



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, January 18, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tattt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tattt@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	In Region	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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 8 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	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

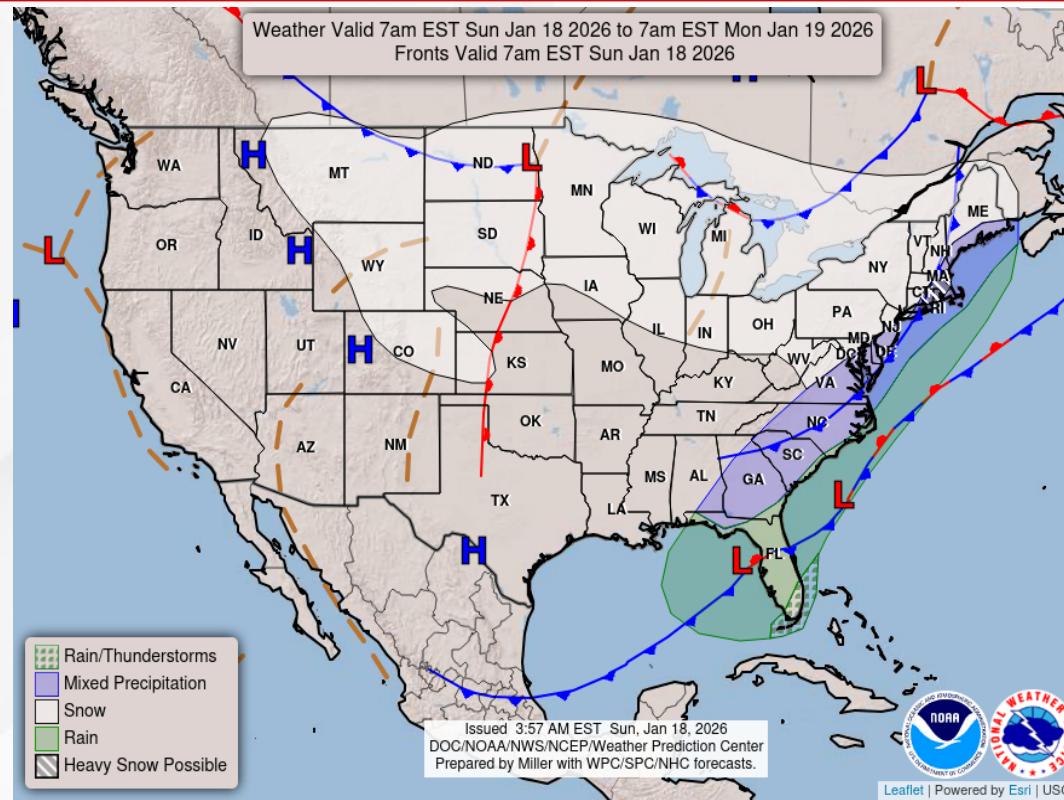
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

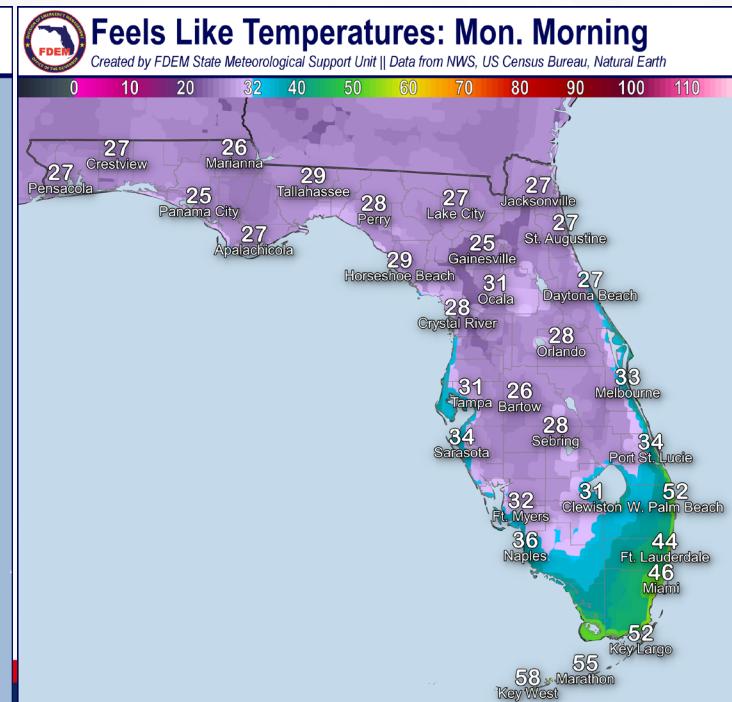
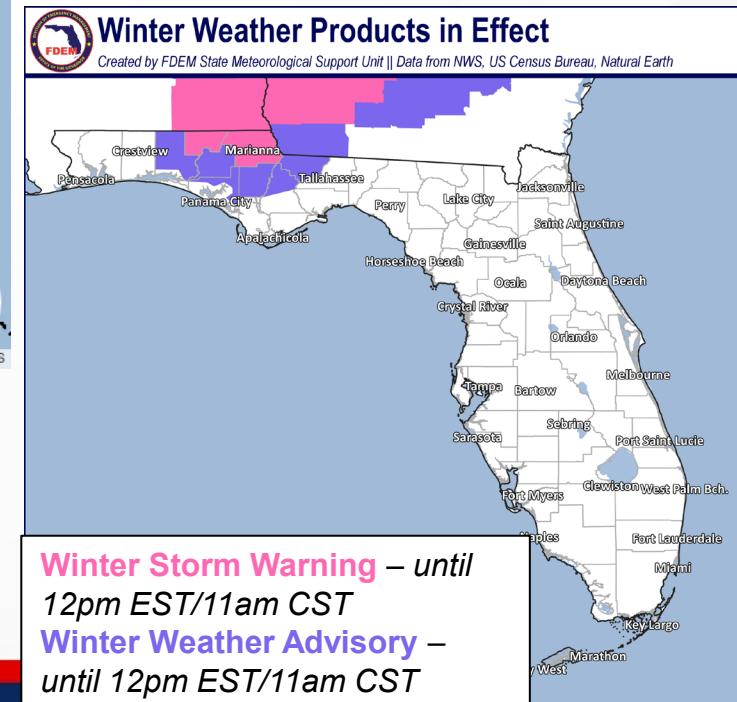


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Snow or Rain/Snow Mix	H	M								
Freeze (Overnight)	H	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	
Wind Chill (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L
Wildfire	M	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	H	M	H	M	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.10 ft. (1.61 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	481 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

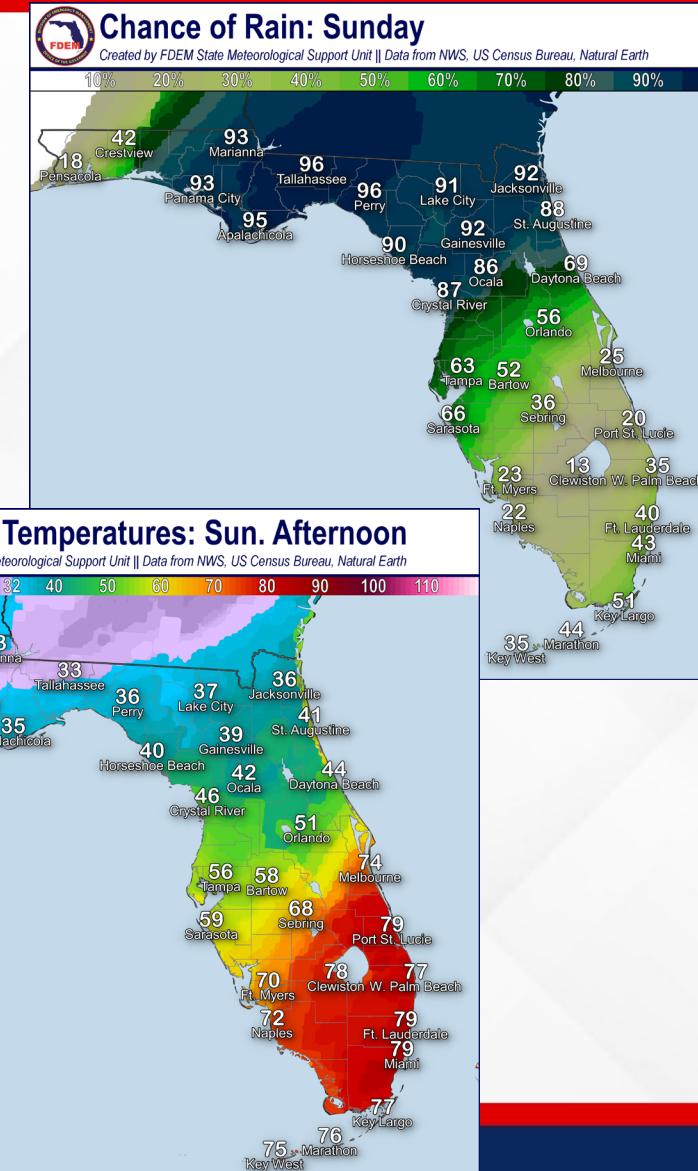
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Radar and observations along the Panhandle have shown the rain ahead of the cold front has transitioned to **snow** this morning. The **rain/snow line** is approaching the US-231 corridor right now, with snow to the wet and scattered to widespread shower activity to the east from US-231 through the rest of North Florida. The cold front will continue to race eastward throughout the day across the state keeping shower activity contained to North Florida towards the I-4 corridor and the **wintry mix of snow/rain or just snow** along the Panhandle and the far western edge of the Big Bend (Gadsden and northern Liberty). Scattered showers can be expected from the Capital City and across Northeast Florida, then also extending through Central Florida. As the cold air chases the rain and the front from behind, a few **snow flurries mixed** into the rain cannot be ruled out. However, the snow chances will have to battle the warmer ground temperatures and overall warmer temperatures ahead of the cold front if the colder air cannot chance up fast enough. **Winter Storm Advisories** and **Winter Storm Warnings** are in effect for portions of the Panhandle through 12pm EST/11am CST ahead of snow accumulations on grassy surfaces. For the **Winter Storm Advisories**, snowfall totals upwards of a trace-1" are possible. For the **Winter Storm Warning**, snowfall totals upwards of 1-2" are possible, with a localized 3" also possible in heavier snow banding. Any larger accumulations of snow could lead to some **slippery surfaces**.

Near midday to the early parts of this afternoon, drier air will catch up to the shower activity out ahead of the cold front leading to showers becoming more isolated in nature then eventually dissipating late this afternoon. With this potent cold front moving through, wind gusts will reach **upwards 15-20 mph** throughout the state, but even stronger **wind gusts of 20-30 mph** can be expected throughout Central Florida. **Wind Advisories** will go into effect midday for East-Central Florida, especially along the coasts, where **winds of 15-25 mph** are expected with wind **gusts upwards of 35-45 mph**. Portions of South Florida could still see some brief showers continuing into the early evening hours. Dry conditions are expected to return statewide overnight as that much colder and drier air moves in. Calmer winds will also return overnight throughout most of the state as the cold front pushes offshore. South Florida can still expect to see lingering **breezy wind gusts of 15-20 mph** across interior areas and stronger wind **gusts of 25-30 mph** closer towards the coasts.

The warmest part of the day has already occurred along much of North Florida with temperatures in the middle to upper 40s along the Panhandle and western Big Bend and the lower 50s for Northeast Florida. The much colder air racing in behind will continue to cool down temperatures further throughout the day and lead to colder feels-like temperatures by the afternoon. **Feels-like temperatures** by the early afternoon hours will reach the **lower to middle 30s** across much of North Florida as those breezy wind gusts continue. A **sharp temperature difference** can be found along the Nature Coast and lower Suwannee River Valley where high temperatures will reach the middle 50s, while Central and South Florida will see high temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s.

Colder air will cause low temperatures to crash into the **middle to upper 20s** throughout North Florida and interior Nature Coast, **lower 30s** for interior Central Florida and **middle to upper 30s** for the rest of Central Florida and **upper 30s** to upper 40s across South Florida. **Freeze Warnings** will go into effect tonight from Northeast Florida and the I-4 corridor. With elevated winds continuing overnight, **feels-like temperatures** will remain in the **middle to upper 20s to lower 30s** from North Florida, nearly all of Central Florida and even south to Lake Okeechobee Monday morning. Immediate coastal portions of Central Florida will see **feels-like temperatures** in the **lower to middle 30s**. The rest of South Florida can expect **feels-like temperatures** through the **middle 30s** to middle 40s. **Cold Weather Advisories** will go into effect tonight from the Suwannee Valley and through Lake Okeechobee to Collier County.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy northwesterly winds can be expected to develop behind a cold front moving across the state along the Panhandle and West Coast creating a **moderate to high risk for rip currents**. Breezy, and at times gusty, winds can be expected along portions of the East Coast leading to a **moderate risk** for nearly all beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Ocean swells of 1-3' can be expected statewide, but larger swells further offshore from the Panhandle and Nature Coast could reach upwards of **4-5'** at times.

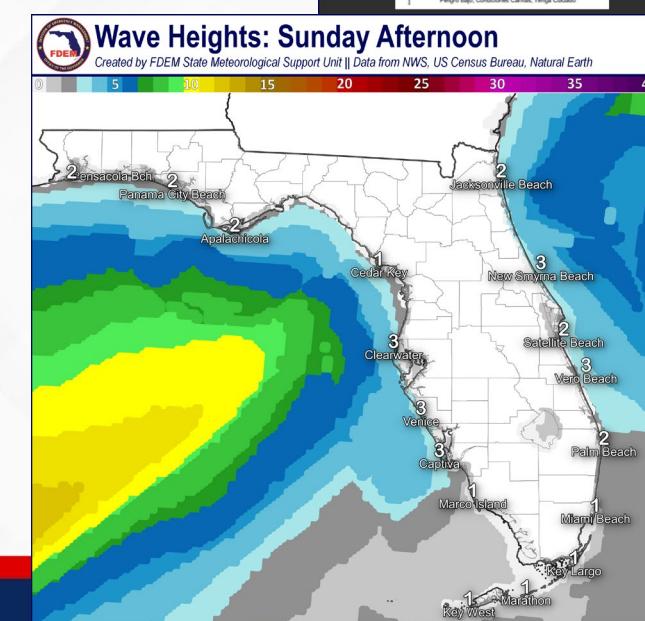
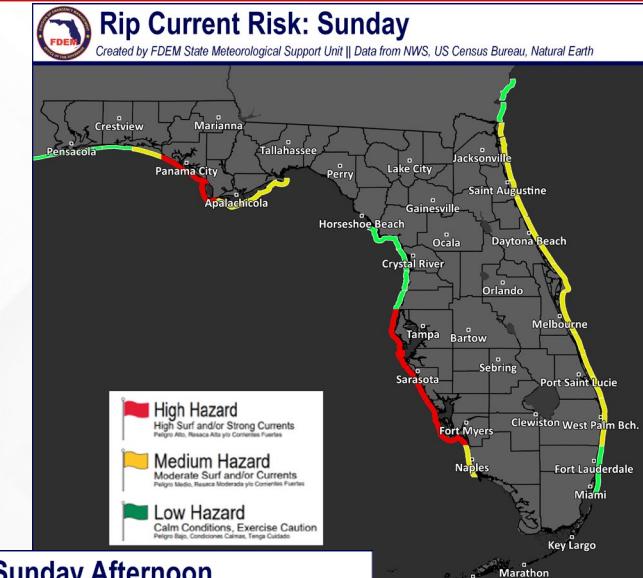
Red Tide was observed at background to **medium concentrations** in Bay and Gulf counties and background to very low concentrations in Franklin and Walton counties. In Southwest Florida, red tide was also observed at background concentrations in Sarasota and Charlotte counties and offshore Collier County. 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: Flash flooding is not expected. Beneficial rainfall can be expected along the Panhandle and the Big Bend with a cold front moving through the state. Rainfall totals upwards of 0.5" are likely, but totals could reach upwards of 1-2" with any heavier rounds of shower activity. Rainfall along the Panhandle and near the US-231 corridor will transition to a rain/snow mix or snow through the morning hours. Snow accumulations of 0.5" are possible on grassy surfaces, but a quick snowfall rate could lead to 1-2" of snowfall.

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.



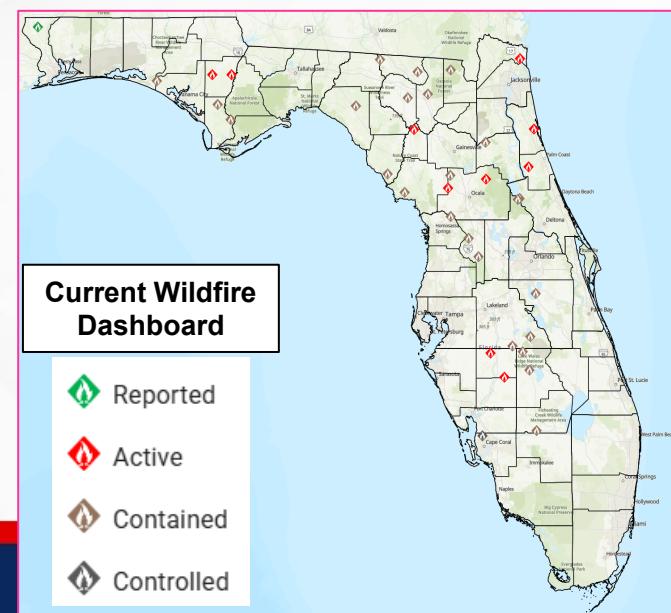
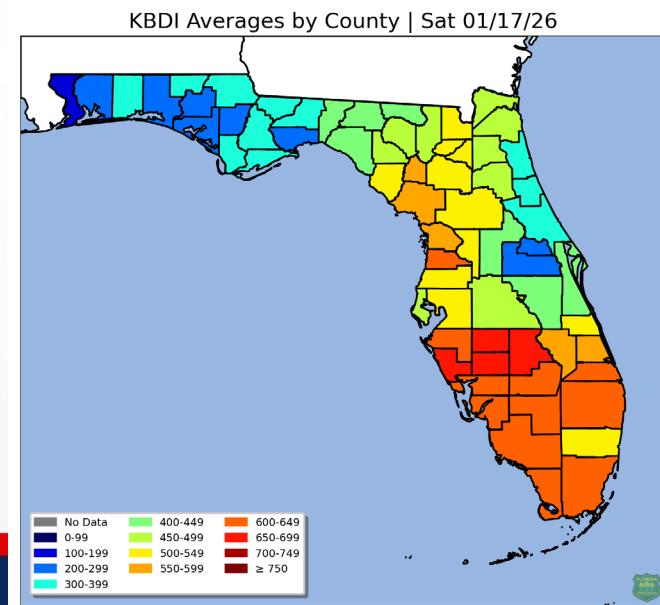
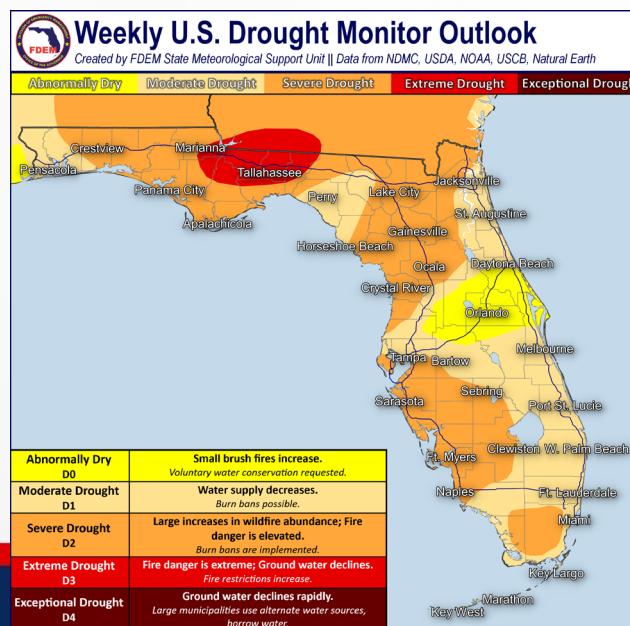


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Moisture ahead of this next cold front will keep relative humidity above critical thresholds. Scattered to widespread shower activity can be expected ahead of this cold front, bringing beneficial rainfall to ongoing drought areas. Winter Weather, particularly snow and a rain/snow mixture, will be possible along the Panhandle through the morning hours as the colder air catches up to the rainfall. Conditions behind the cold front will quickly dry out from west to east, leading to much drier and colder air racing in. **Wind gusts** will strengthen as the colder air races in, leading to gusts of **15-20 mph** throughout North Florida and **20-30 mph** throughout Central Florida. **Wind Advisories** will go into effect midday along East-Central Florida for **wind gusts upwards of 45 mph**. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 36 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 989 acres.

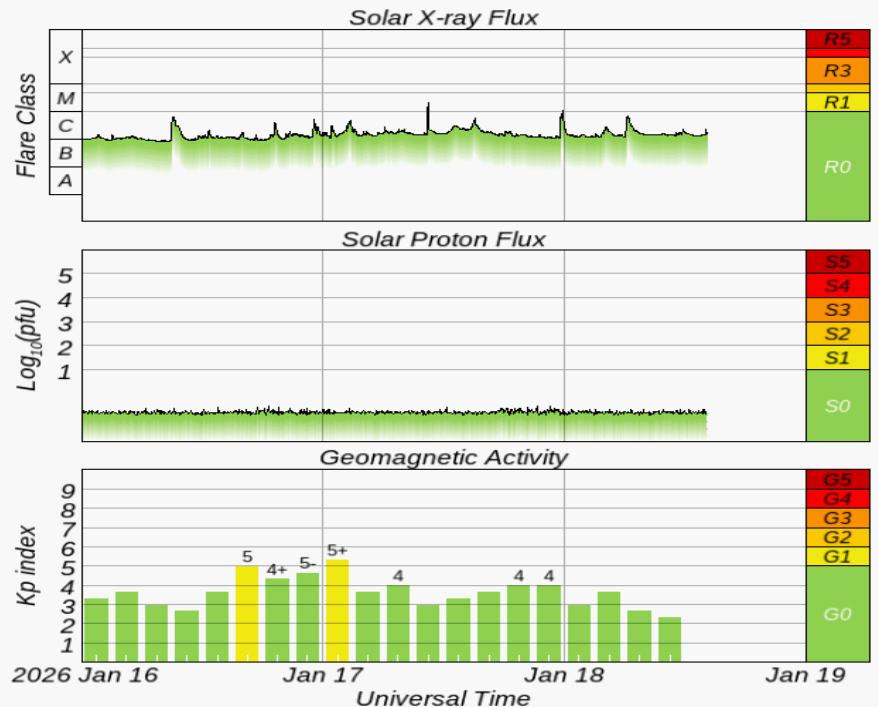
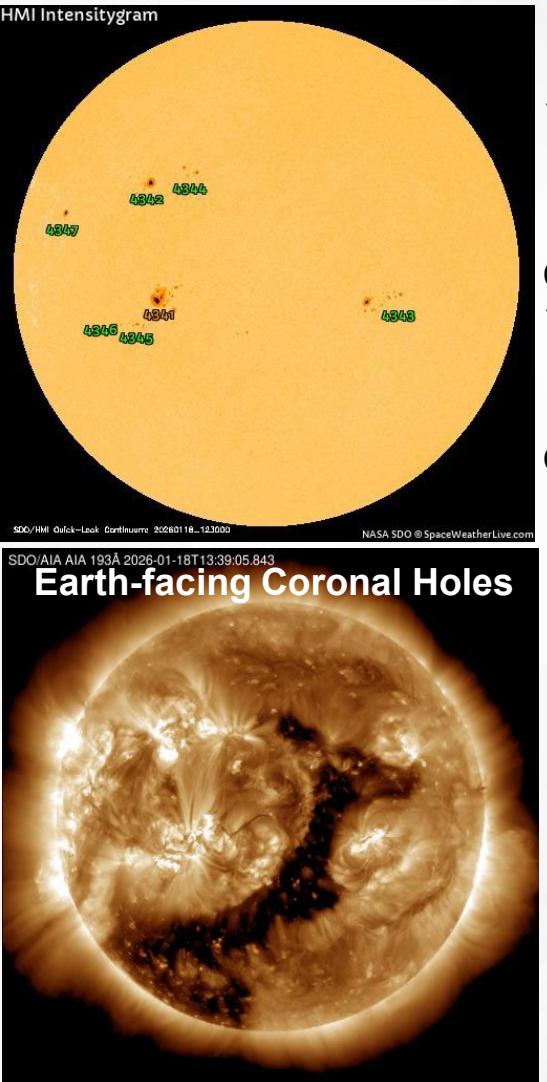
Drought (1/15/26): Although some rainfall fell across portions of the state in the last week, totals were meager and expansion of much of the drought was seen in the past week's drought monitor outlook. Rainfall totals were well below 1" across the Panhandle, which wasn't enough to relieve the very dry 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 **481 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **31** 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	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
1/18	1/19	
Max Kp= 5 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)	
Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	

Space Weather: Solar activity will likely reach moderate levels due to isolated strong (M-class) flare activity from sunspot #4343. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will be likely with any M-class solar flares that are produced. Enhanced solar wind conditions can be expected through early this week due to a recurrent stream of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds that are flowing towards Earth. Minor (G1) geomagnetic storming will be likely through today with the CH HSS conditions. Conditions will likely remain unsettled to active through early parts of this week. 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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