming increasingly southwesterly this afternoon, periods of **high risk** conditions will be possible along Gulf County beaches. A low risk of rip currents has returned to the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along all Florida beaches. A localized 3' breaker in the surf zone cannot be ruled out along the Treasure Coast.

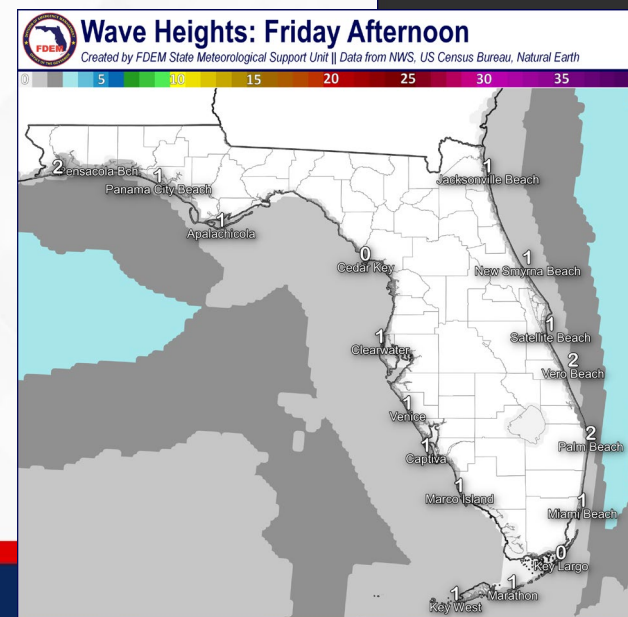
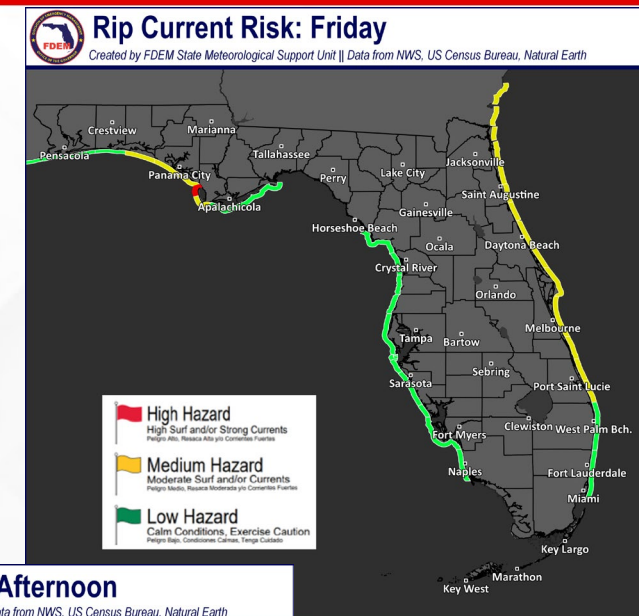
**Red Tide** was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in Bay County. Red Tide was not observed along the Florida East Coast or Gulf Coast (valid 12/31/2025).

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no risk for flash flooding today.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 13.35 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.30 feet below normal for this time of year.





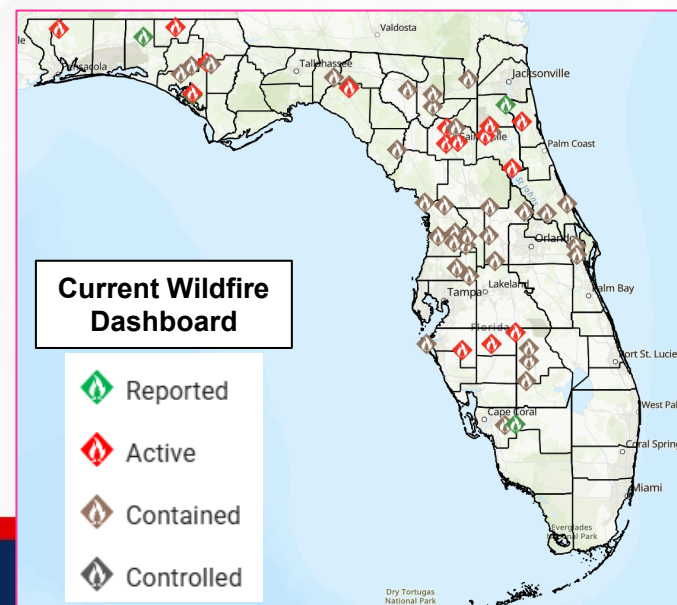
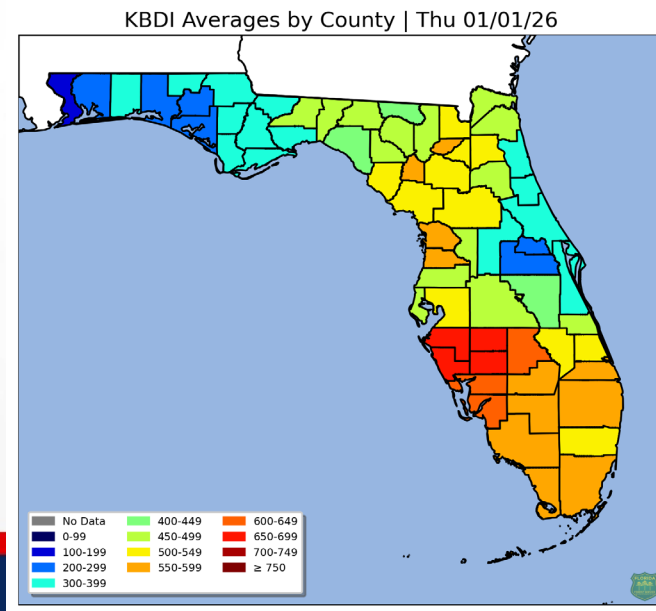
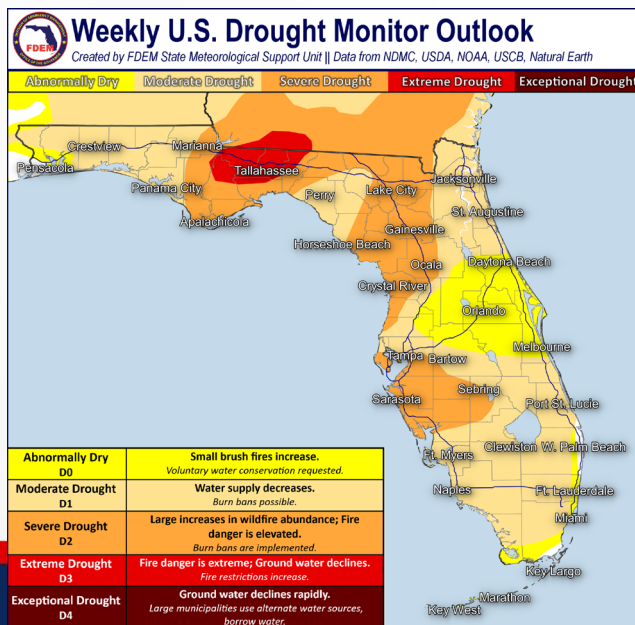


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Moisture slowly increases throughout the day, courtesy of westerly to southwesterly winds developing well ahead of our next weather system. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds statewide. Rain chances will gradually return to the Florida Panhandle this afternoon and evening; however, will still drop into the **lower to middle 40s** across portions of the eastern Florida Peninsula. **Locally sensitive wildfire** conditions can be expected, especially for Florida locations that have experienced long-term drought and dry fuels/vegetation. Areas of **fog and low clouds** may develop once again tonight along the Florida Big Bend and western Florida Peninsula; further reductions in visibilities will be possible near any ongoing wildfires or burns. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 53 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 430 acres.

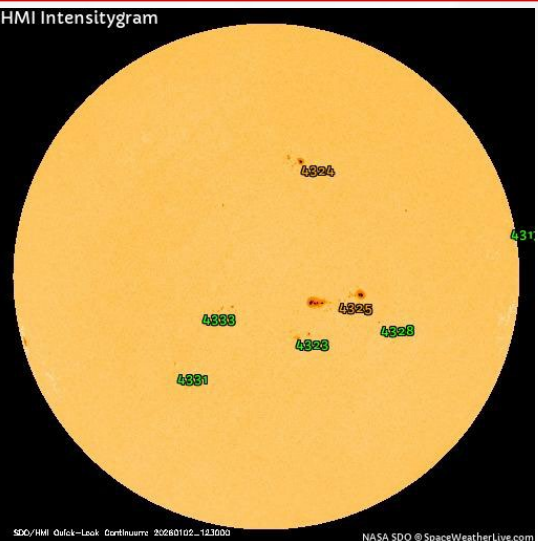
**Drought (12/31/2025):** Rainfall was once again held to a minimum and **above normal temperatures** were recorded across the Sunshine State despite a frontal system moving across the region. Short-term rainfall departures continue to run 0.5-2" below normal for this time of year nearly statewide, with localized pockets of 2-3" below normal along central portions of the Florida Panhandle. The lack of beneficial rainfall has contributed to further degrading the rainfall deficits in the 60-day period as well, with rainfall totals 2-4" inches below normal across Florida (away from the immediate I-4 corridor). Streamflows continue to run at very low levels across Florida Panhandle and interior North Florida rivers and waterways, now expanding into the Suwannee and Santa Fe River basins. **Severe drought (level 2 of 4)** has expanded along portions of the Florida Gulf Coast and into the Suwannee and Santa Fe River basins on the updated Drought Monitor, with **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** now reaching the southern Space Coast. **Extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** persists across interior portions of the eastern Florida Panhandle. Our next chance for rainfall returns this weekend; however, rainfall totals do not appear substantial enough to allow for category improvements.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **470 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **28** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

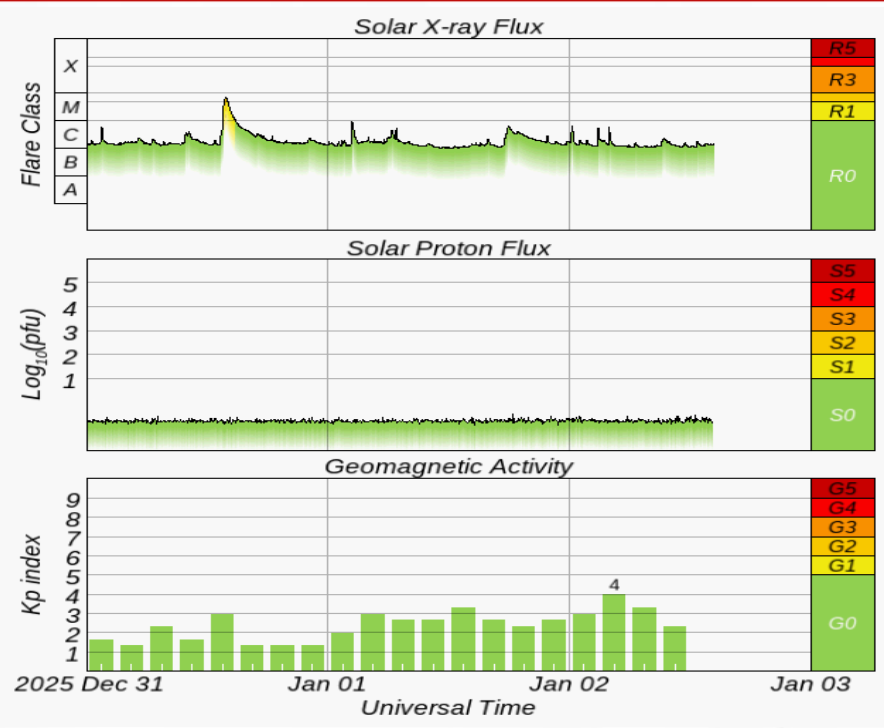
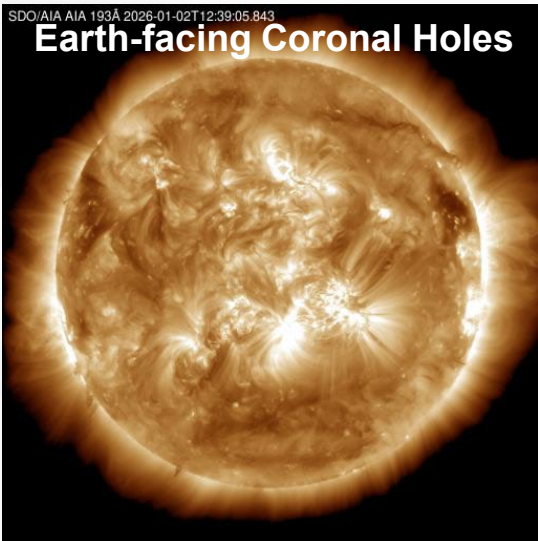




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G1 to G2 Watches (through 1/3/2026)</b>	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 20%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
1/2		1/3
Max Kp= 6 (G2)		Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%		Chance of minor activity = 40% severe activity = 25%

**Space Weather:** While overall solar activity is expected to be low, M-class (strong) solar flares continue to be likely within our active sunspot regions. Sunspots #4324 and #4325 continue to pose a threat of X-class (significant) solar flares as they weakly decay. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany the strongest and most organized flare activity. A combination of coronal hole influences and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) activity from 12/28-12/30/2025 will result in a disturbed solar wind pattern for the next couple days. This will result in the geomagnetic field reaching unsettled to G1 (minor) storming levels today, gradually building to G2 (moderate) storming later tonight as the 12/31/2025 CME arrives. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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