



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, January 17, 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	Daniel Leader	(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	Okaloosa, In Region	CERT Orientation Meeting / On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin / Response / Finance Meeting / Sert Call
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable

Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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 R8
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Out of Region	Leave

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

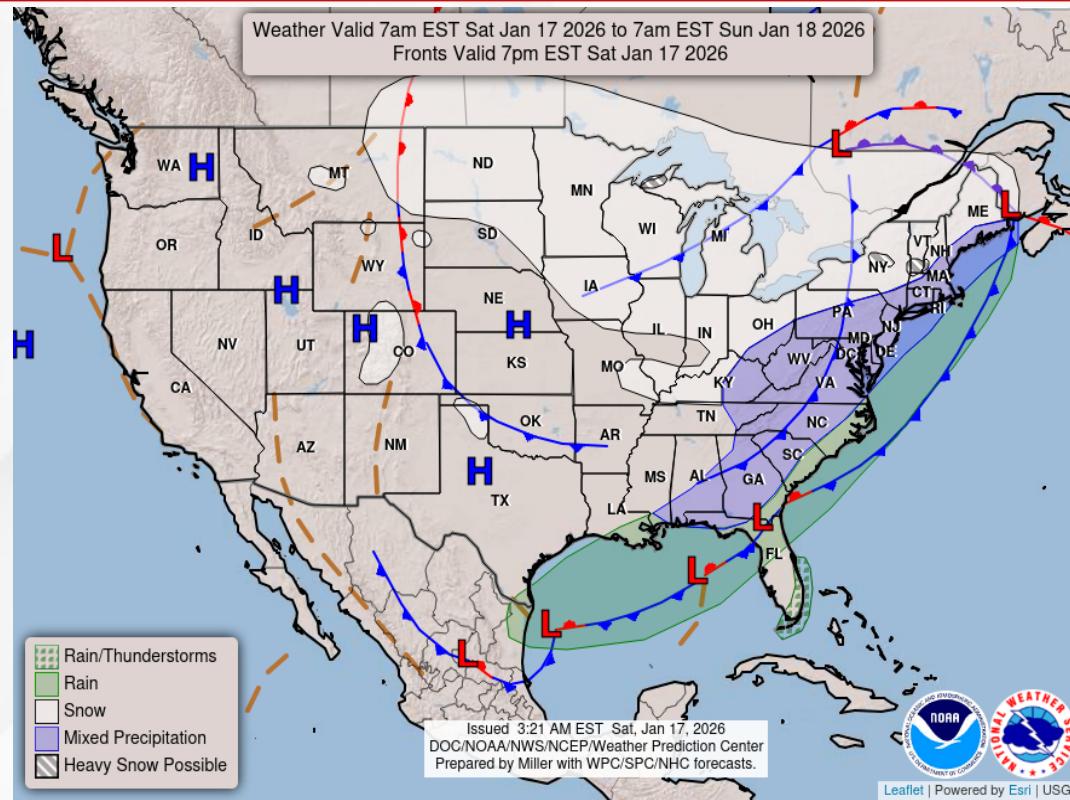
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

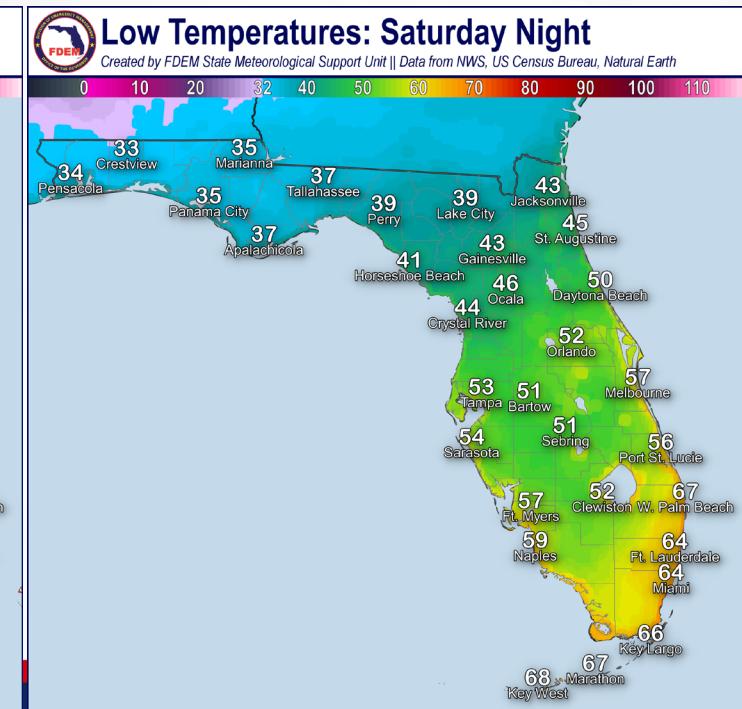
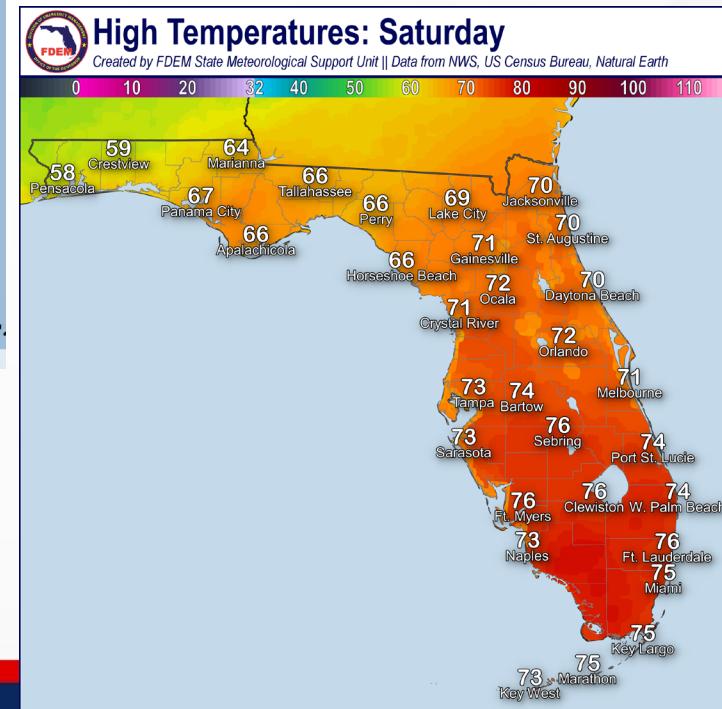


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Freeze (Overnight)	L									
Wind Chill (Overnight)										
Wildfire				L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	M	L	M	M	L	M	M	M	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.10 ft. (1.61 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	479 (0) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

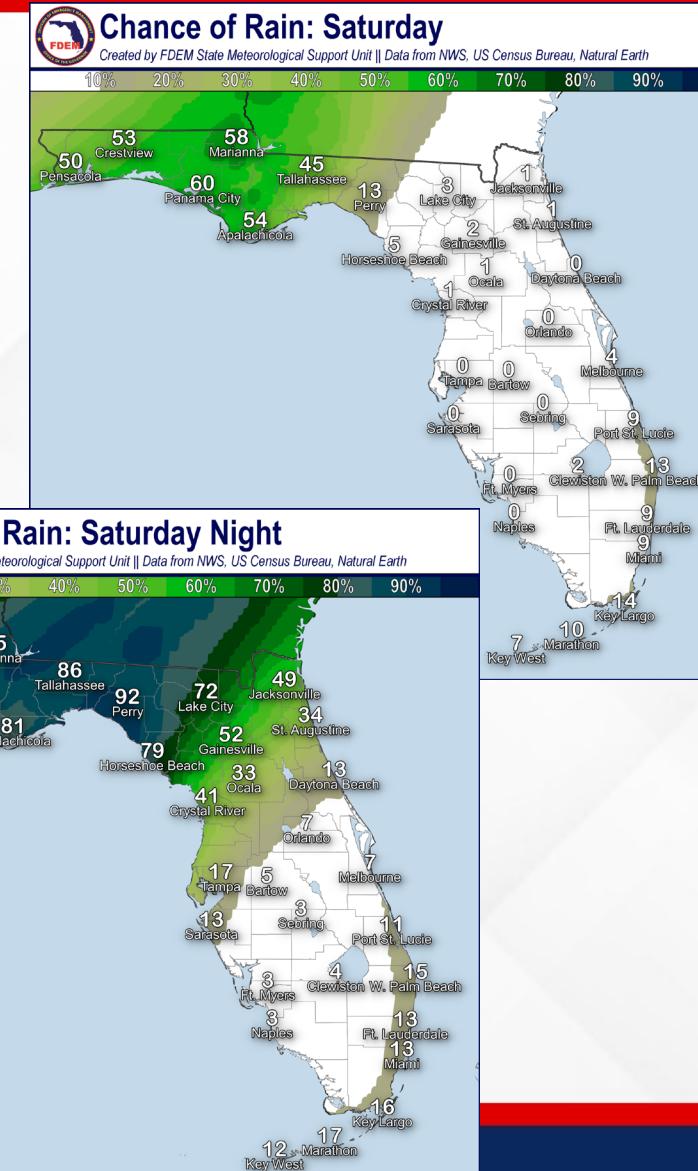
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Warm and moist southerly flow will spread across the state today ahead of the next approaching frontal system. A few showers are ongoing across the western Panhandle this morning, and additional scattered showers will develop across the Panhandle and Big Bend throughout the day (30-60% chance of rain). Across coastal Southeast Florida, a few light sprinkles or a brief shower cannot be ruled out throughout the day, though activity will not be widespread in nature (15-20% chance of rain). A mostly dry day is on tap for the rest of the Peninsula where ongoing drought may lead to **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** this afternoon, though winds will remain light.

High temperatures will climb into the lower to middle 60s across the Panhandle and Big Bend, with lower to middle 70s across the Peninsula.

Tonight, scattered showers will continue to stream across the Panhandle and Big Bend before becoming more numerous and widespread after midnight as the next potent frontal system taps into more Gulf moisture (60-90% chance of rain). This slug of widespread showers and light rain will begin to translate eastward after midnight with scattered to numerous showers spreading across Northeast Florida before daybreak Sunday (50-70% chance of rain). Further to the west, cold air behind the front will attempt to catch up to the departing rain which could lead to a few locations across the western Panhandle transitioning to a **wintery mix or wet snow** before daybreak Sunday (20-40% chance of snowflakes mixing in). If snow can mix in, any accumulations will remain minimal, insignificant, and confined to grassy and elevated surfaces. Warm southerly winds will promote **fog and low clouds** to develop across South Florida overnight, which could be **locally dense**.

Low temperatures will dip into the **middle to upper 30s** by daybreak Sunday across the Panhandle and Big Bend. Lows in the lower to middle 40s can be expected across Northeast Florida, with 50s across Central and interior South Florida. Coastal Southeast Florida will only reach the middle to upper 60s tonight.





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 beaches today. Along the East Coast, lighter winds and lower surf will bring a **moderate risk of rip currents**. A return to a low risk can be expected for most West Coast beaches, with a local **moderate risk** along Charlotte and Lee County beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Breezy onshore winds will bring slightly elevated surf of **2-3'** for all Panhandle and Southeast Florida beaches today. Waves of 1-2' can be expected for all other East Coast and West Coast beaches.

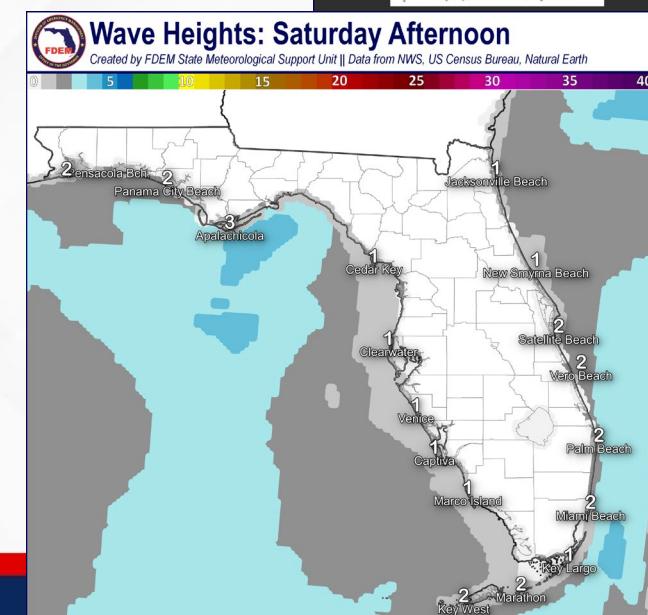
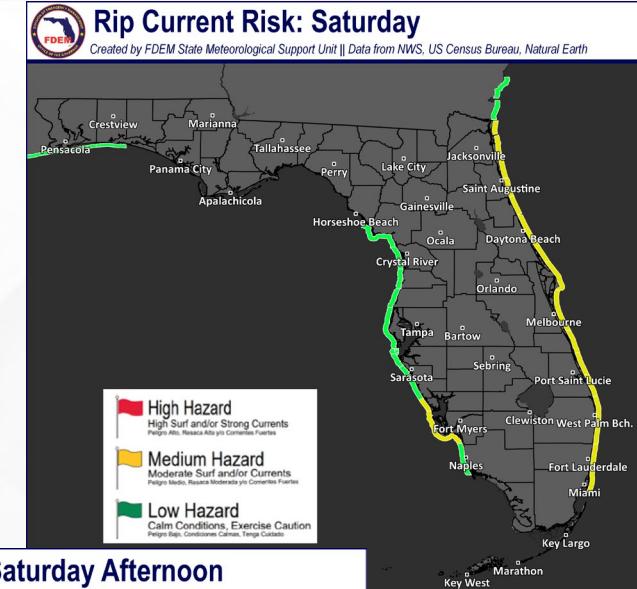
Red Tide was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in Bay and Gulf counties and background to very low concentrations in Franklin and Walton counties. In Southwest Florida, red tide was also observed at background concentrations in Sarasota and Charlotte counties and offshore Collier County. It was observed at low concentrations offshore Monroe County. It was not observed along the East Coast (valid 1/16/2026).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today. The next frontal system will continue to approach the state today with moist southerly flow bringing widely scattered showers to the Panhandle and Big Bend. Coverage in rainfall will increase after midnight from west to east across North Florida. Rainfall totals are expected to remain below 0.5" for most areas west of the Apalachicola River, however **locally higher totals** upwards of 1-2" cannot be ruled out in places that receive repeated rounds of heavier showers and steady rain. Localized **nuisance flooding and ponding of water** could occur in urban and poor-drainage locations.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.10 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.61 feet below normal for this time of year.



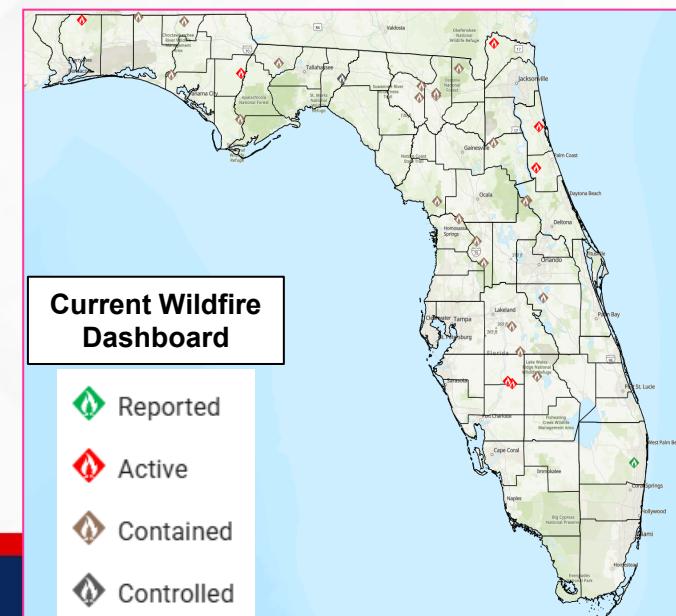
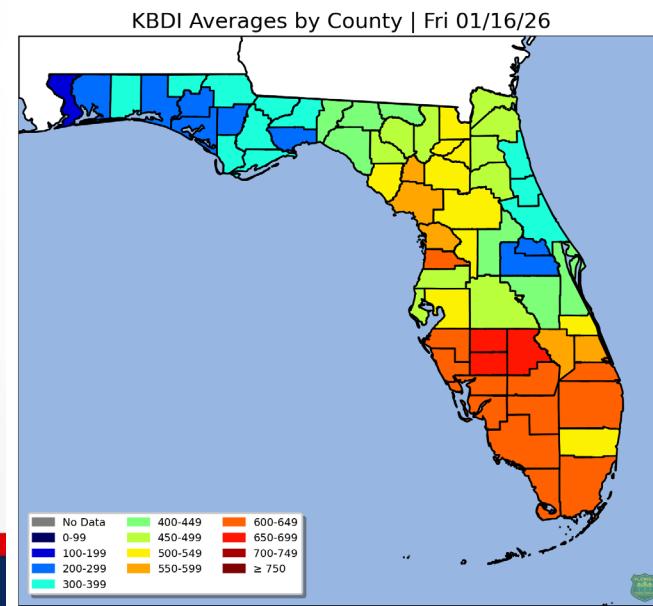
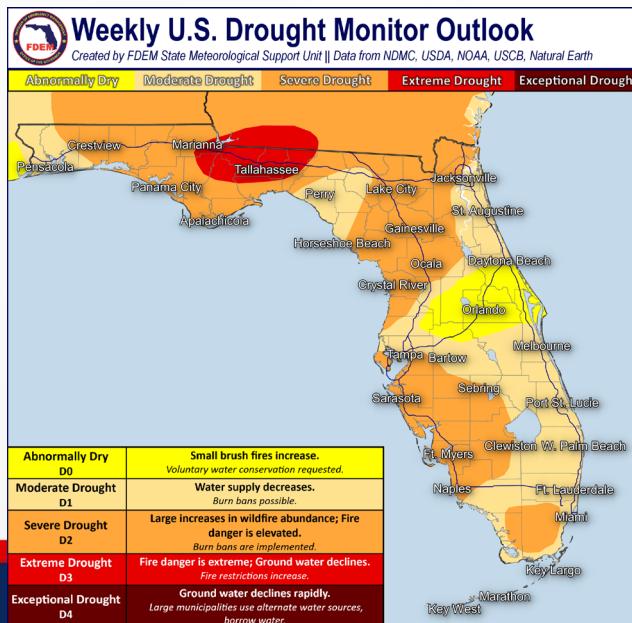


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Moist southerly flow ahead of the next frontal system will help to scour out the very dry airmass that has resided over the state the past few days. With the return of moisture, widely scattered showers are expected throughout the day across the Panhandle and Big Bend which will help to keep the overall wildfire threat low. Across the Peninsula, ongoing drought and preceding dry conditions will lead to **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** this afternoon as temperatures become much warmer from the past few days. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 33 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 362 acres.

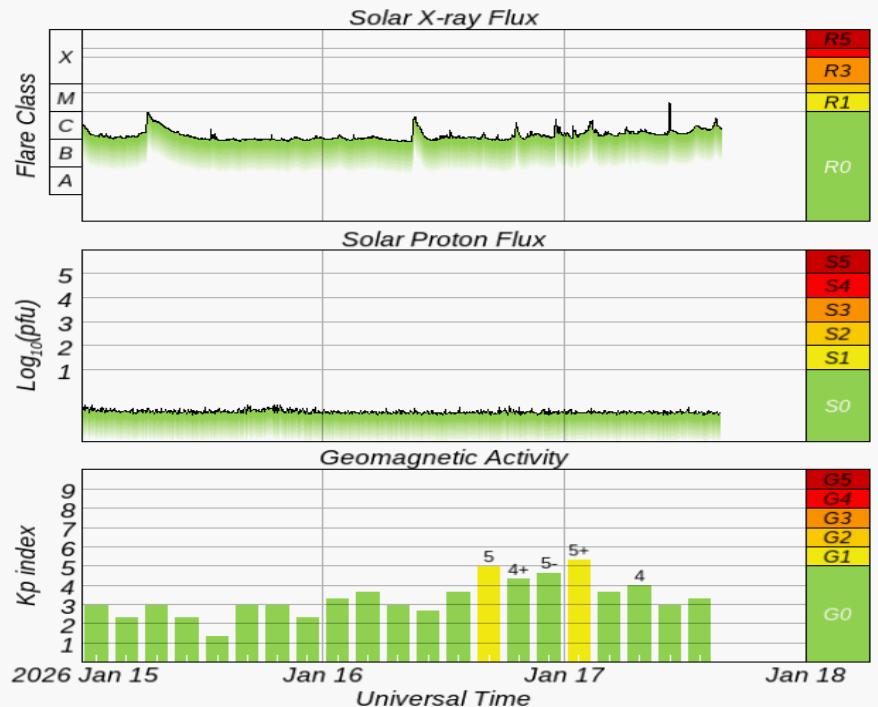
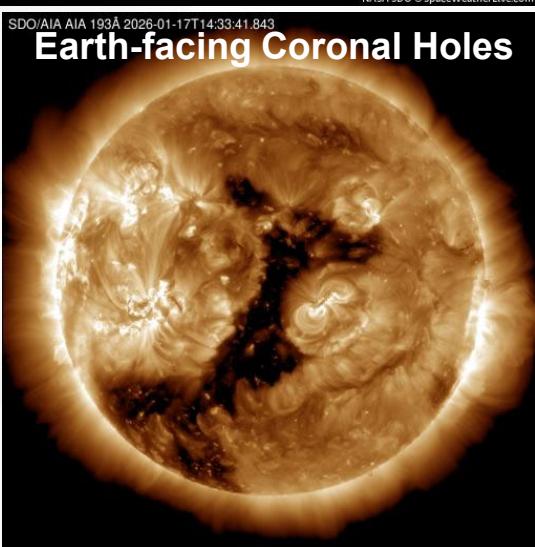
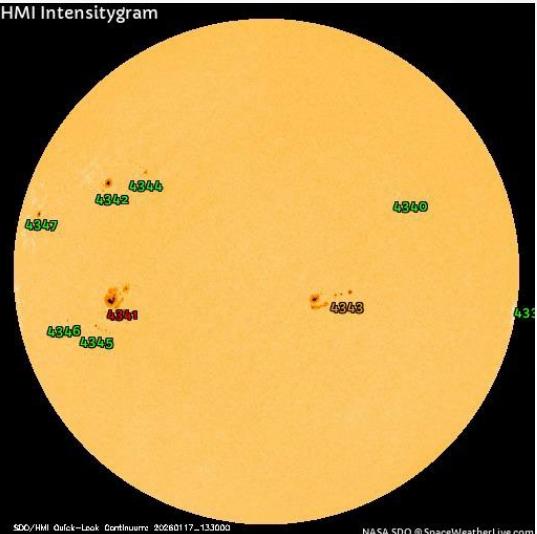
Drought (1/15/26): Although some rainfall fell across portions of the state in the last week, totals were meager and expansion of much of the drought was seen in the past week's drought monitor outlook. Rainfall totals were well below 1" across the Panhandle, which wasn't enough to relieve the very dry 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 (0)** 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).





Space Weather



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

1/17	1/18
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%	Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity will remain at low levels with a few strong (M-class) solar flares likely through the weekend due to active sunspots #4341 and #4343. Any M-class solar flare that develops will bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts with it, and any isolated X-class flares will bring significant (R3) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to decrease throughout the day Saturday before Coronal Hole High Solar Steam (CH HSS) winds bring a return of enhanced conditions Sunday and Monday. Active to Minor (G1) geomagnetic storming is expected to linger early on Saturday from residual coronal mass ejection (CME) effects. Additional G1 storming is possible Sunday and Monday with the arrival of CH HSS winds. 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	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/Subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP