



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, January 28, 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	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	Washington	Cyber Resiliency Workshop
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Washington, Jackson	Cyber Resiliency Workshop / County IPP
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Leon	Healthcare Coalition Meeting / HQ Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	FEMA Online Coursework
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	Community Outreach Event
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	NDMS Meeting / Gasparilla Event Planning Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	County EM Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Collier	County EM Visit
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Walton	City of Miami FIFA Fest Exercise / Travel to Region 1



Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6

Region 10 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon	New Employee Onboarding
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	County EM Meeting

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

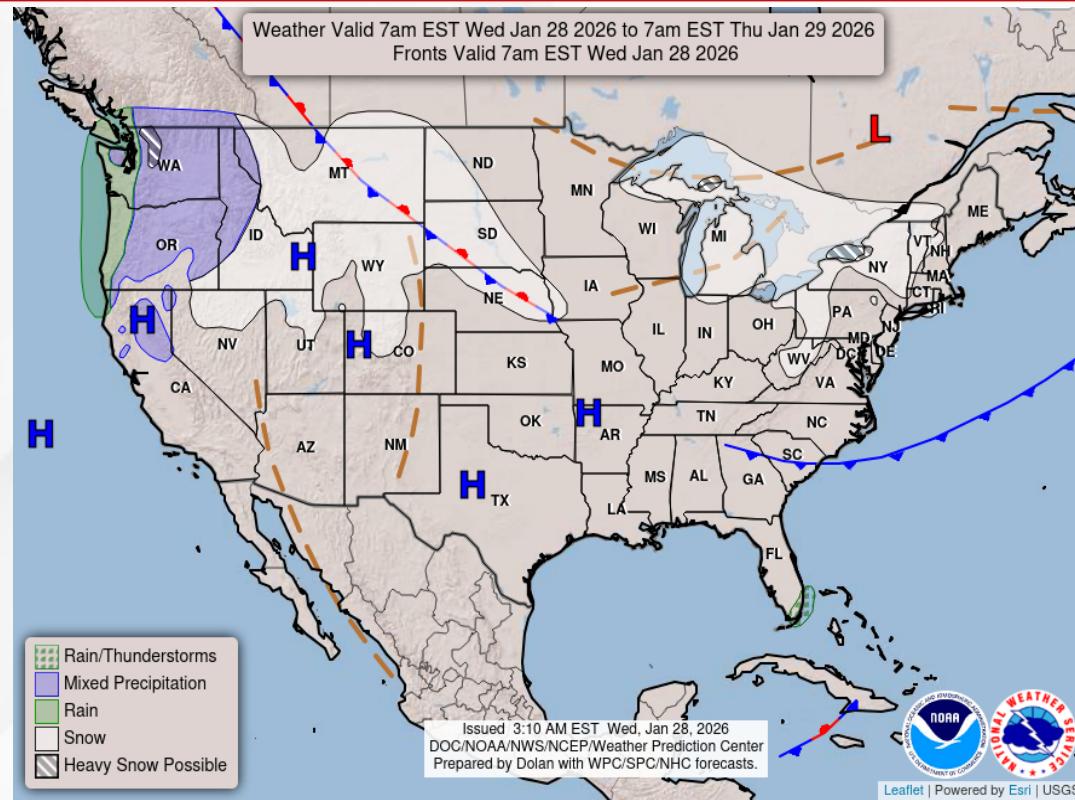
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

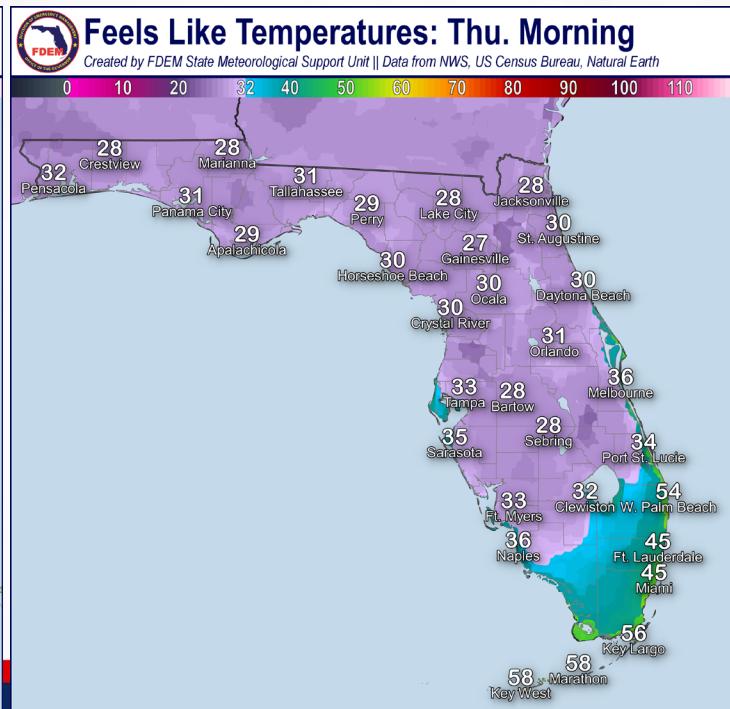
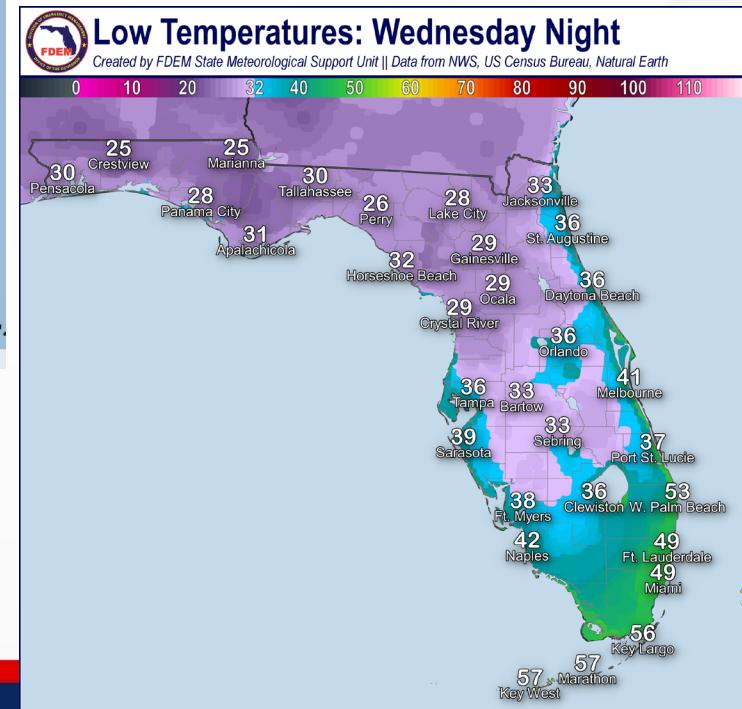


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	L	L	
Wind Chills (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	
Wildfire	L	M	L	L	M	M	M	L	M	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.90 ft. (1.79 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	475 (+1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





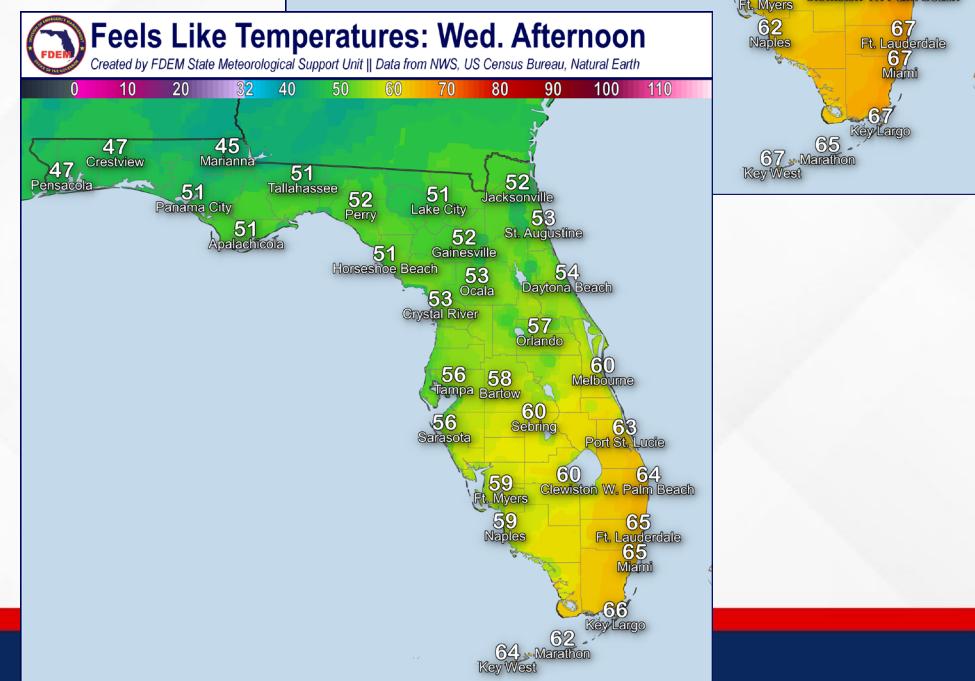
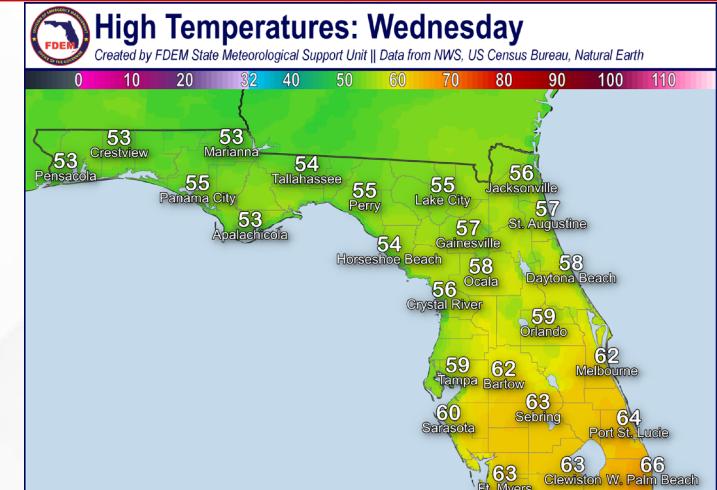
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Freeze Warnings and **Cold Weather Advisories** remain in effect across most of the state through the mid-morning hours due to another cold start and elevated wind chills. A few isolated showers have developed just off the Southeast Florida coast this morning and may drift onto the immediate coastline of the Southeast Metro this afternoon and early evening (15-30% chance of rain). Should any activity manage to drift onshore, it will remain light and brief. Temperatures will continue to slowly warm throughout the day with the help of sunshine and dry nearly statewide. Despite the sunshine lingering wind gusts of 10-15 mph may make conditions feel slightly cooler than the actual temperatures.

High temperatures this afternoon will return to the 50s across North Florida, upper 50s to lower 60s across Central Florida and middle to upper 60s across South Florida. Those afternoon feels-like temperatures will remain in the middle 40s to lower 50s across North Florida and lower to middle 50s across Central Florida this afternoon.

Widespread freezing conditions can be expected again tonight even with temperatures slowly warming up. Low temperatures will fall into the **middle 20s to lower 30s** across North Florida and along the Nature Coast, **lower to middle 30s** across interior Central Florida, with the coasts remaining closer to the **upper 30s**, and the **upper 30s** to upper 40s across South Florida tonight. **Freeze Warnings** are expected to go into effect for much of Northeast Florida and the interior Peninsula tonight and through the early morning hours on Thursday. Trends will be monitored throughout the day to see if conditions will allow for Hard Freeze conditions along the Panhandle and extend Freeze Warnings into the area, but as of right now confidence is too low. With lighter winds anticipated tonight we could instances of **frost development**. **Feels-like temperatures** near sunrise Thursday morning will remain in the **middle 20s to lower 30s** across much of the state through interior portions of Southwest Florida. **Cold Weather Advisories** will extend beyond Lake Okeechobee tonight and into Thursday morning for **sub-freezing to freezing wind chills** expected.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Dissipating ocean swells and ongoing northwesterly winds will create a **moderate risk for rip currents** across numerous beaches. Southeast Florida will continue to see a **high risk**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Ocean swells along the Florida East Coast will continue to slowly dissipate today but still lead to **wave heights reaching 3-5'** with the Southeast Florida coast reaching **upwards of 6'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see calmer conditions near 1-3'.

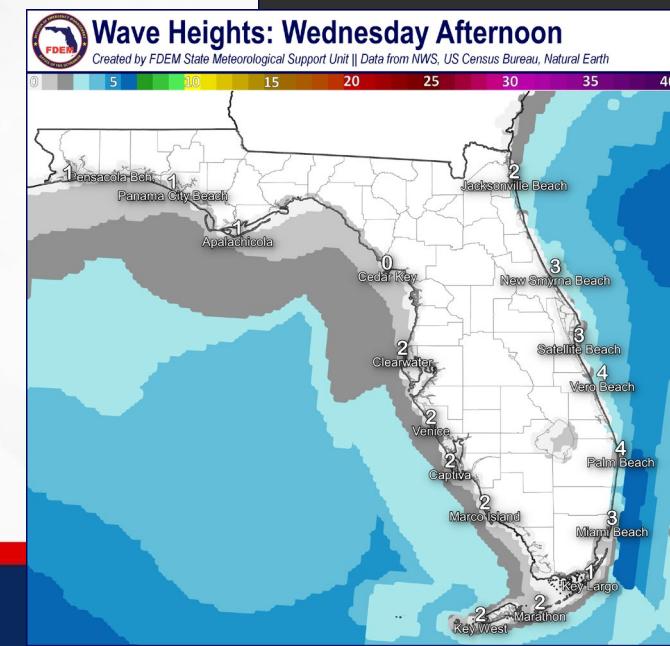
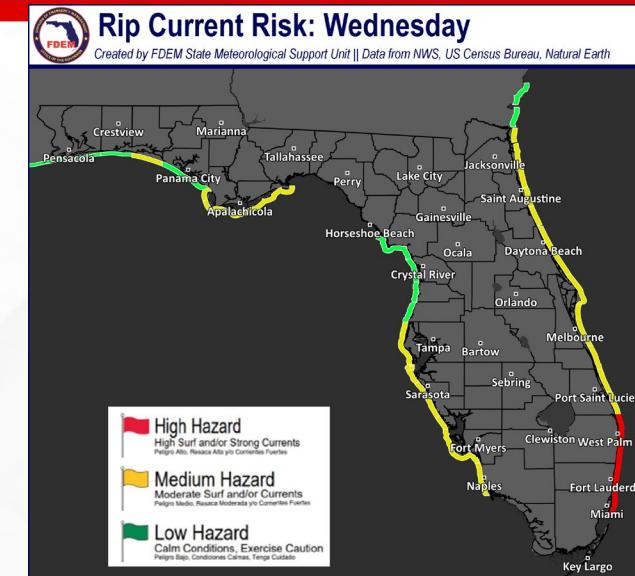
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay and Franklin counties and very low concentrations in Walton and Gulf County. It was not observed along the East Coast or in Southwest Florida (valid 1/23/2026).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized 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 12.90 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.79 feet below normal for this time of year.



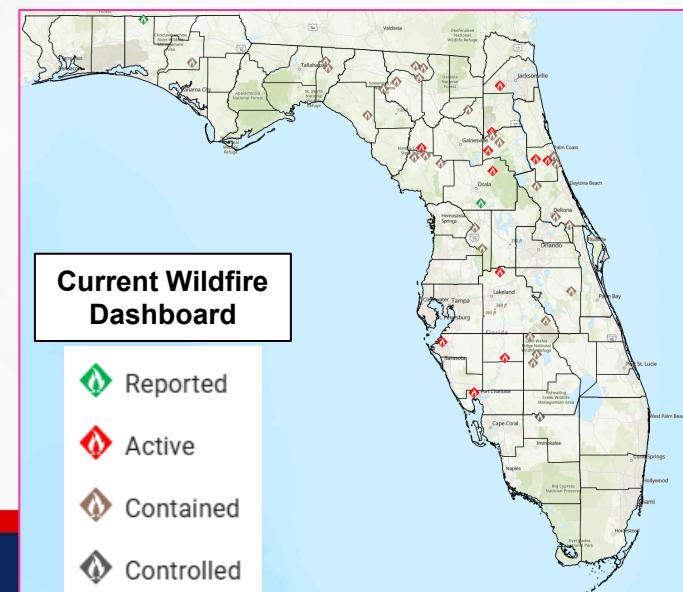
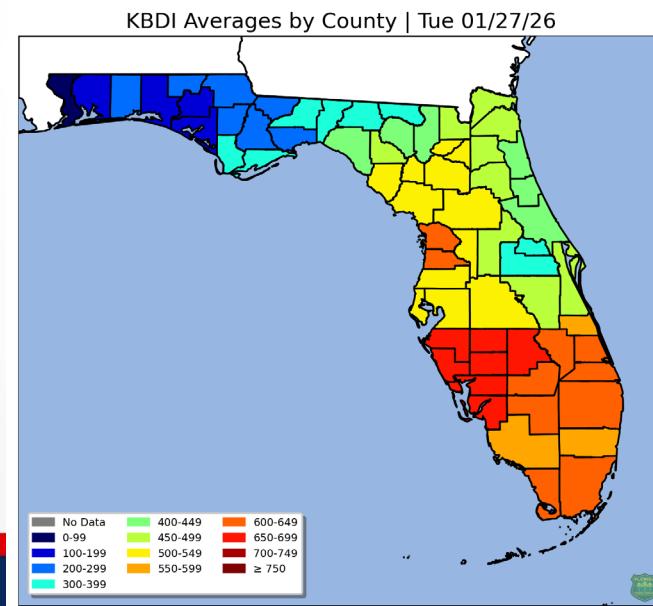
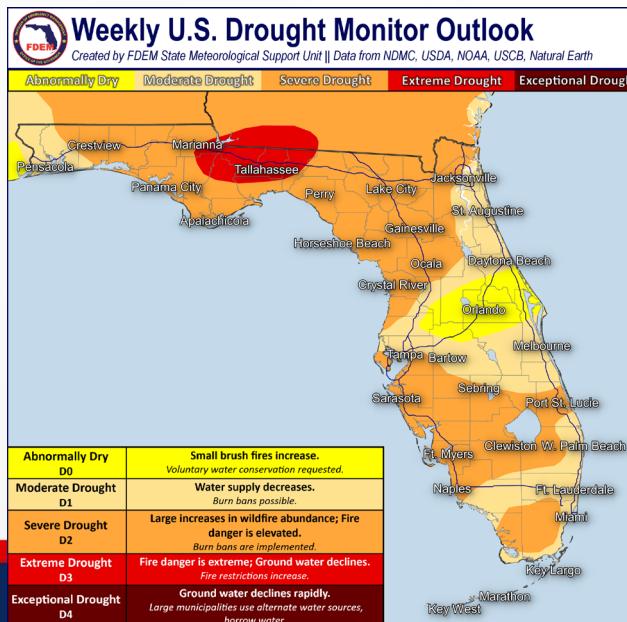


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Very dry air has settled into the state and will lead to relative humidity values falling **near and below critical thresholds** to Lake Okeechobee and even into portions of Southwest Florida **(15-30%)**. Wind gusts are expected to remain light near 10-15 mph; however, **stronger gusts** begin to develop just off the Florida West Coast later this afternoon. Despite some critical relative humidity values, winds will not be strong enough for Red Flag Conditions. **Cooler than normal temperatures** can be expected to continue, especially during the overnight period where widespread freezing conditions are expected through the I-4 corridor into Thursday morning. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** persist given the ongoing and expanding drought conditions across the state. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 43 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1129 acres.

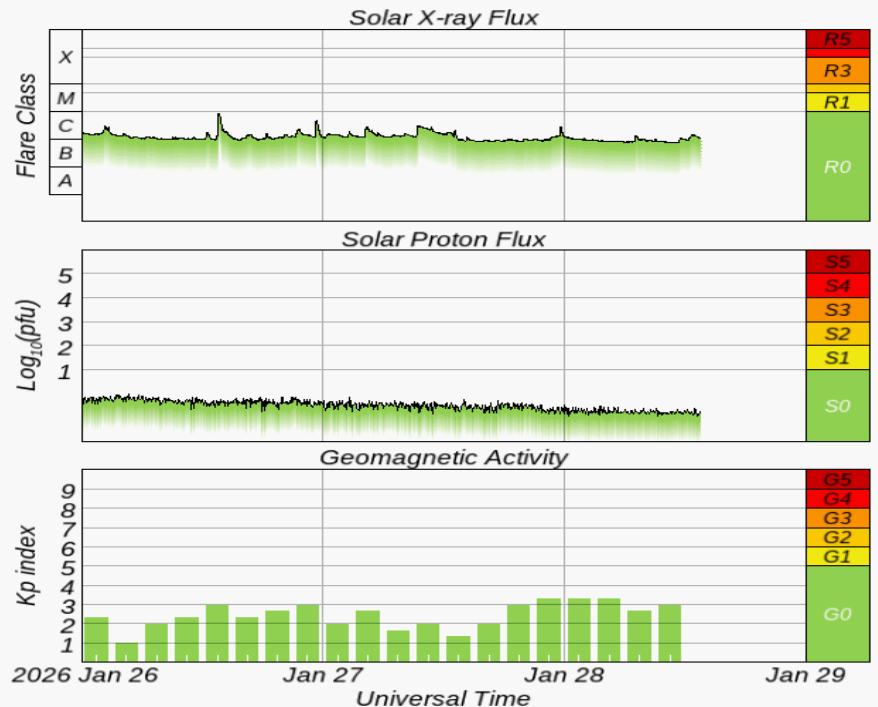
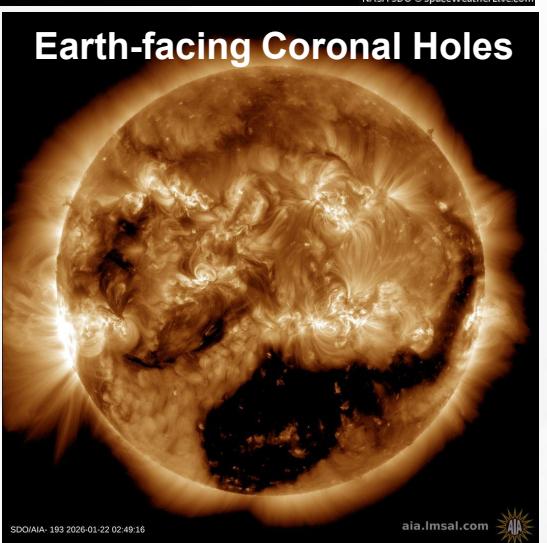
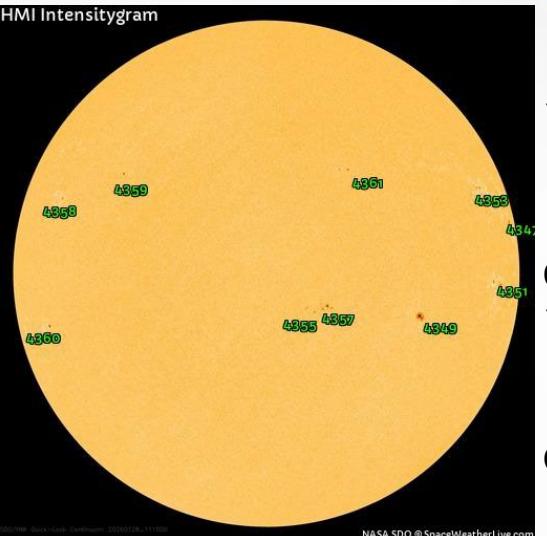
Drought (1/22/26): Light precipitation was observed across Florida over the past 7 days, with portions of the interior Florida Panhandle receiving precipitation as snowfall! However, rain and snow totals of 0.25 to 1" were insufficient to produce meaningful drought improvement. Rainfall totals continue to trend below for this time of year, both in the middle to long-range guidance, and streamflows across North Florida remain below low-flow thresholds. As a result, expansions of both **moderate (level 1 of 4)** and **severe (level 2 of 4) drought** were observed throughout the Sunshine State, particularly for the Florida Big and areas south of the I-4 corridor. **Extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** persists over the interior eastern Florida Panhandle and Big Bend as 60-day rainfall deficits continue to run at 2-3.5" below normal for this time of year. This now brings over 92% of the state is under a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** or worse on this week's Drought Monitor update.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **475 (+1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **33** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather



Space Weather: Despite the 9 sunspots on the surface of the sun, all of them contain magnetic fields that pose little threat for solar activity. Should solar activity develop, a strong (M-class) solar flare may erupt and bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind enhancements are expected to begin today due to a new round of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. This will also lead to the Earth's geomagnetic field becoming unsettled to active, with instances of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming today. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
1/28	1/29	
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)	
Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	



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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