



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, January 8, 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	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	Lee, Gadsden	Return to Region 1 Travel
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	BBHCCC Quarterly Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	RC Meeting / G-141 Course Instruction Prep
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NE Florida Regional Council Awards Luncheon / RC Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Osceola	G-2300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hernando	Coalition Meeting / FFS Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Hydrology Webinar / RC Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	St Lucie	RC Meeting / G-141 Course Instruction Prep
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Collier Co WebEOC Meeting / RC Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Training & Exercise Meeting / RC Meeting



Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 1

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	External Stakeholder Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon / Jefferson	Vehicle Maintenance / County EM Meeting
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEFRC Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	FEPA Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	AWR-213 Training
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Medical Leave	See Coverage
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Leon / Jefferson	Vehicle Maintenance / County EM Meeting

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

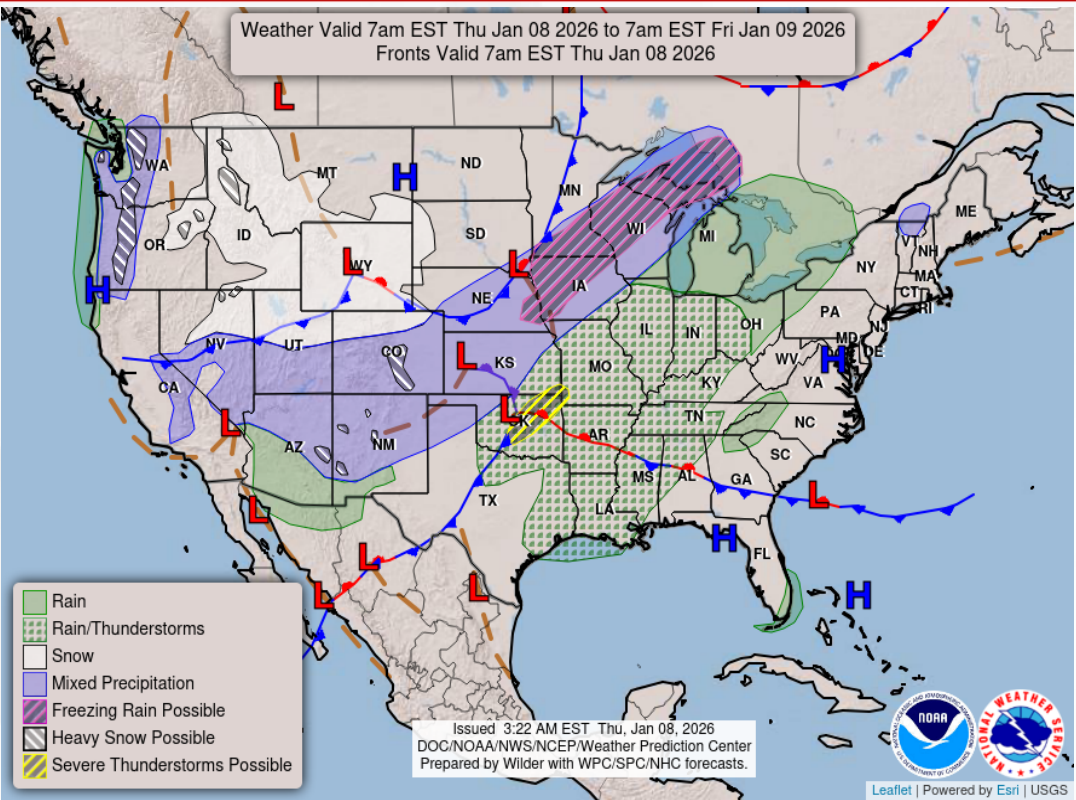
Region 7 & 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 8 & 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

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

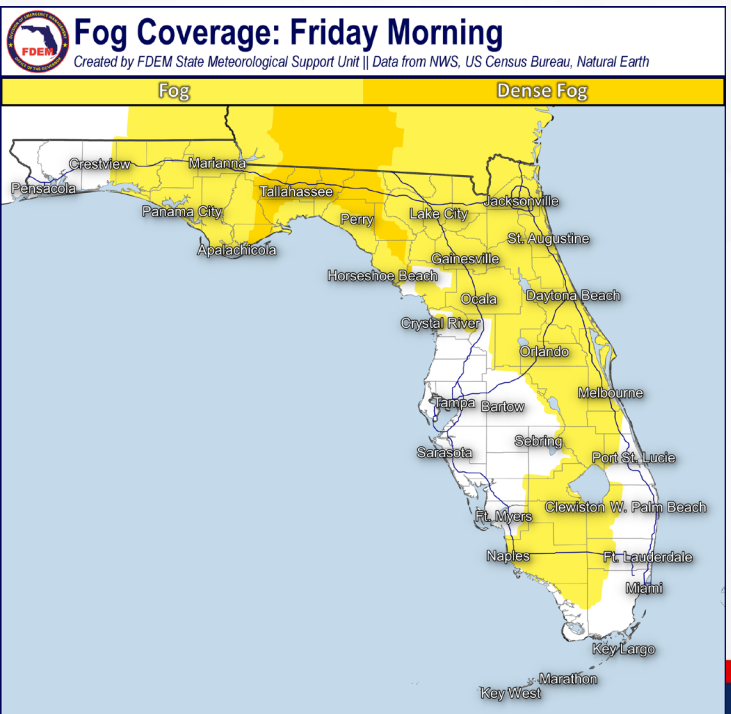
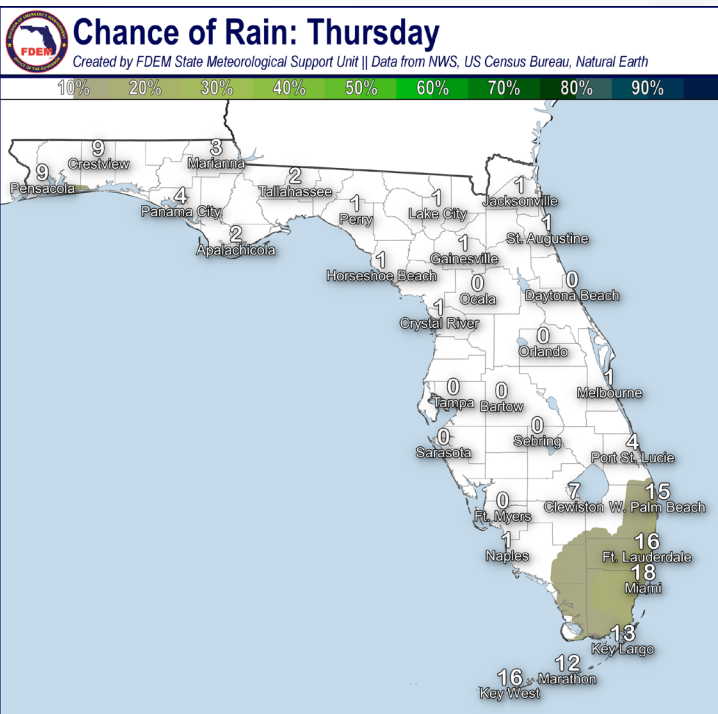


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.27 ft. (1.29 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	459 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

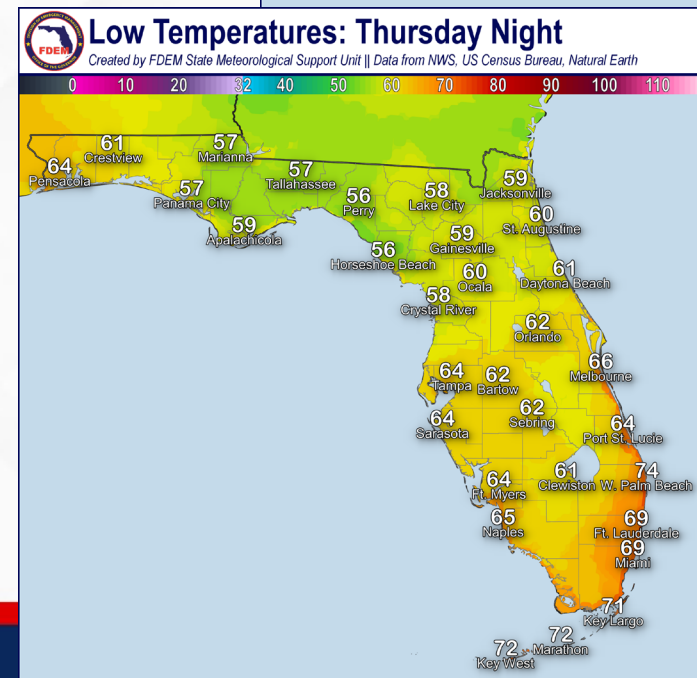
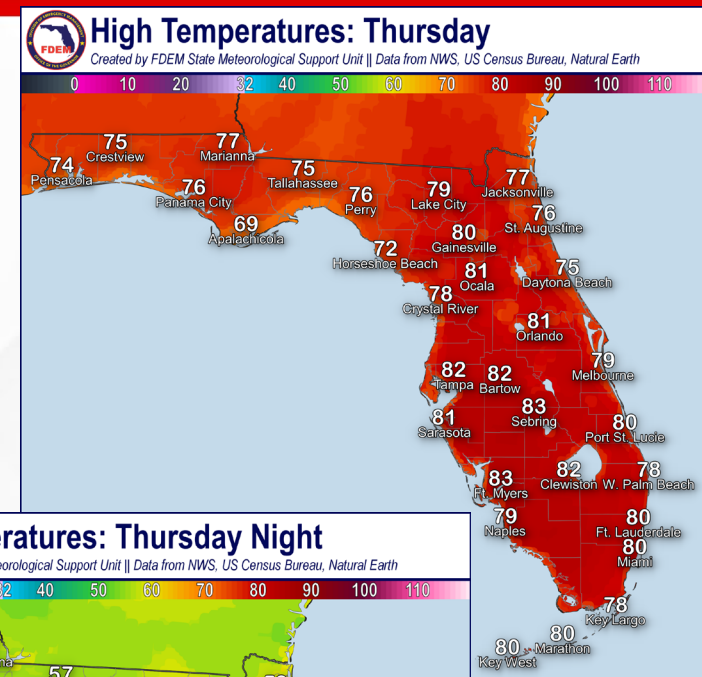
A rinse and repeat of yesterday can be expected with the current weather pattern holding steady across the state. **Fog and low clouds** have developed across much of North and Central Florida this morning, some of which is **locally dense**. As such, **Dense Fog Advisories** are in effect until 10 AM EST but could be extended longer in places where fog is slower to dissipate. Areas of **sea fog** along Gulf-facing shorelines may linger through the morning hours as well.

Another mostly dry and warm day is on tap for the Sunshine State. Mostly sunny skies can be expected across Central and South Florida, though a bit more cloud cover is expected across North Florida. Onshore winds paired with locally available moisture may bring a few brief showers to coastal Southeast Florida today, though activity will not be widespread in nature (10-15% chance of rain).

High temperatures will climb into the middle 70s to middle 80s statewide, which is **much warmer than normal** for this time of year across North and Central Florida. *If foggy conditions and cloud cover lingers longer, then high temperatures may be slightly cooler than forecast.*

Another round of **fog and low clouds** will develop overnight across the state, some of which could be **locally dense**, especially across portions of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and North-Central Florida. **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant tonight.

Low temperatures will fall into the middle 50s to lower 60s across the state tonight, the exception being coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys where lows will only reach the upper 60s to lower 70s.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Calmer marine conditions and winds will create a **moderate risk for rip currents** along numerous Panhandle and East Coast beaches. West Coast beaches will continue to see a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights will remain at 1-2' statewide, with isolated breakers of 3' along portions of the Treasure Coast.

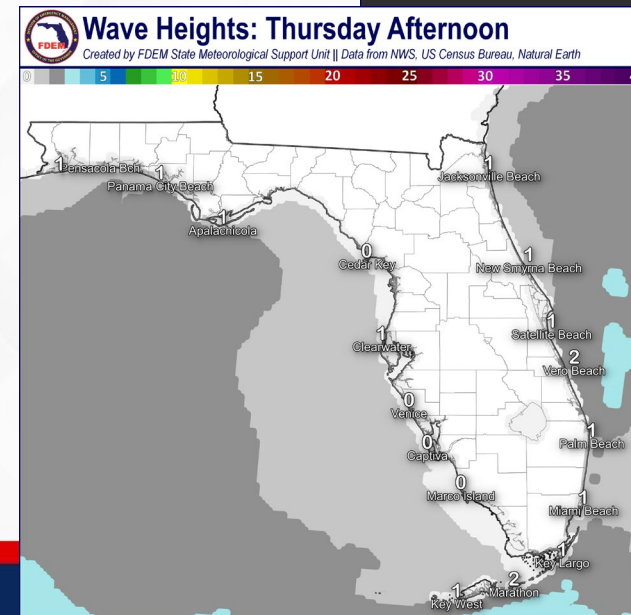
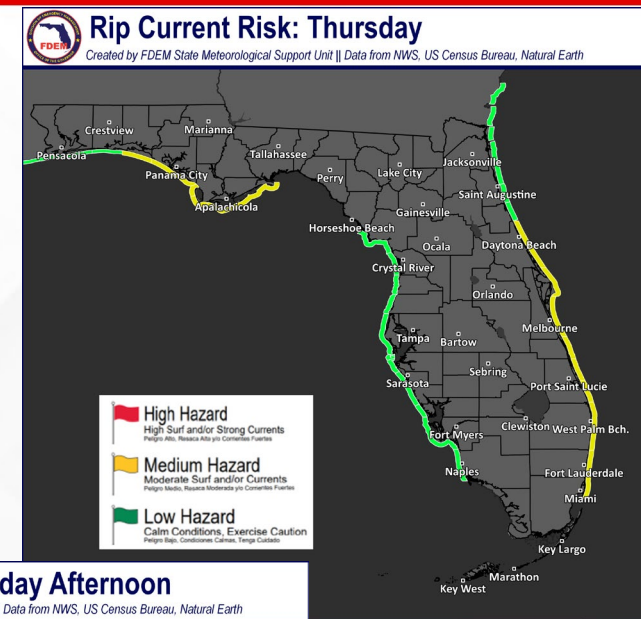
Red Tide was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in Bay County. Red Tide was not observed along the Florida East Coast or Gulf Coast (valid 12/31/2025).

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.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.27 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.29 feet below normal for this time of year.



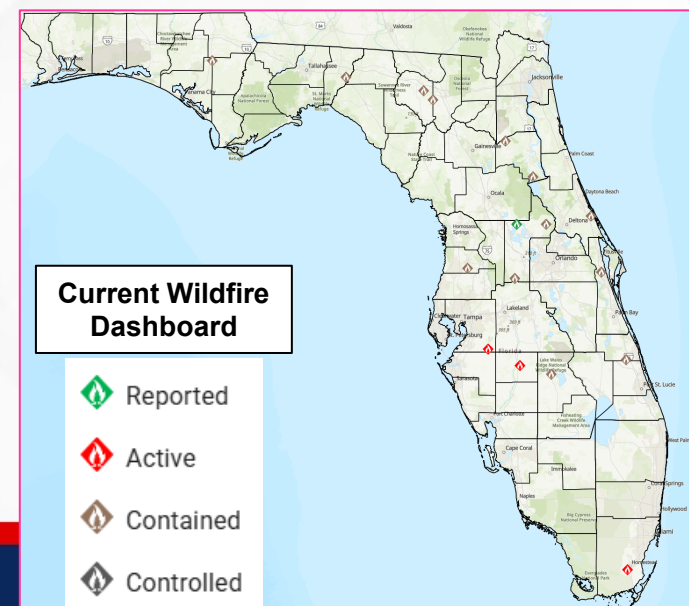
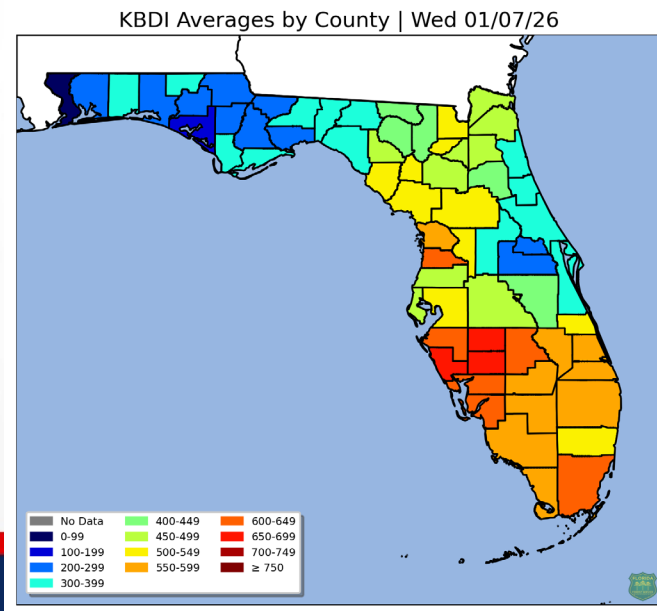
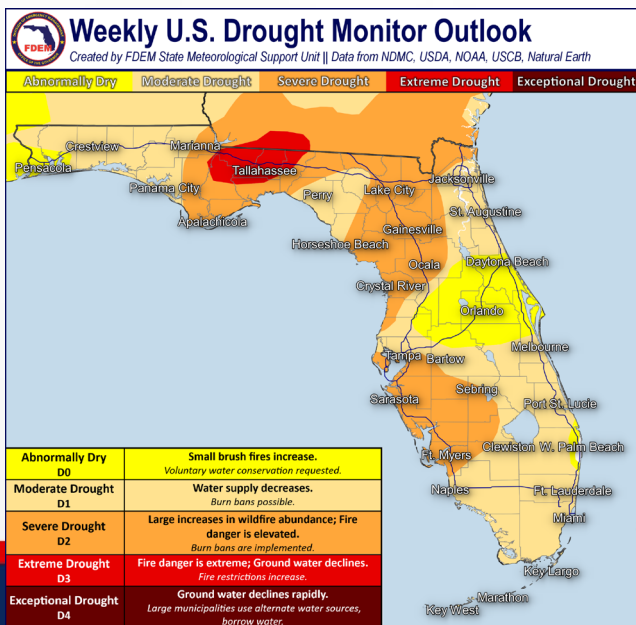


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Warm and mostly dry conditions can be expected across the state once again, which will also help to keep relative humidity values well above critical thresholds statewide. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible with the ongoing drought conditions and warm temperatures, especially for areas that have seen little to no rainfall recently. Another round of **widespread fog** will be likely overnight and into Friday morning nearly statewide, with areas of **dense fog** possible. Foggy conditions and low clouds will further **reduce visibilities** where there are ongoing or new fires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 17 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 250 acres.

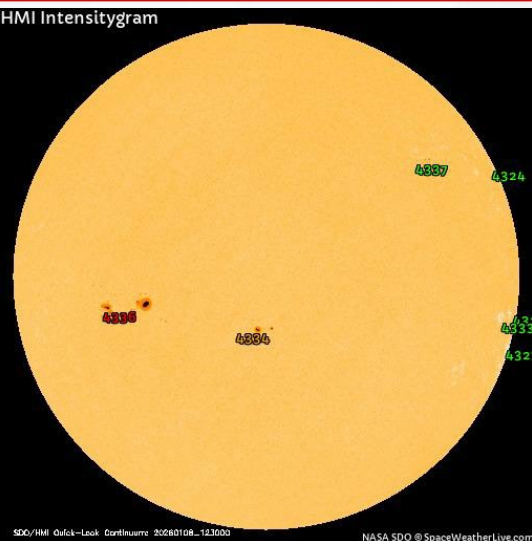
Drought (1/8/26): Some beneficial rainfall fell across North Florida this past weekend, bringing widespread 1-2" totals to the Panhandle and Big Bend. However, very little change was made to this weeks Drought Monitor outlook due to long-term drought and **above normal temperatures** keeping drought in place. Short-term rainfall departures are all below normal across the entire state, with the largest deficits (2-4") over the western Panhandle. Here, **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** remains, with **severe (level 2 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** persisting over the interior eastern Panhandle and Big Bend. **Severe drought (level 2 of 4)** also remains in place across the Suwannee River Valley where streamflows are well below normal. Some of the biggest changes in recent outlooks has been across West-Central and South Florida where long-term rainfall departures have reached 4-6" in many locations. The **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** has expanded further south along the Gulf coast to include all of Charlotte and Lee counties, and westward to interior Glades and Hendry counties. Expansion of **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** was also added across coastal Southeast Florida. Nearly 87% of the state of Florida is now under a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** or worse. 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 **459 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **27** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

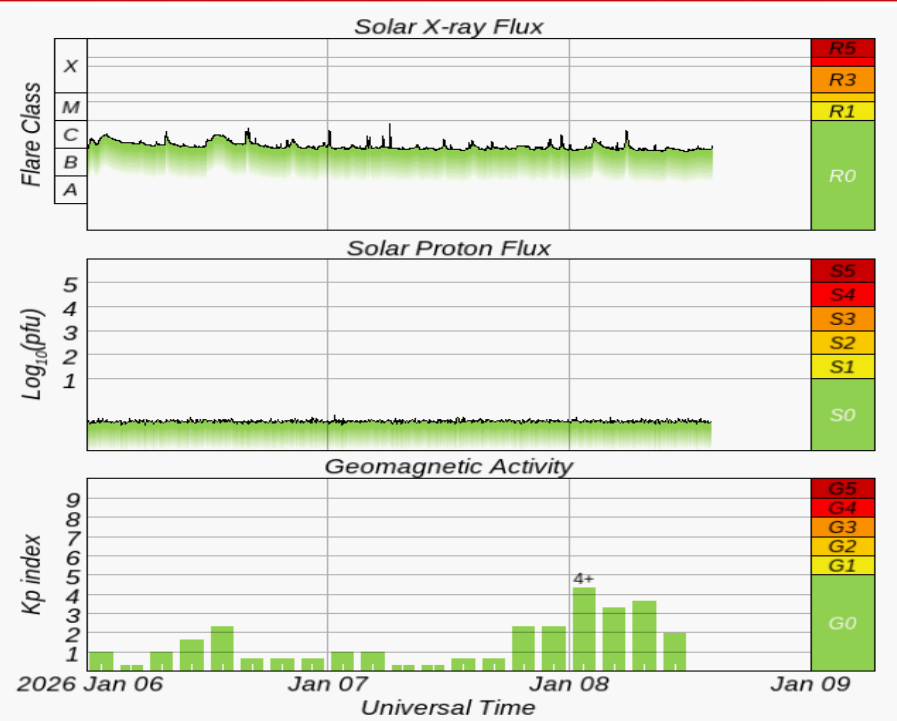
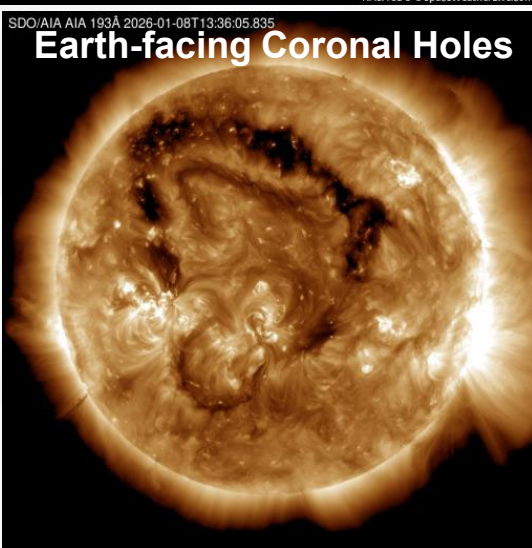




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 45%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/8	1/9
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Sunspot #4336 continues to exhibit growth and increased magnetic field complexity capable of producing moderate (M-class) to significant (X-class) solar flares. Any M-class flares that develop from this region will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts, and any X-class flares that develop will be capable of producing strong (R3) radio blackouts. Mildly enhanced solar wind conditions are expected on Thursday, with further enhancements on Friday with the arrival of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. Additionally, influences from a coronal mass ejection (CME) from Tuesday may occur. The coronal hole influences will persist into the weekend. The Earth's geomagnetic field will also feel the effects of the coronal hole influences and glancing CME, with unsettled to Minor (G1) storm conditions possible on Friday. Unsettled to active levels are likely to continue into the weekend. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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