



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, January 15, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(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	Santa Rosa	LMS Meeting / RC Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty	HQ Visit / EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	G-191 Course Instruction Prep
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NEDMU National Emergency Management Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-191 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	FFS / Sheriff Aviation Training Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk, Hardee	Starlink Overview w/ FDOH
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	G-191 Course
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Glades	LMS Meeting / RC Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Region 10 Annual Hurricane Readiness Session



Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	G-108 Training
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Hamilton	LMS / Stakeholders Meeting
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	FEPA Training
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Out of Region	Leave
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Miami-Dade	R10 Hurricane Readiness Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	R10 Hurricane Readiness Meeting

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

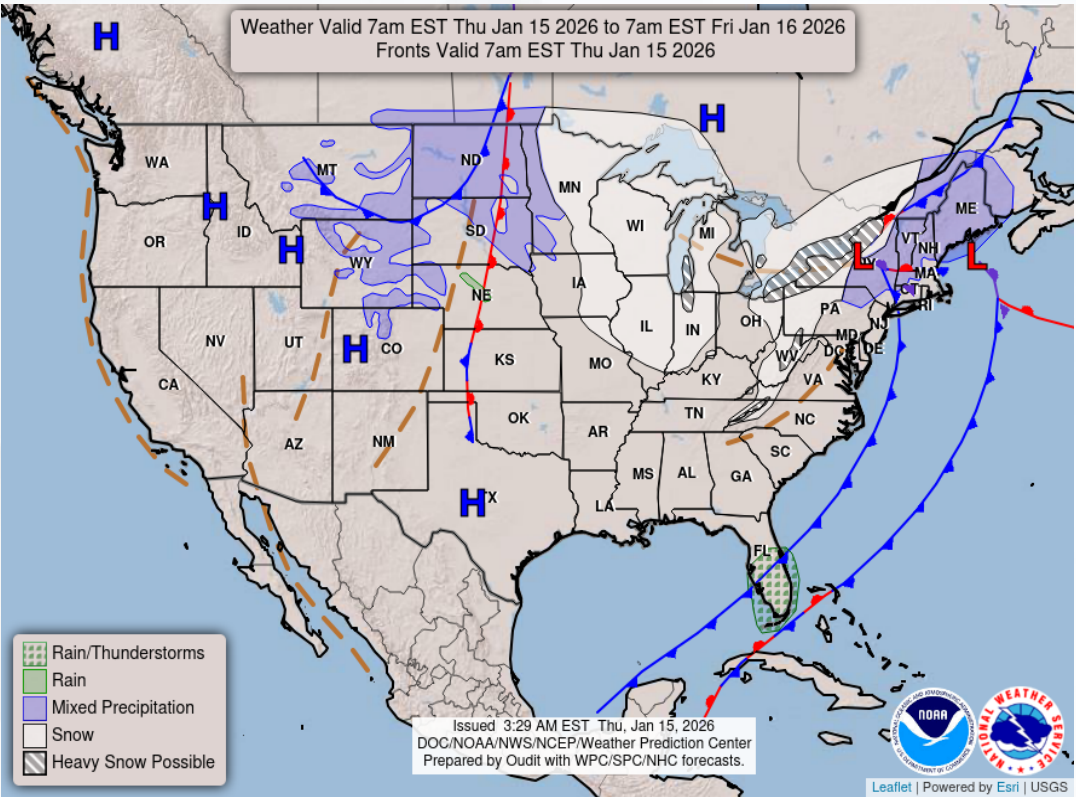
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

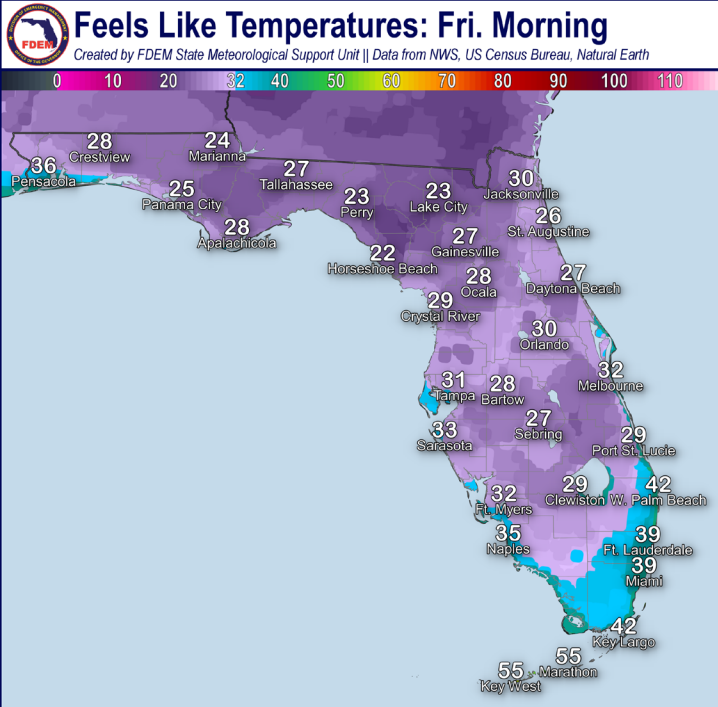
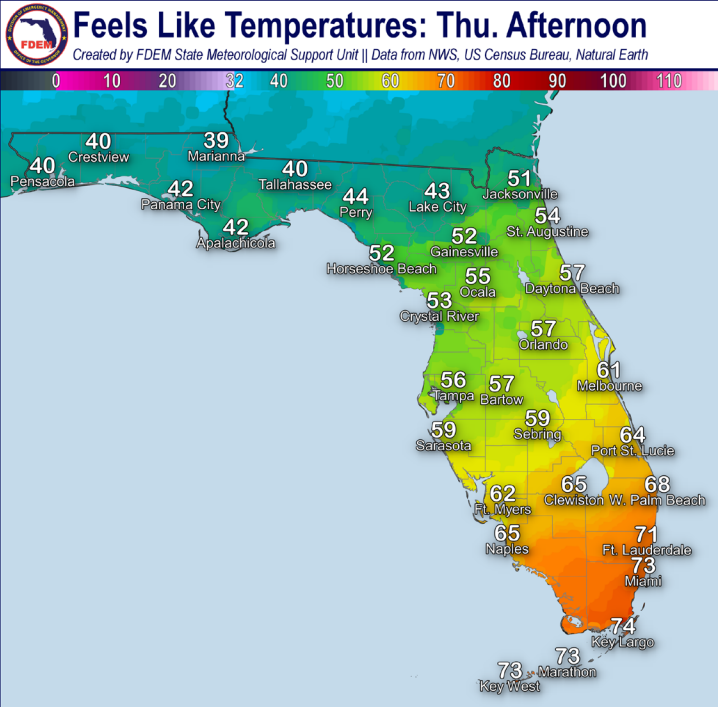


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning									L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding									L	L
Freeze (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	L	L
Wind Chill (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	H		M	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.18 ft. (1.53 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	483 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





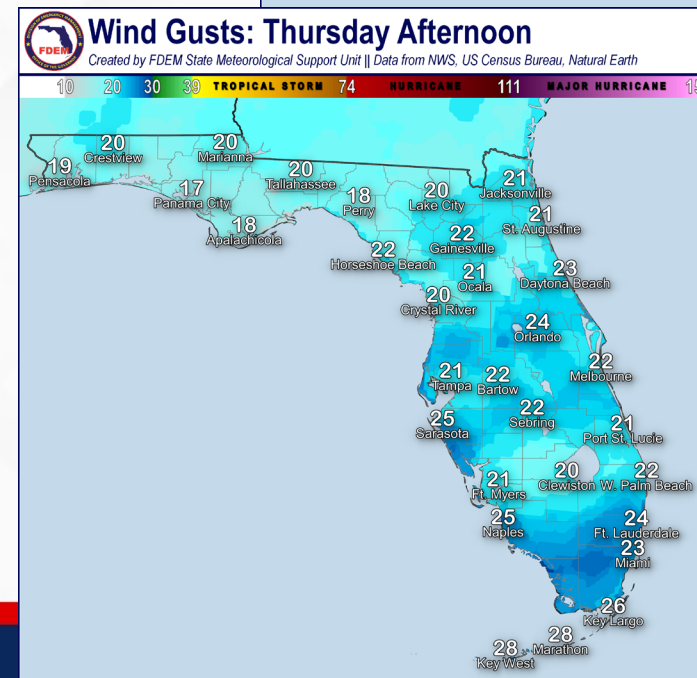
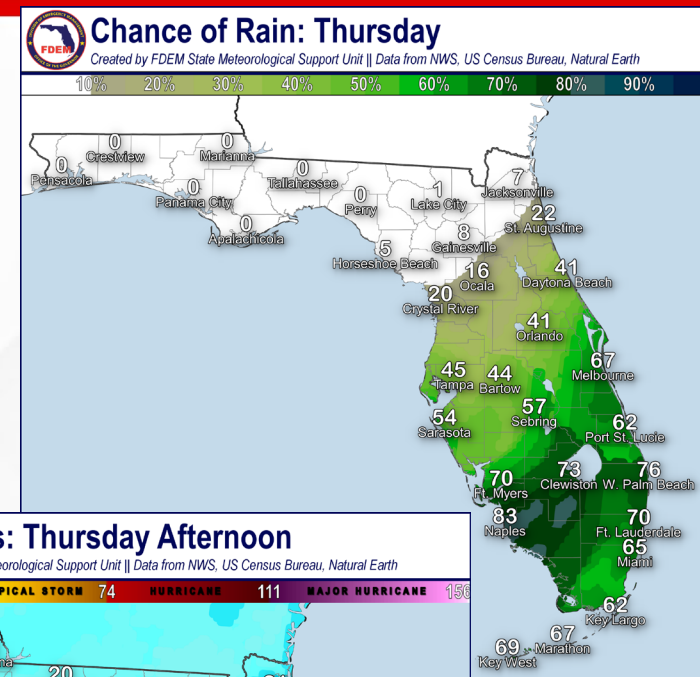
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A potent winter cold front will continue to push southward across the Peninsula today, bringing with it widely scattered showers across Central and South Florida (40-80% chance of rain). These scattered showers are ongoing across much of the Peninsula south of the I-4 corridor and will continue to sweep southeastward throughout the day before pushing offshore by the late afternoon hours. In the wake of this front, cold, windy, and dry conditions will filter into the state. Breezy wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** are possible this afternoon statewide. Across North Florida, relative humidities will approach or dip **below critical thresholds (25-35% RH values)**, which will lead to **elevated wildfire conditions** this afternoon paired with the breezier winds. *Locally greater wildfire conditions cannot be ruled out in areas experiencing the most severe drought.*

High temperatures will be very cool for this time of year across North Florida, struggling to climb out of the middle 40s to lower 50s. These temperatures will be **10-15-degrees below normal** for this time of year. Feels-like temperatures this afternoon will even struggle to get out of the upper 30s to middle 40s given the breezy winds. Highs will reach the upper 50s to middle 60s in Central Florida and upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida.

By tonight, clear and calm conditions will promote a very cold night statewide. A **Freeze Warning** is in effect for nearly all North and Central Florida, stretching as far south as Hendry County in South Florida for **widespread sub-freezing temperatures**. A **Hard Freeze** is likely for much of North Florida where low temperatures will reach into the **upper teens to middle 20s** away from the coast with widespread **patchy frost** developing by daybreak. Low temperatures will dip into the **upper 20s to lower 30s** even in Central Florida, mainly away from the coastlines as well. Coastal locations will remain in the **lower to upper 30s** in West-Central and East-Central Florida. In South Florida, lows will reach the **lower to upper 30s** for interior locations while coastal Southeast Florida can expect lows in the lower to upper 40s. **Cold Weather Advisories** are also in effect for nearly the entire state tonight, as far south as Monroe and Miami-Dade counties, for **dangerously cold sub-freezing wind chills**. Coastal Southeast Florida may even see wind chills by daybreak Friday morning in the upper 30s to lower 40s.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy northerly winds will bring elevated surf and dangerous swimming conditions to much of the Gulf facing beaches today. A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** is expected for all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today. Numerous East Coast beaches can expect a **moderate risk for rip currents** to remain with growing ocean swells in the wake of a cold front. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: A building ocean swell from breezy northerly winds will bring elevated surf of **2-4'** for most Panhandle and West Coast beaches today. A few waves **upwards of 6'** cannot be ruled out along Southwest Florida beaches and a **High Surf Advisory** is in effect from 3 PM EST to 1 AM EST for coastal Collier County. These waves will diminish across the Panhandle tonight, back down to 1-2', though lingering along West Coast beaches. East Coast beaches can expect surf of **2-4'** this afternoon, growing to **3-5'** overnight.

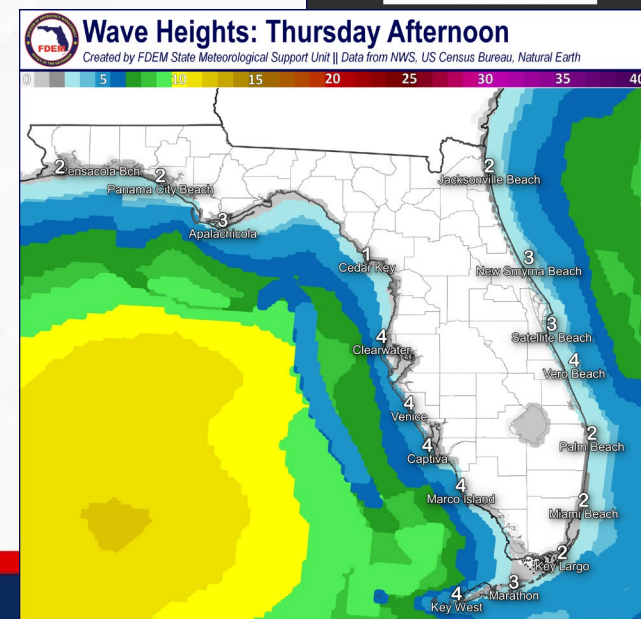
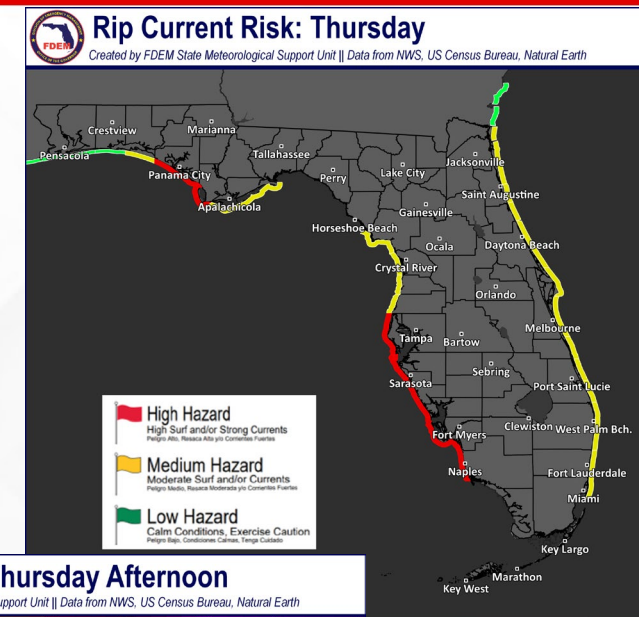
Red Tide was observed at background to **high concentrations** in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County along the Panhandle. It was also observed at background to very low concentrations in Charlotte County in Southwest Florida. Red Tide was not observed along the Florida East Coast (valid 1/9/2026).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today. Isolated to scattered showers will move across Central and South Florida today ahead of a cold front; however, drier conditions will limit the amount of rainfall received. Rainfall totals will remain near 0.1-0.3". Nuisance ponding of water cannot be ruled out within any locally heavier rainfall or repeated shower activity over urban areas, though in general the rainfall will be beneficial given the ongoing drought.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.18 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.53 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



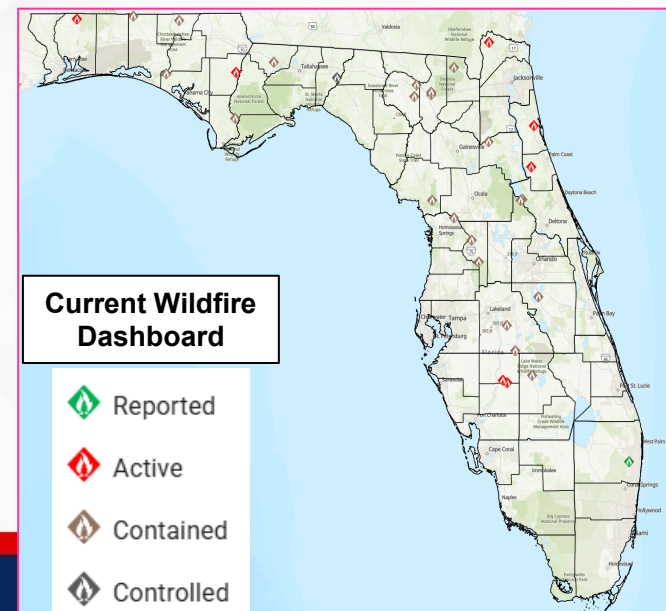
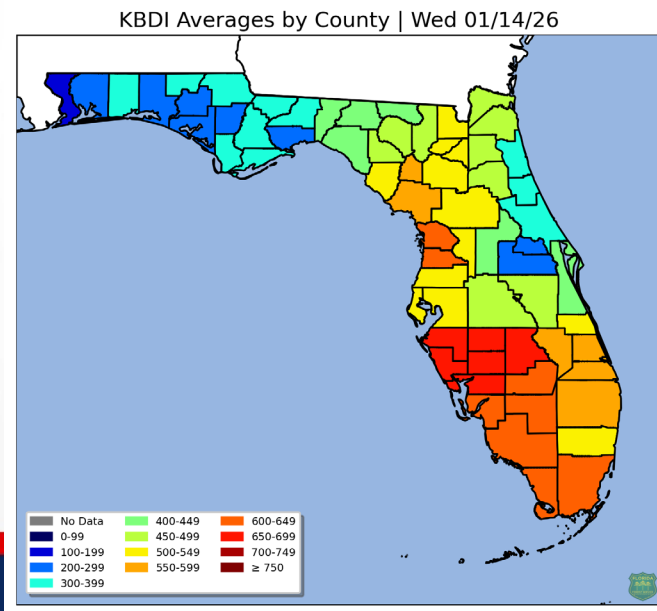
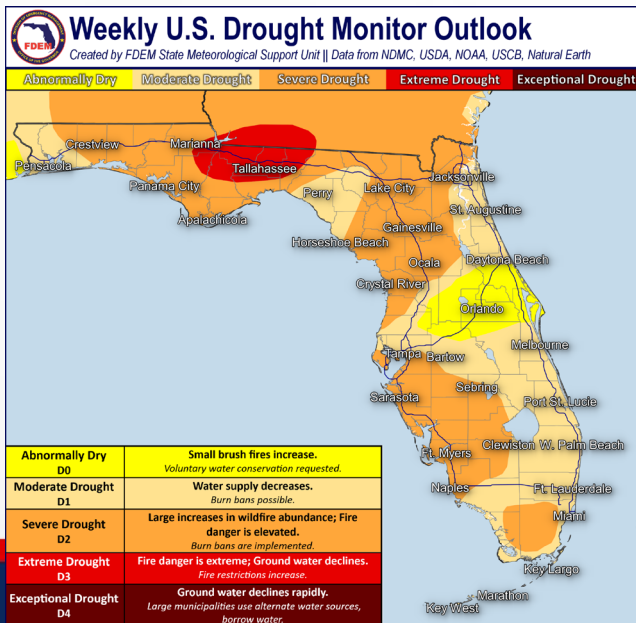


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Much drier air will begin to filter into North Florida today in the wake of the potent cold front passing through the central Peninsula. Breezy wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** this afternoon, paired with **critically low relative humidities (25-30% RH values)**, will bring **elevated wildfire conditions** to all North Florida. *Locally greater wildfire weather conditions cannot be ruled out in any areas experiencing the most severe drought.* However, given the cooler temperatures today, the overall wildfire risk will remain a bit muted. Across Central and South Florida, scattered showers will keep the wildfire risk low today, though ongoing drought will still lead to **locally sensitive wildfire conditions**. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 30 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 456 acres.

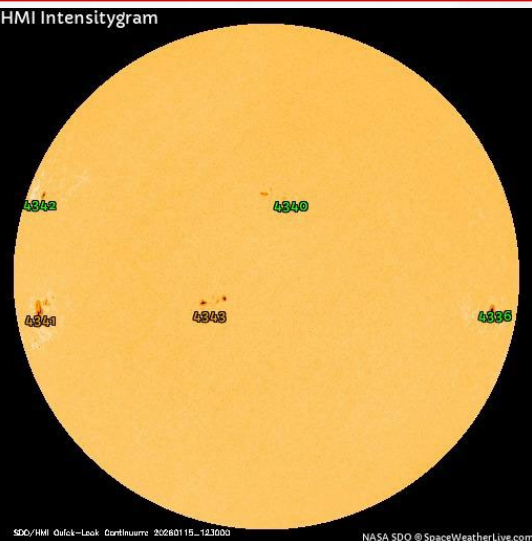
Drought (1/15/26): Although some rainfall fell across portions of the state in the last week, totals were meager and expansion of much of the drought was seen in the past week's drought monitor outlook. Rainfall totals were well below 1" across the Panhandle, which wasn't enough to relieve the very dry soil conditions. Additionally, streamflows continue to diminish to below normal thresholds. As such, a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** was expanded to include much of the Panhandle, with only the far western portions remaining in **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. The ongoing **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** over the northern Big Bend was slightly expanded this week to include additional portions of Calhoun, Jackson, and Jefferson counties. Rainfall totals over the last week were slim, at best, across the I-10 corridor. A **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** remains in place along the northern portion of the I-75 corridor and Suwannee River Valley. Additional expansion of the **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** was introduced to West-Central and Southwest Florida where warm and dry conditions have prevailed. Although coastal Southeast Florida saw some coastal showers with rainfall totals upwards of 2", the developing drought has resulted in additional severe drought across interior Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. As of this drought monitor outlook, over 91% of the state is under a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** or worse.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **483 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **32** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

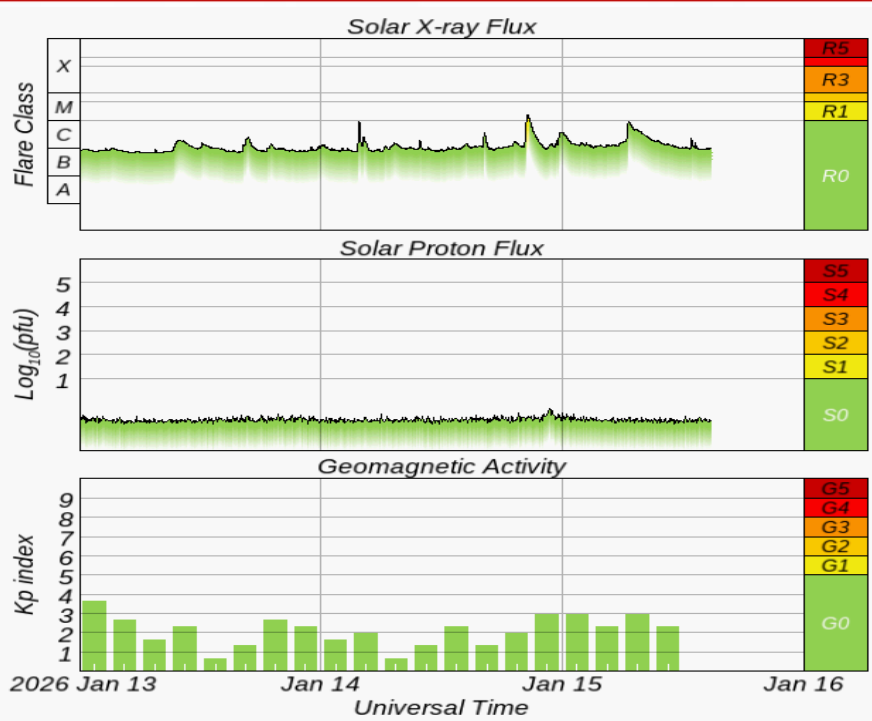
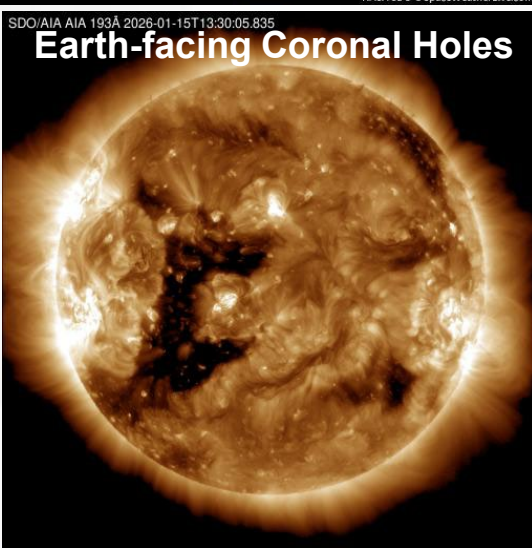




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/15	1/16
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be low today with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares through the next few days due to sunspot #4341 and additional sunspots emerging off the western limb of the sun. Any M-class solar flare that develops will bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts with it. Solar winds will gradually diminish through Friday before Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds return on Saturday. The Earth's geomagnetic field will be at quiet to unsettled levels on Thursday followed by mostly quiet conditions on Friday. The returning CH HSS winds will raise geomagnetic activity on Saturday with Minor (G1) storming likely and a chance for Moderate (G2) level storming. 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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