



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, January 16, 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	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	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Statewide Exercise IPM / SERT Call
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	FFS / Sheriff Aviation Training Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	BioWatch Exercise Planning Meeting/Response/Finance Meeting SERT Call



Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	G-108 Training
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Internal Stakeholders Mtg / Cold Weather SERT Call
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Internal Stakeholders Mtg / Cold Weather SERT Call
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	LMS Meeting / Cold Weather SERT Call
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	FROC Assistance / Cold Weather SERT Call
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Out of Region	Leave

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

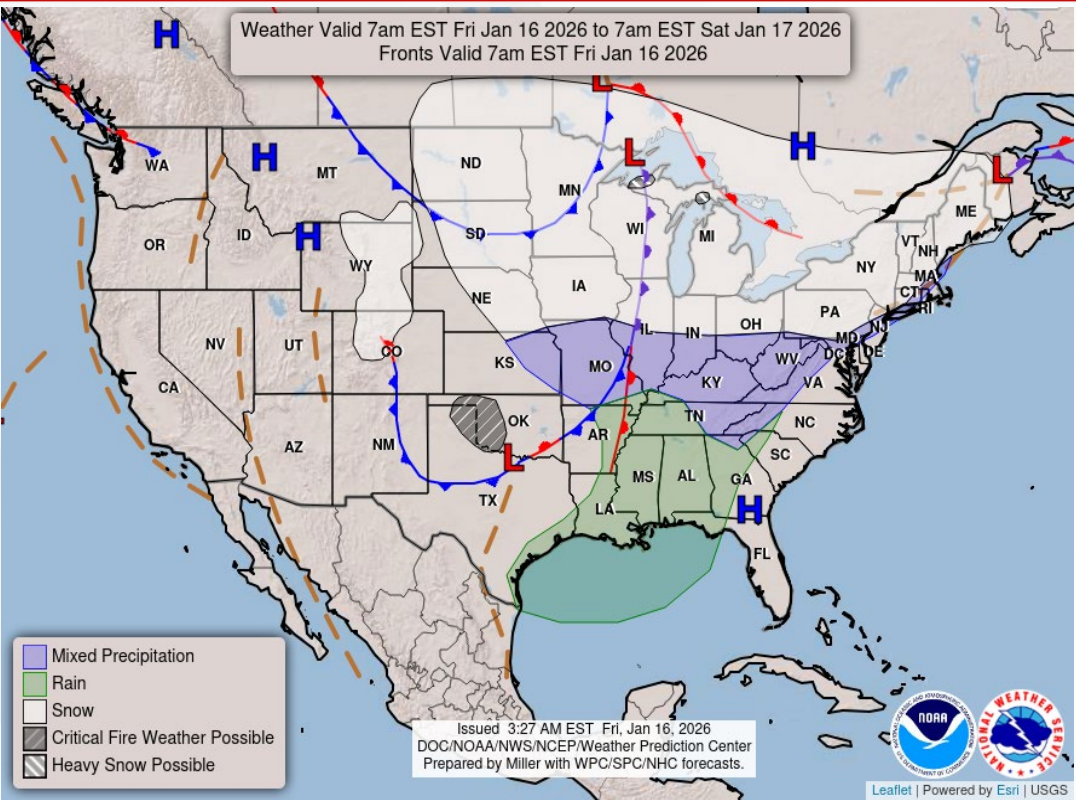
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

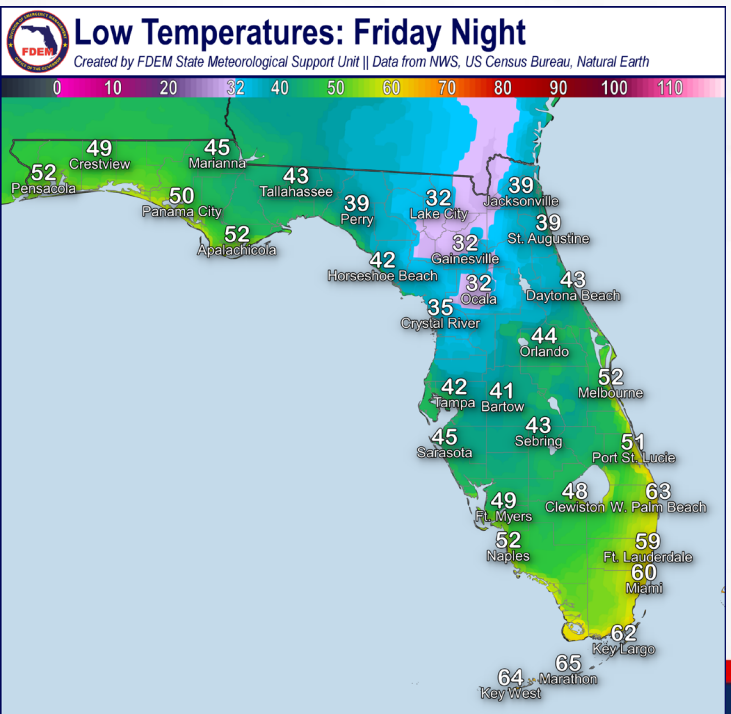
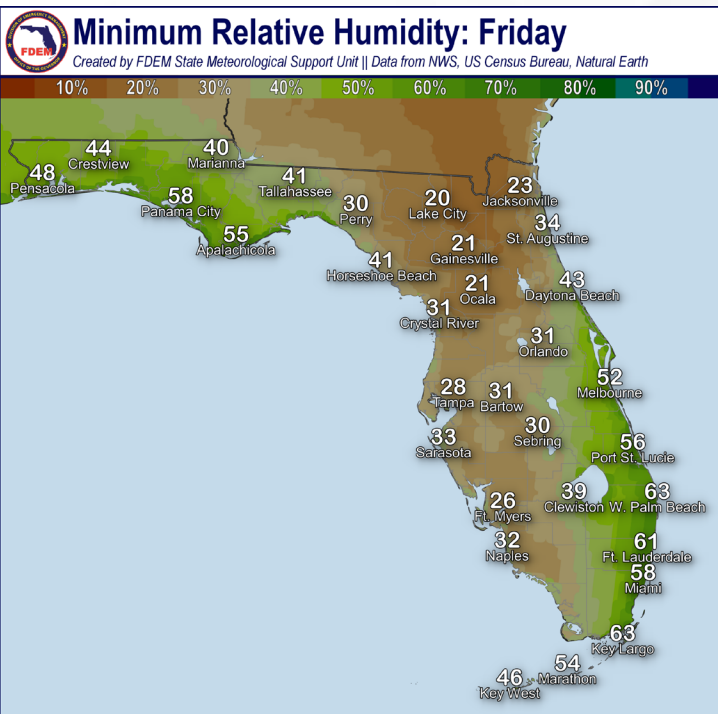


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)			L	L						
Wind Chill (Overnight)			L	L						
Wildfire	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	L
Rip Currents	H	M	L	L	M	H		M	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.18 ft. (1.53 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	479 (-4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

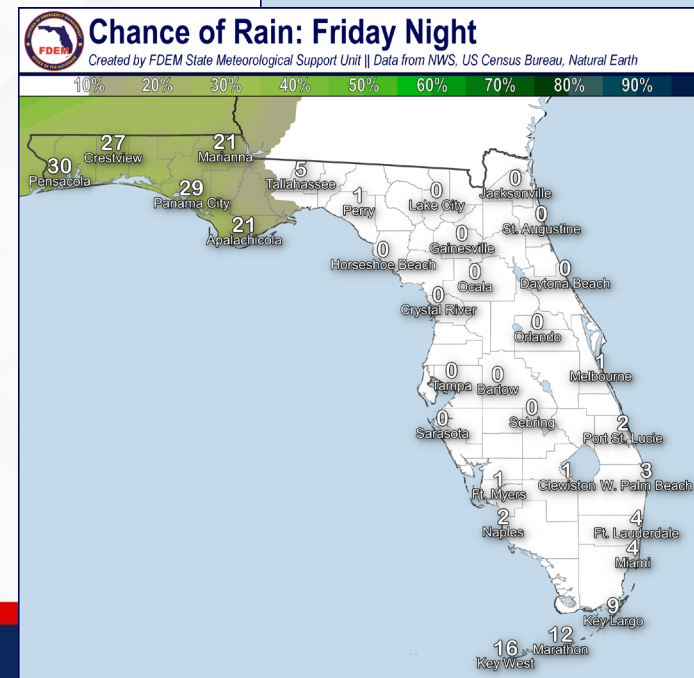
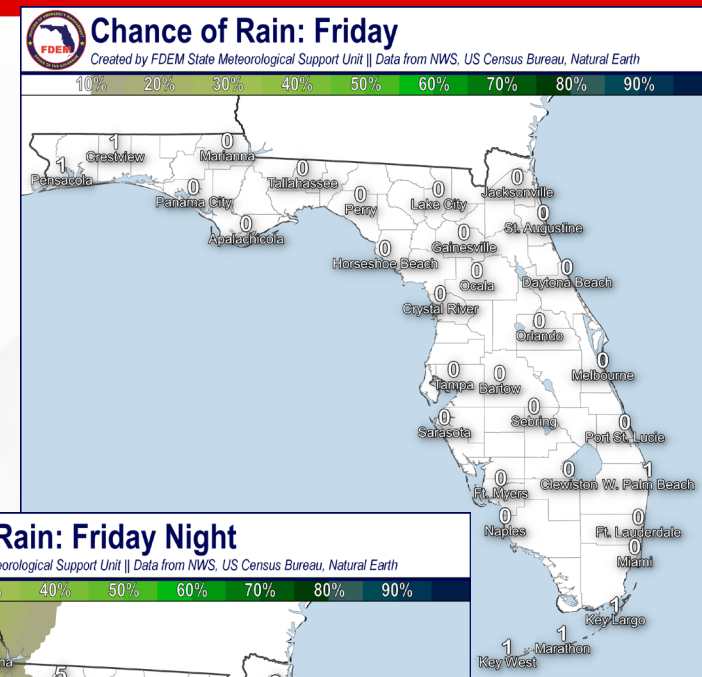
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure will briefly settle in over the state today ahead of the next frontal system this weekend. As such, a cool but sunny and dry day is on tap for the Sunshine State. Very dry air will remain in place across the state, especially for Northeast Florida and along the I-75 corridor where **critically low relative humidities (20-30%)** may lead to **elevated wildfire conditions** this afternoon. *Locally greater wildfire conditions cannot be ruled out in any areas experiencing the most severe drought.* Winds will remain light today statewide, though a few breezy gusts **upwards of 20 mph** are possible across the western Panhandle this afternoon.

High temperatures will climb into the lower to middle 60s for much of the state today. Northeast Florida can expect highs in the middle to upper 50s this afternoon and South Florida can expect middle to upper 60s.

High pressure will slide into the local Atlantic waters this evening and overnight which will reintroduce moist southerly flow to portions of South Florida and the Panhandle as the next frontal system approaches. A few isolated showers may develop across the western Panhandle after midnight, though any activity will be brief in nature (20-30% chance of rain). Otherwise, dry conditions are expected statewide.

Low temperatures will warm up for much of the state tonight with the moist southerly winds. Lows in the middle 40s to lower 50s can be expected for much of the state, though temperatures will only reach the upper 50s to lower 60s across coastal Southeast Florida. The local cold spot for the state will be across Northeast Florida and the Suwannee River Valley where lows will dip into the **lower to middle 30s** by daybreak Saturday. Instances of **patchy frost** cannot be ruled out in any rural or elevated locations.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Onshore winds and still locally elevated surf will bring a **moderate** to **high risk for rip currents** to all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today. Along the East Coast, light winds and lower surf will bring a low risk of rip currents to Northeast Florida beaches. However, a **moderate** to **high risk** is expected for all East-Central and Southeast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will slowly diminish today and tonight as winds subside from yesterday's cold frontal passage. Waves of 1-3' are expected for most Florida beaches this afternoon. However, locally higher surf is expected for Southeast Florida beaches where a few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone.

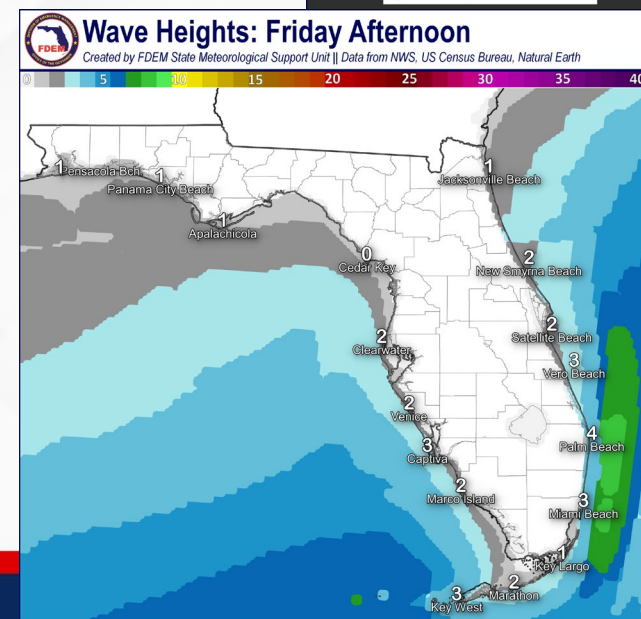
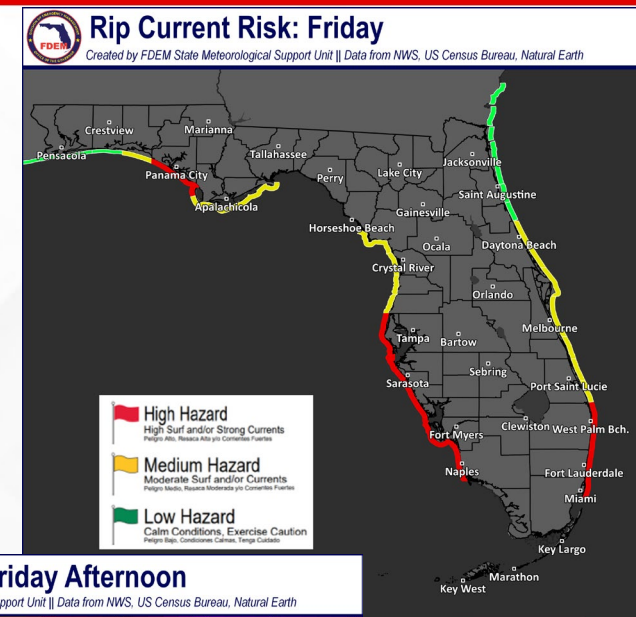
Red Tide was observed at background to **high concentrations** in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County along the Panhandle. It was also observed at background to very low concentrations in Charlotte County in Southwest Florida. Red Tide was not observed along the Florida 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.

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.



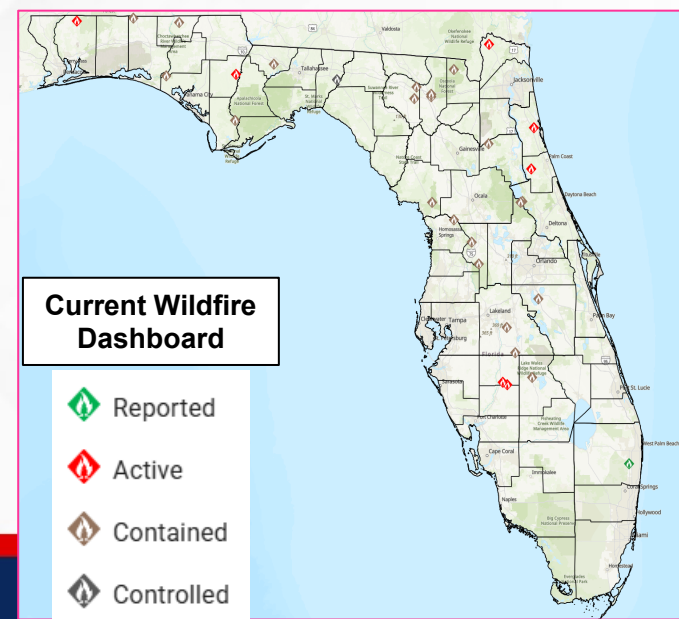
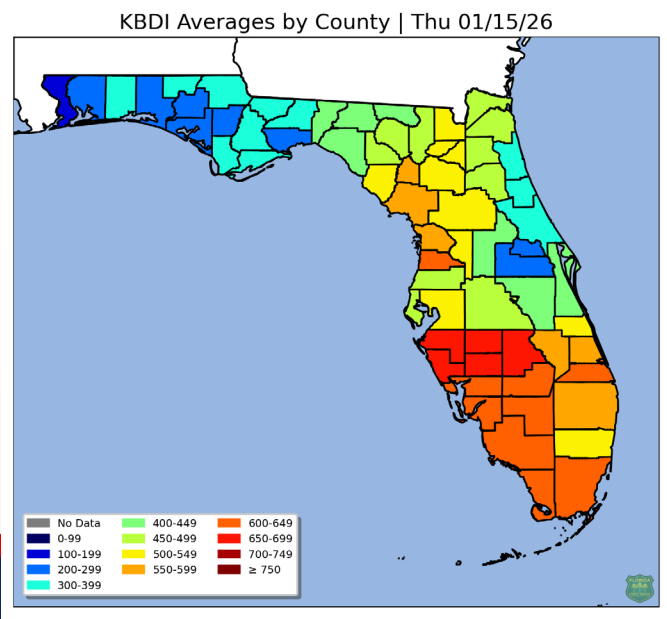
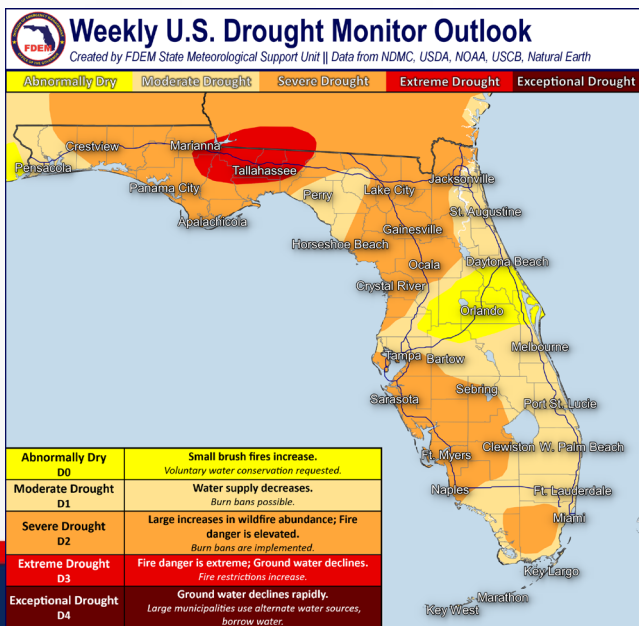


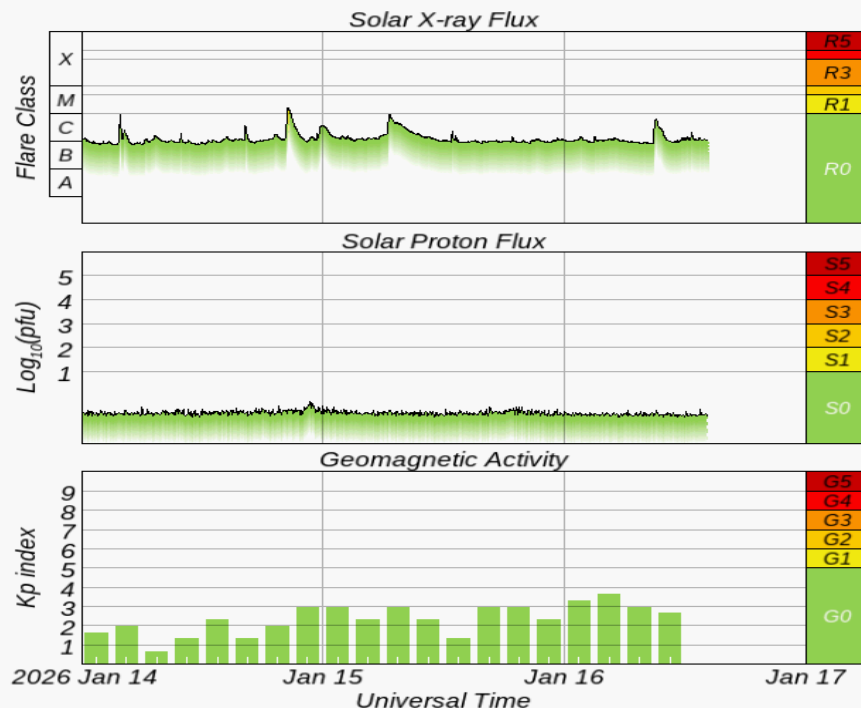
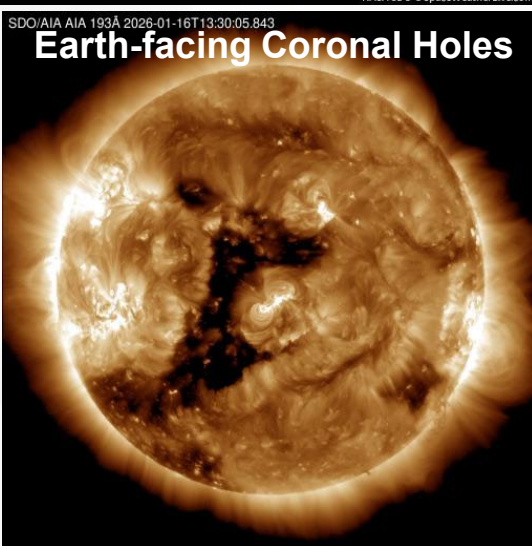
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Very dry air will remain across much of Northeast Florida and the I-75 corridor this afternoon in the wake of yesterdays cold frontal passage. Although winds will remain light, **critically low relative humidities (20-30% RH values)** will promote **elevated wildfire conditions** this afternoon. *Locally greater wildfire conditions cannot be ruled out in any areas experiencing the most severe drought.* Given the ongoing drought across West-Central Florida, **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will develop this afternoon. Temperatures will be warmer today across Northeast Florida which will increase the overall wildfire threat compared to yesterday. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 28 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 335 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 **479 (-4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/16	1/17
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%

Space Weather: Solar activity will remain at low levels with a few strong (M-class) solar flares possible 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 today before Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds return on Saturday. The Earth's geomagnetic field will be at quiet to active levels today from residual effects of a glancing coronal mass ejection (CME). The CH HSS influences will cause unsettled to minor (G1) storming this weekend, with a chance for isolated moderate (G2) conditions. 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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