



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, January 29, 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	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	Santa Roas	County All-Hazards Partner Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	School Board TTX
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Osceola	EM Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pasco	Communications Meeting / Gasparilla Call
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Walton	FEPA Annual Conference



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	Miami-Dade	Vehicle Maintenance

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

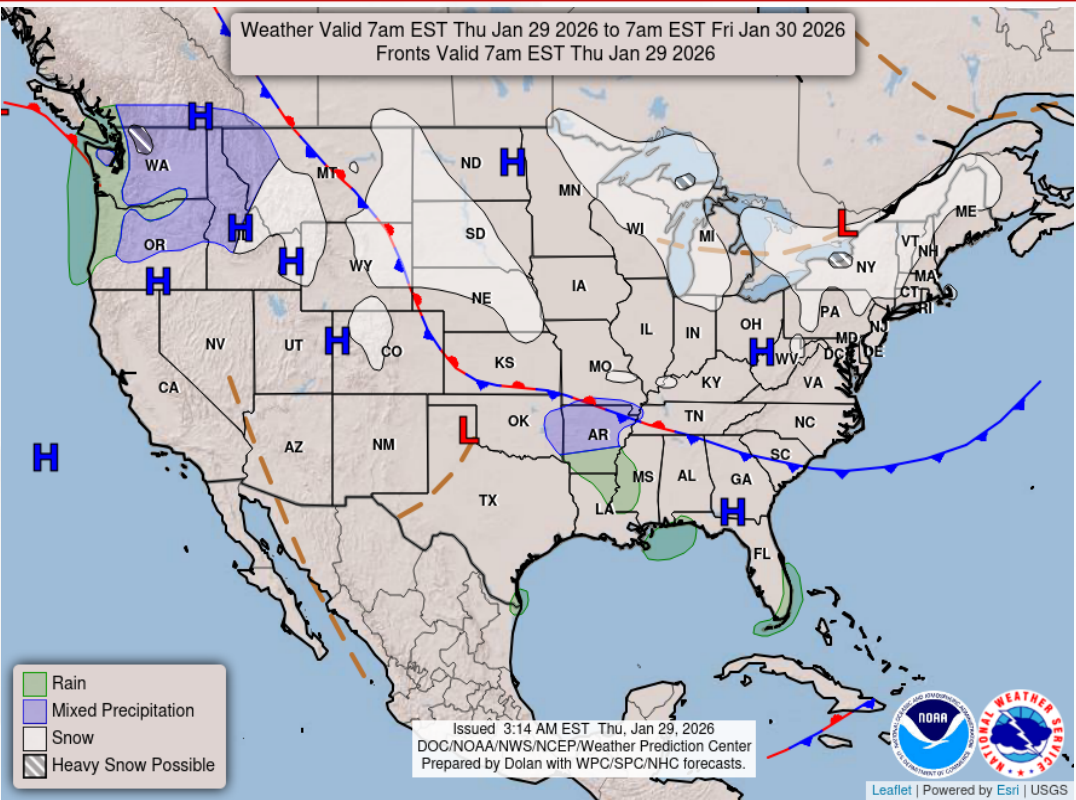
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

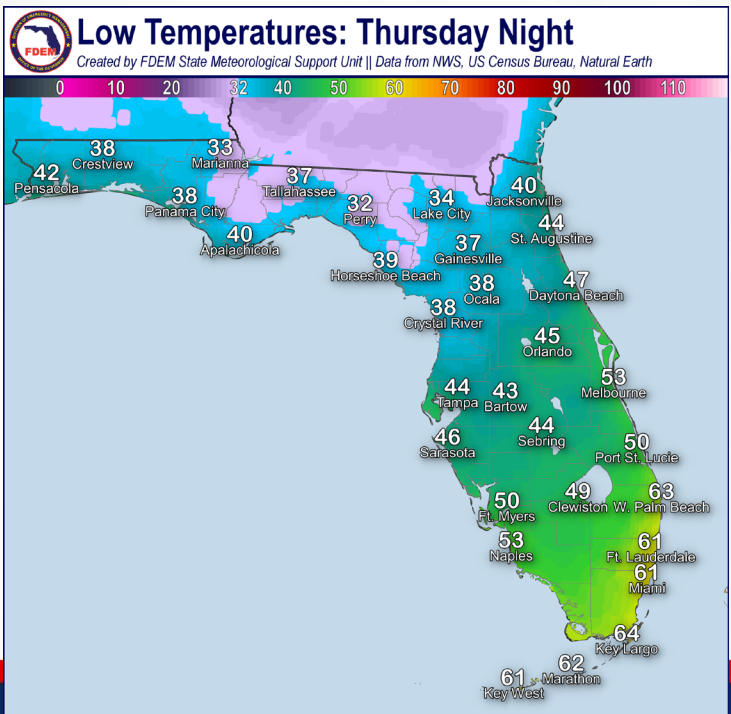
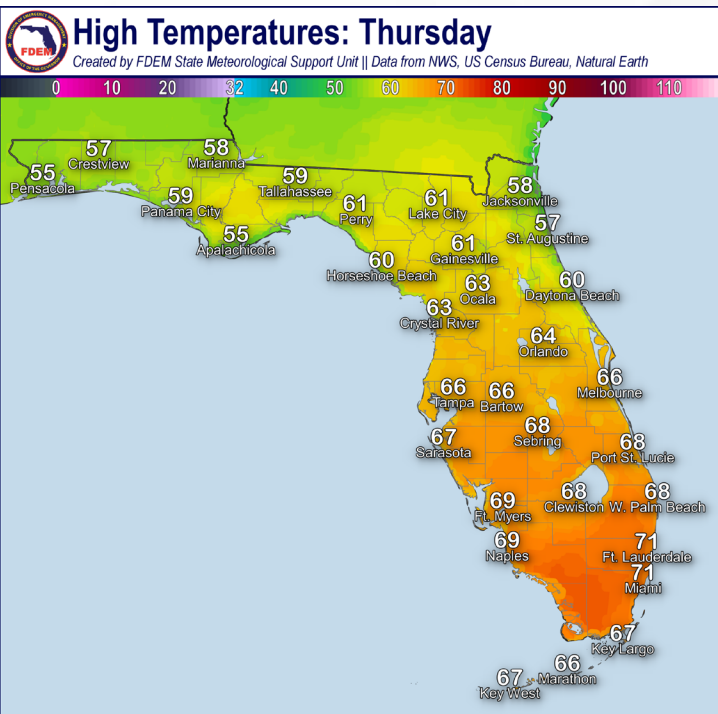


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)	L	L	L	L						
Wind Chills (Overnight)	L	L	L	L	L	L				
Wildfire	L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L	M	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	M		M	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.87 ft. (1.81 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	475 (0) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





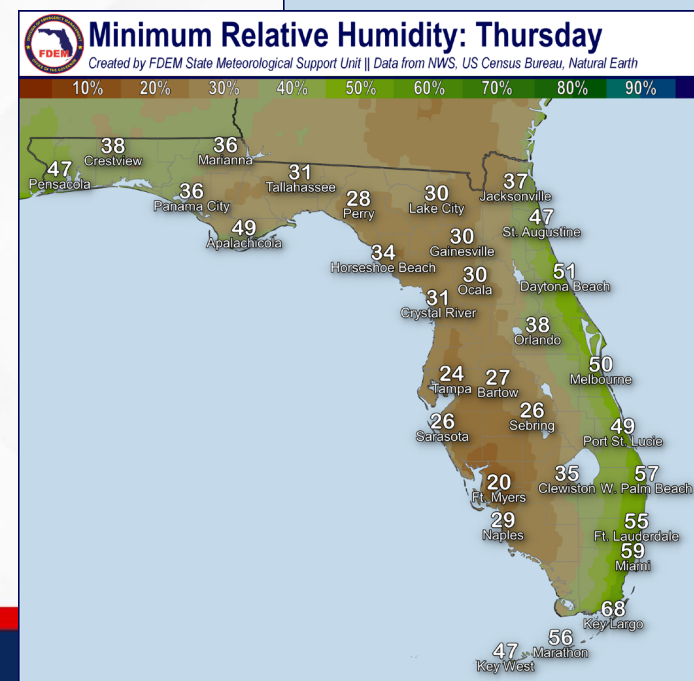
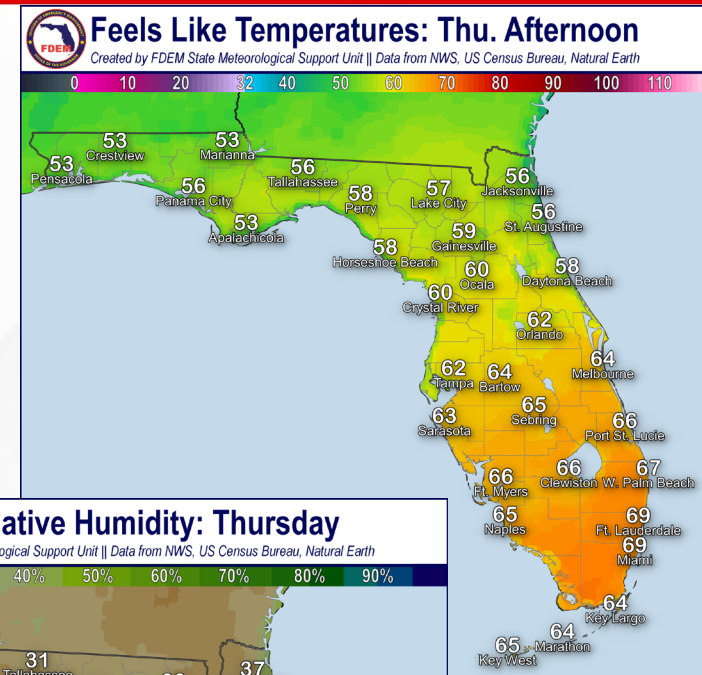
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Freeze Warnings and **Cold Weather Advisories** remain in effect across the Peninsula through the mid-morning hours due to another cold start and elevated wind chills. A mostly sunny and dry day is expected statewide as high pressure remains anchored over the state with no chances of rain. Temperatures will continue to slowly warm throughout the day with the help of sunshine and drier air. Despite the sunshine, lingering wind gusts of 10-15 mph may make conditions feel slightly cooler than the actual temperatures. **Critically low relative humidities (20-30%)** will lead to **sensitive** to **locally elevated wildfire conditions** across North and West Florida this afternoon. A few wind gusts **upwards of 20 mph** are possible along the Southeast Florida coast this afternoon.

High temperatures this afternoon will warm up into the upper 50s to lower 60s across North Florida and middle 60s to lower 70s throughout Central and South Florida.

Dry conditions will prevail overnight, though a light coastal shower cannot be ruled out at the southern tip of the Peninsula and Keys (20-30% chance of rain). Lows will dip into the 30s across North Florida, with localized **patchy frost** development. A **Frost Advisory** will likely be issued for portions of Northeast Florida tonight. Lows in the middle 40s will spread across Central Florida and upper 40s to lower 60s throughout South Florida. With light winds overnight, **wind chills** across the state will be near or warmer than actual temperatures.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Dissipating ocean swells and ongoing northwesterly winds will create a **moderate risk for rip currents** across numerous Panhandle and East Coast beaches. A localized **high risk** is expected for Charlotte and Lee County in Southwest Florida. 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 2-4'** with the Southeast Florida coast reaching **upwards of 5'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see calmer conditions near 1-2'.

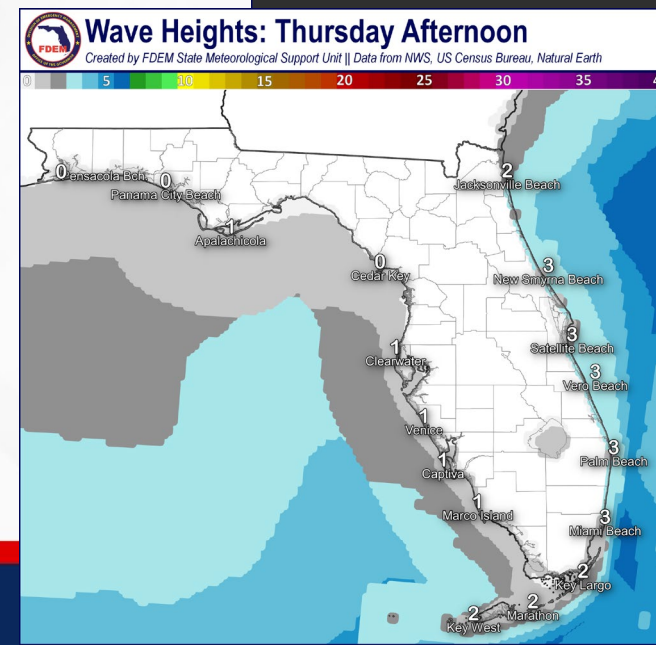
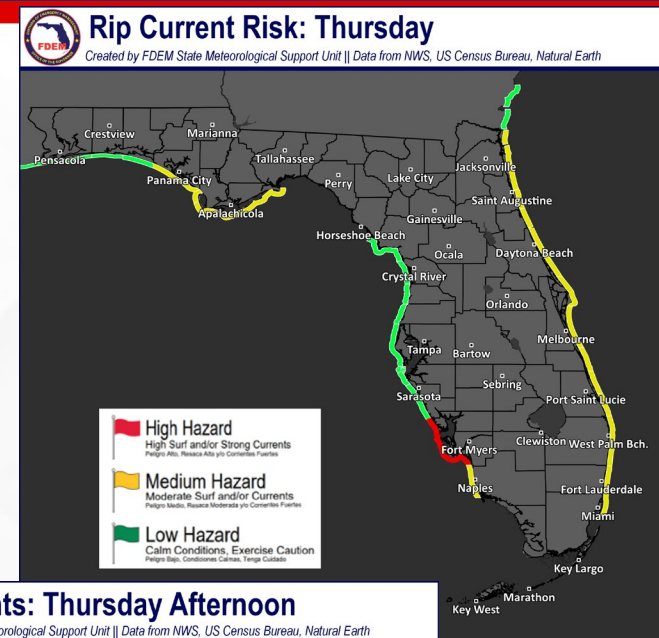
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay and Franklin counties and very low concentrations in Walton and Gulf County. It was not observed along the East Coast or in Southwest Florida (valid 1/23/2026).

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 12.87 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.81 feet below normal for this time of year.



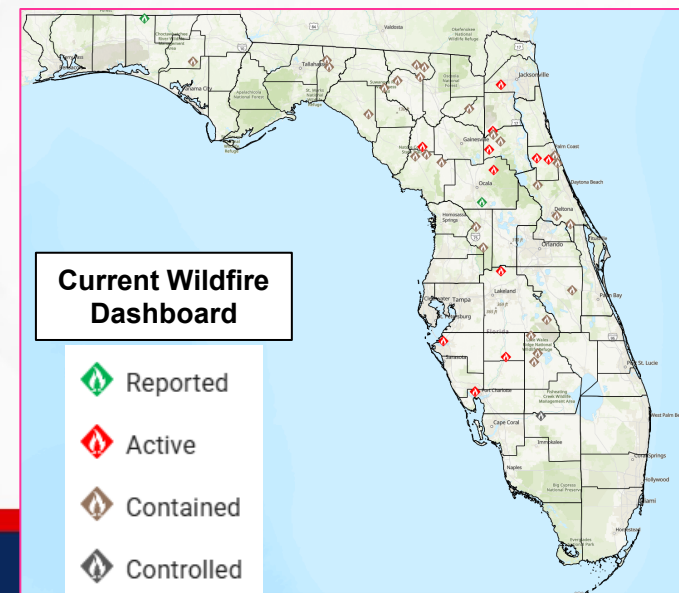
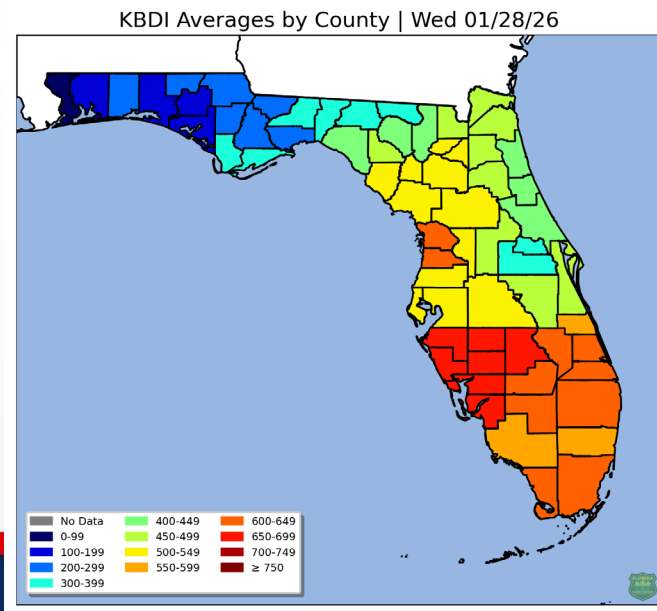
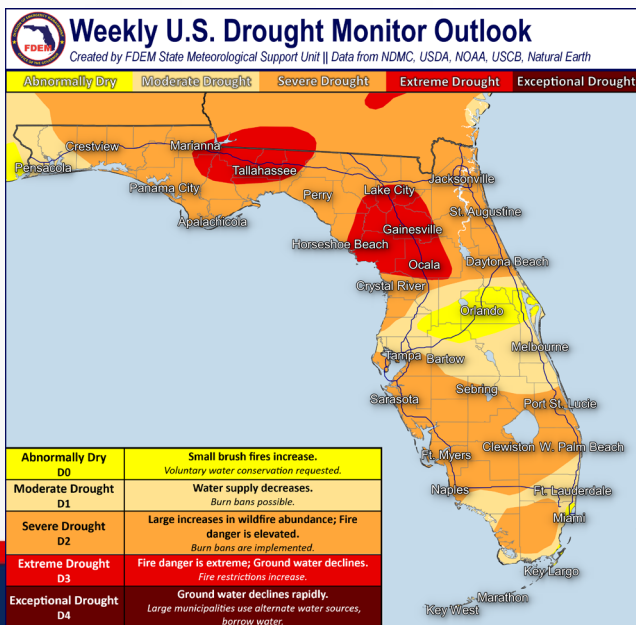


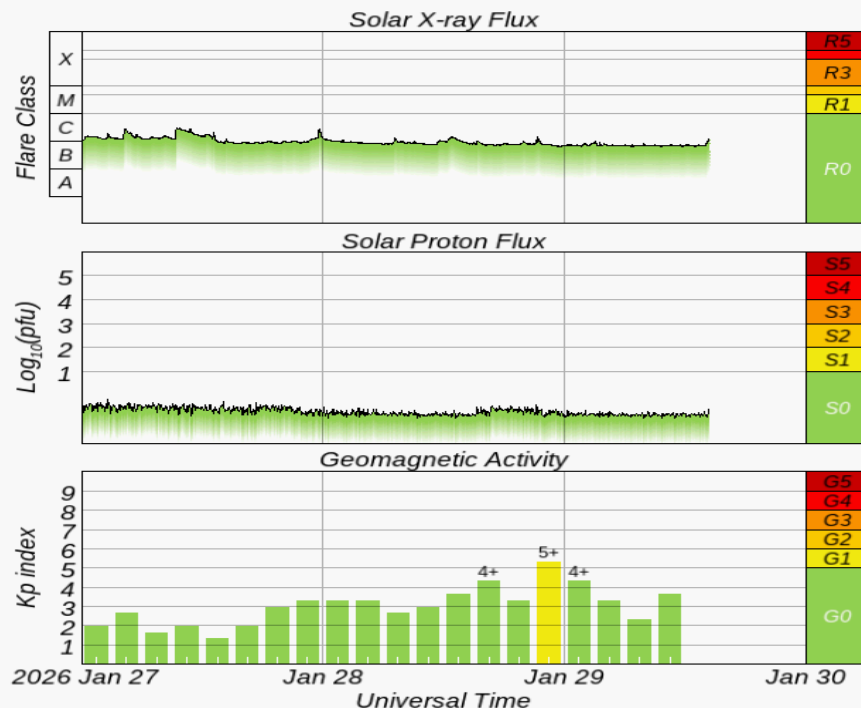
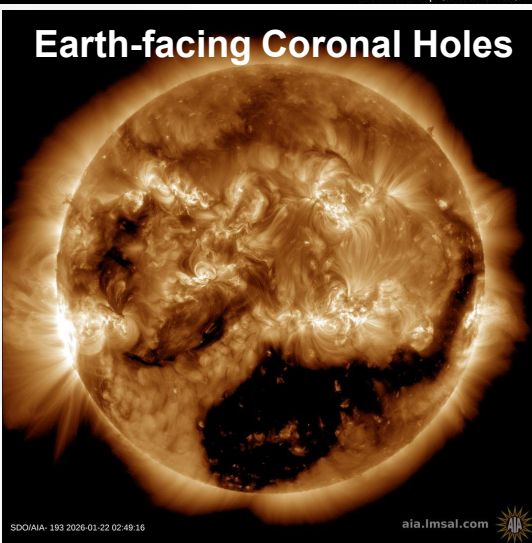
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Very dry air has settled into the state and will lead to relative humidity values falling **near and below critical thresholds** across North Florida and along the I-75 corridor this afternoon. Wind gusts are expected to remain light near 10-15 mph; however, **stronger gusts** may develop along the Florida Southeast 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 across North Florida, where near-freezing conditions will develop through Friday morning. These cooler temperatures will temper the wildfire risk. **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 991 acres.

Drought (1/29/26): We saw the greatest rainfall over the past week mainly across the Panhandle and north of the I-10 corridor with our frontal passage last weekend (1/25). Here rainfall totals of 0.5-2" fell, yet the ongoing long-term drought was hardly impacted. On the latest Drought Monitor outlook, **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** persists across much of North Florida and the I-10 corridor, expanding eastward to include the entire First Coast. Long-term (60 day) rainfall departures across the Nature Coast and North-Central Florida have neared 3-4" below normal, which has prompted the addition of an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** category. The **extreme drought** also remains untouched across the northern Big Bend region where, despite some rainfall, soil moisture levels and streamflows are well below normal. Across Central and South Florida, very little changes were made to this week's outlook. Some slight expansion of the **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** was added across coastal Palm Beach and Martin counties where rainfall departures continue to dip below normal. Some slight improvement in drought conditions were found along the immediate Southeast Florida coastline with recent coastal shower activity. As of this outlook, 94% of the state is under a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** or worse.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **475 (0)** 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).





48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/29	1/30
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

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 early today. Conditions will wane through the end of the week with quiet to unsettled levels by Saturday. 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	

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

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