



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, January 31, 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	Lauren Warfield	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
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	Hillsborough	City of Tampa EOC Activation (Gasparilla Parade)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Hillsborough	City of Tampa EOC Activation (Gasparilla Parade)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Hillsborough	City of Tampa EOC Activation (Gasparilla Parade)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 1
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 8
Region 9 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	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Off
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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 & R9
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

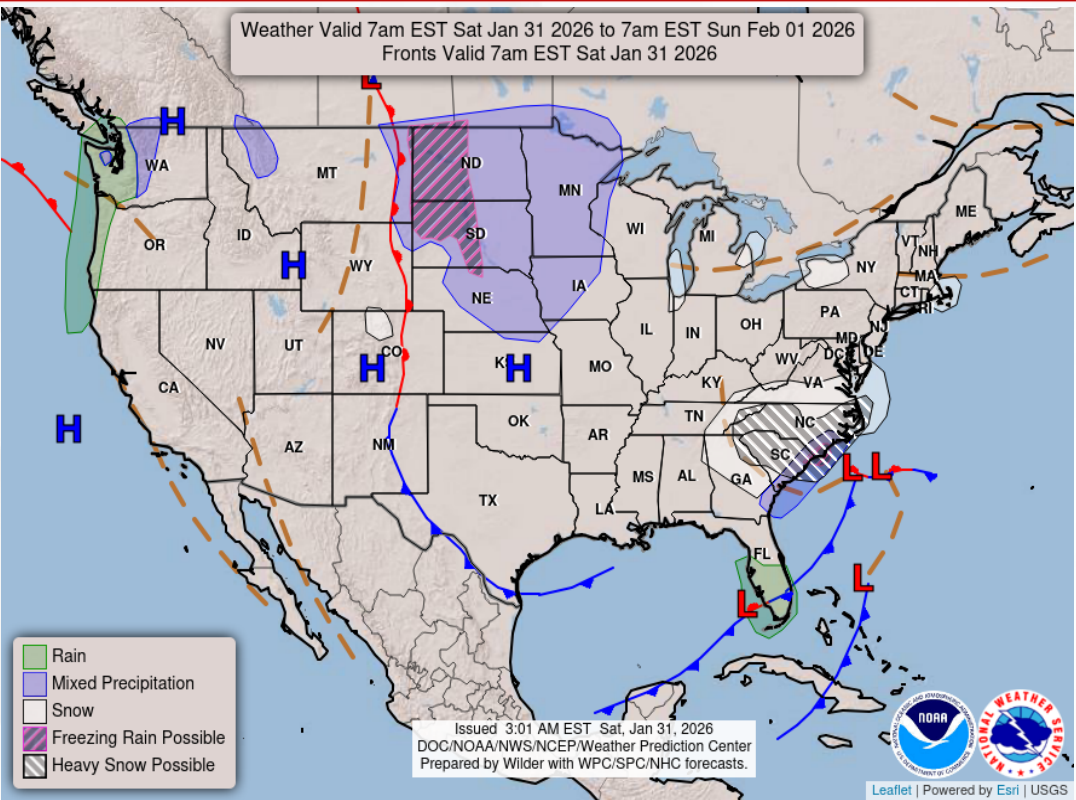
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

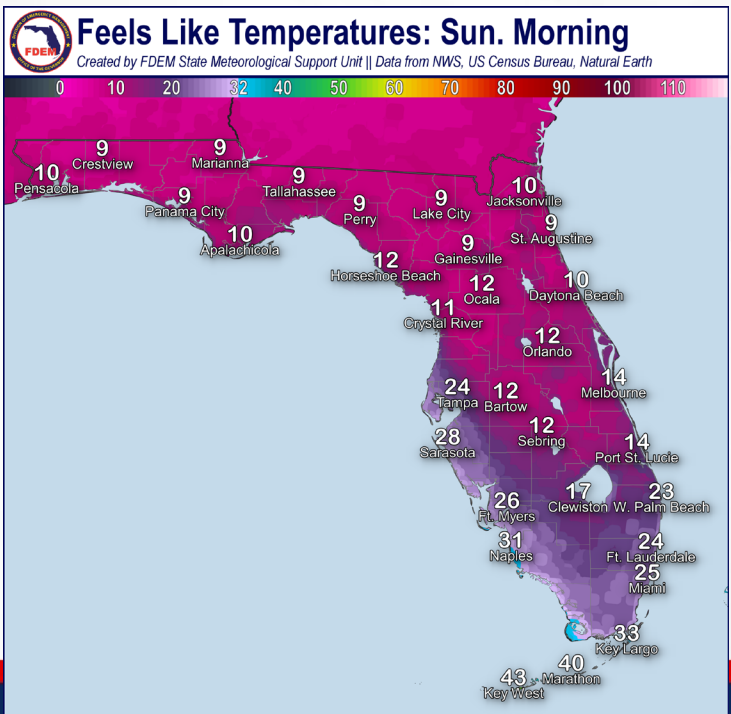
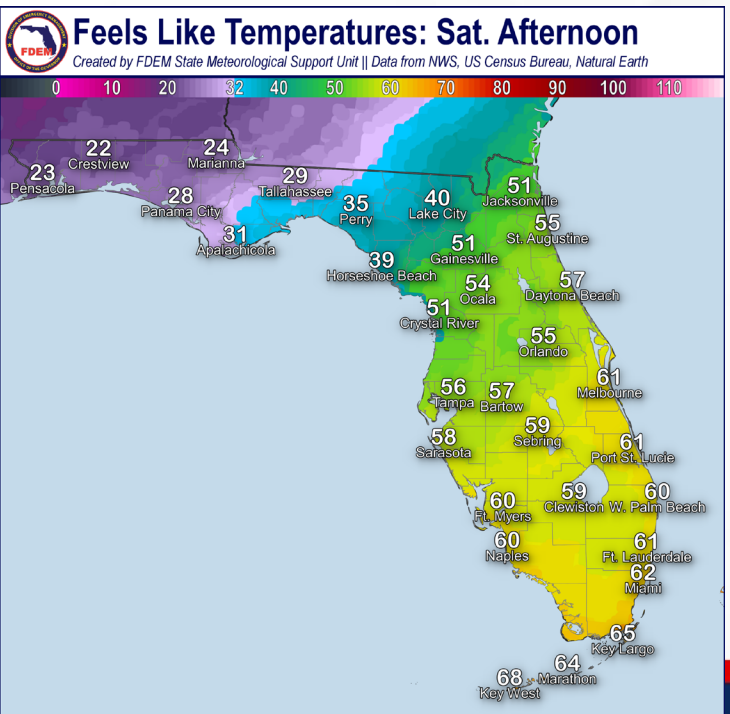


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	M	M
Wind Chills (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Wildfire	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	H		H	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.81 ft. (1.85 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	477 (+1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Our potent cold front responsible for ushering in our next blast of arctic air is still pushing through Central and South Florida this morning. Scattered showers are ongoing mainly south of the I-4 corridor, and this activity will continue to slide south across the rest of the Peninsula through the mid-afternoon hours (40-70% chance of rain). In the wake of this front, gusty northwesterly winds will begin to develop as the low-pressure system off the Carolina coast rapidly strengthens. **Wind Advisories** are in effect throughout much of the state for wind gusts **upwards of 40 mph**. A few coastal locations may see occasional gusts **upwards of 45 mph at times**. These gusty winds will be oriented nearly onshore along parts of the Florida West Coast which may allow for a few Gulf-effect showers to stream onshore later this evening, if any moisture is still locally available. If so, then a few **light snow flurries** cannot be ruled out, especially across Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Manatee counties. No impacts or accumulations are expected with any of this activity, should it occur. Much drier air behind the front will filter into the Panhandle this afternoon with **near critically low relative humidities**. Paired with the gusty winds and ongoing drought, **elevated wildfire conditions** may develop this afternoon across the Panhandle.

High temperatures this afternoon will struggle to climb out of the **middle 30s** to lower 40s across the Panhandle and Big Bend. Northeast Florida can expect highs in the upper 40s to middle 50s. Across Central and South Florida, high temperatures today will reach the upper 50s to middle 60s. With the gusty winds, temperatures will feel like the **20s** and **30s** across the Panhandle and Big Bend this afternoon.

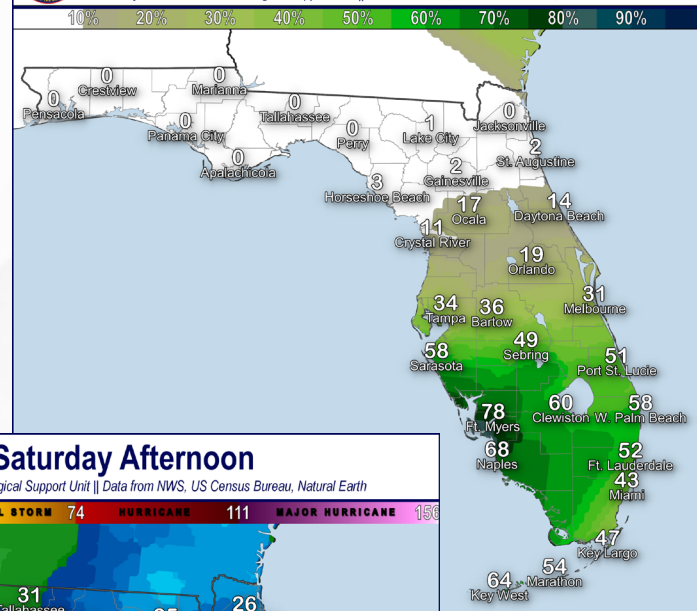
A mostly dry night is expected statewide in the wake of our front. However, a few sprinkles or **snow flurries** cannot be ruled out along the West-Central Florida coastline through the overnight hours (15-20% chance of rain). Any of this activity will be light and no impacts are expected from any snow. Extremely cold temperatures will begin to be felt tonight as an arctic high pressure noses into the state. Low temperatures will reach into the **upper teens** to **lower 20s** throughout North Florida, with **middle** to **upper 20s** across all North and interior South Florida. **Freeze Warnings** are in effect for nearly all of North, Central, and interior South Florida. Along the West-Central and South Florida coastlines, lows will remain slightly above freezing, but still in the **middle** to **upper 30s**. The Keys will reach the 40s tonight.

Breezy wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** will last through the night across the Panhandle, with higher gusts **upwards of 40 mph** across the Peninsula. Coastal locations may see occasionally higher gusts. This will make feels-like temperatures **extremely cold** through the nighttime hours. Wind chills by daybreak Sunday morning will be in the **single digits** and **lower teens** throughout North and interior Central Florida. Temperatures will feel like the **lower** to **middle 20s** across coastal West-Central and South Florida, while interior South Florida will see feels-like temperatures **upper teens** to **lower 20s**. **Extreme Cold Warnings** are in effect for much of the state, while **Cold Weather Advisories** are in effect for coastal locations of West-Central and South Florida.



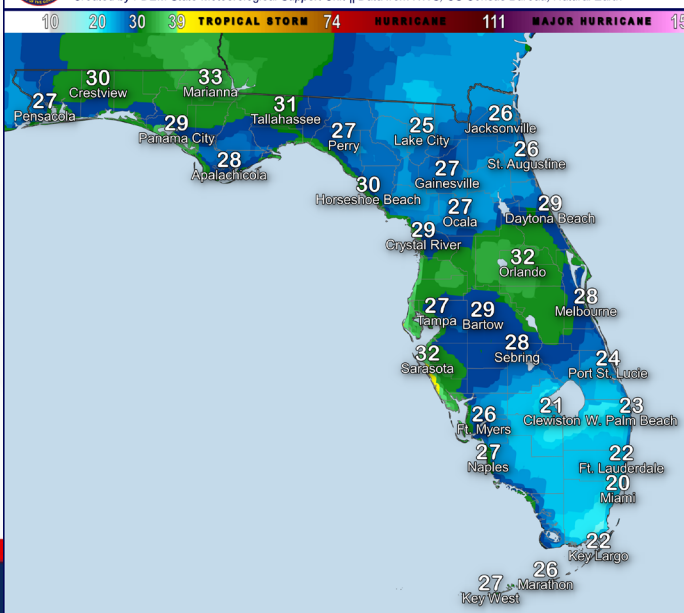
Chance of Rain: Saturday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



Wind Gusts: Saturday Afternoon

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Gusty shoreline winds and building seas will bring a **high risk for rip currents** to all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today. Along the East Coast, a **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected as the breezy winds and building surf will be slower to develop. A local **high risk** is expected for Palm Beach County beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will significantly increase this afternoon across all Panhandle and West Coast beaches as a large ocean swell begins to develop within the Gulf. Waves of **3-5'** can be expected through tonight for all Panhandle beaches, with a few waves **upwards of 7'** possible for Gulf County beaches. Similarly, **3-5'** waves will reach the West Coast beaches this afternoon but will increase to **6-8'** tonight and by daybreak Sunday. A few waves **upwards of 10'** cannot be ruled out tonight within the surf zone. Along the East Coast, surf of **2-4'** this afternoon will increase to **5-8'** tonight. Southeast Florida beaches will see waves of 1-2' this afternoon, increasing to **3-5'** tonight. **High Surf Advisories** are currently in effect for coastal Gulf County in the Panhandle and all West Coast beaches through tonight and may be expanded to include East Coast beaches.

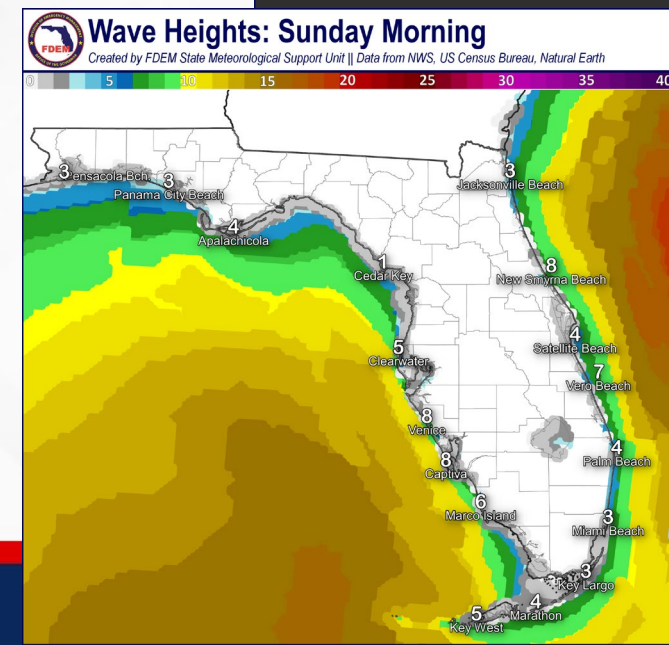
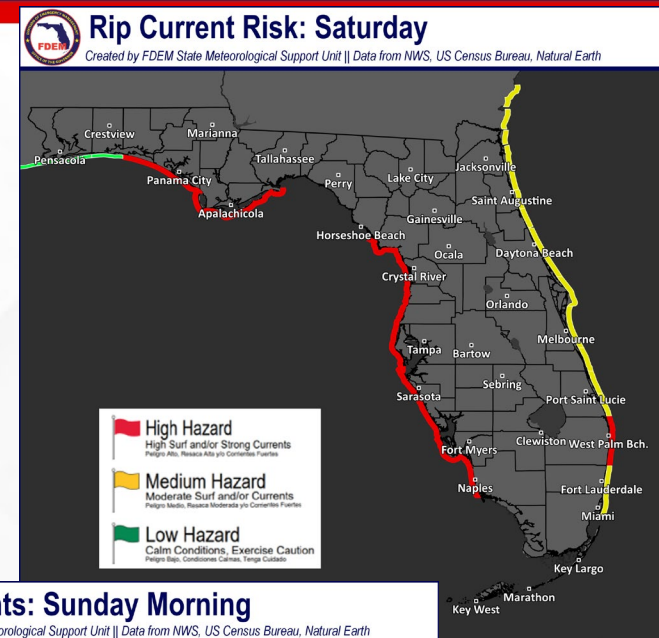
Red Tide was observed at background to very low concentrations in Walton County, background to medium concentrations in Bay County, and low concentrations in Gulf County across the Panhandle. In Southwest Florida, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations offshore Hillsborough and Lee County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background concentrations from Balm Beach County (valid 1/31/2026).

Coastal Flooding: Strong onshore winds and large surf may result in **minor** to **moderate coastal flooding** for Gulf-facing Florida Keys shorelines later today and tonight near and during times of high tide. A **Coastal Flood Statement** or **Coastal Flood Advisory** may be issued later today.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Widely scattered showers will pass through Central and South Florida today ahead of our potent cold frontal passage. Rainfall totals will be light, however, and generally below 0.2" at most. Should a few heavier showers develop, totals upwards of 0.5" cannot be ruled out.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.81 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.85 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



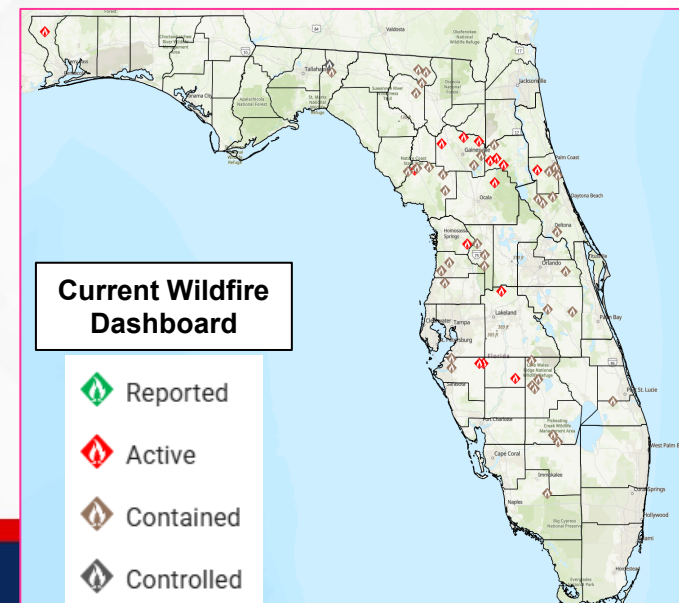
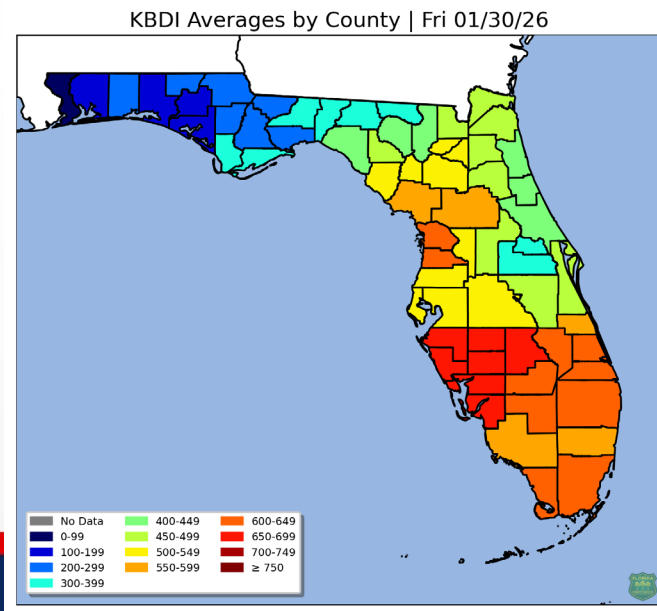
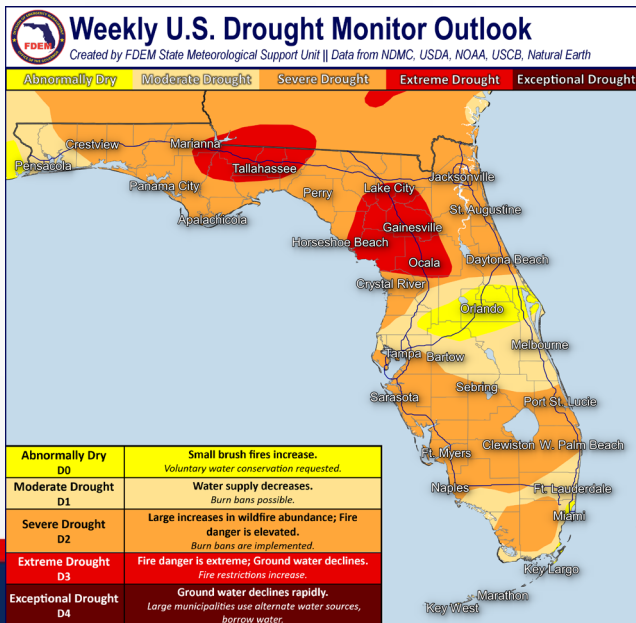


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Our potent cold front will continue to sweep through Central and South Florida today with widely scattered showers ahead of it, which will keep the wildfire risk lower across much of the Peninsula. However, behind the front, much drier air and gusty winds will begin to filter into the state. Relative humidities will dip to **near critical thresholds (30-35% RH values)** across the Panhandle where, paired with wind gusts **upwards of 40 mph**, may lead to **elevated wildfire conditions** this afternoon. *Locally greater wildfire risk cannot be ruled out in areas experiencing the most severe drought.* These gusty winds will spread into the Peninsula later this afternoon and evening behind the frontal passage. **Wind Advisories** are in effect throughout much of the state for these gusty winds, lingering through the overnight hours. However, bitterly cold temperatures will quickly plunge southward across the state this afternoon and tonight which will help to reduce the overall wildfire risk. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 56 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,693 acres.

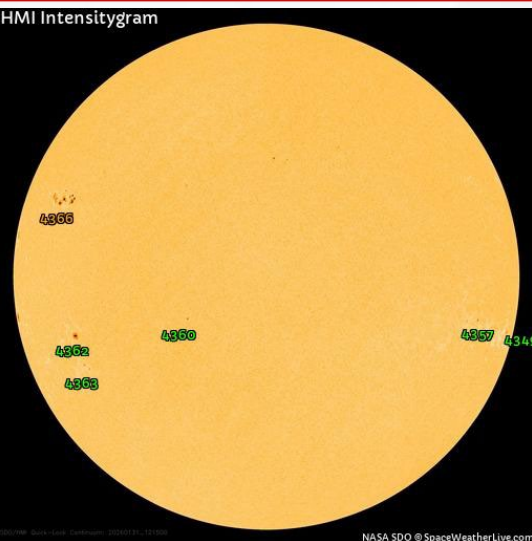
Drought (1/29/26): We saw the greatest rainfall over the past week mainly across the Panhandle and north of the I-10 corridor with our frontal passage last weekend (1/25). Here rainfall totals of 0.5-2" fell, yet the ongoing long-term drought was hardly impacted. On the latest Drought Monitor outlook, **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 **477 (+1)** 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).

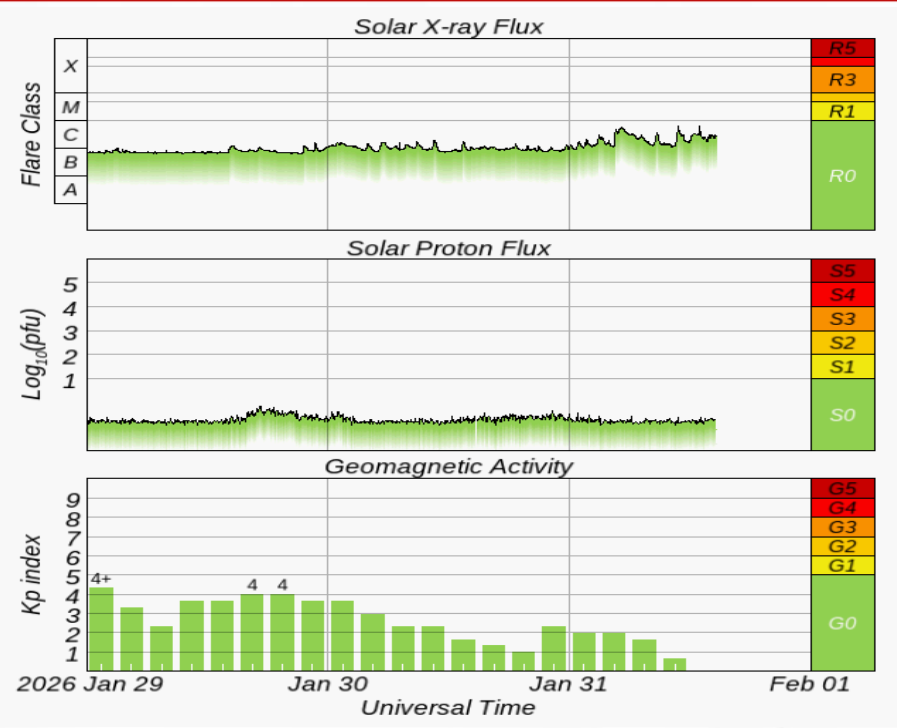
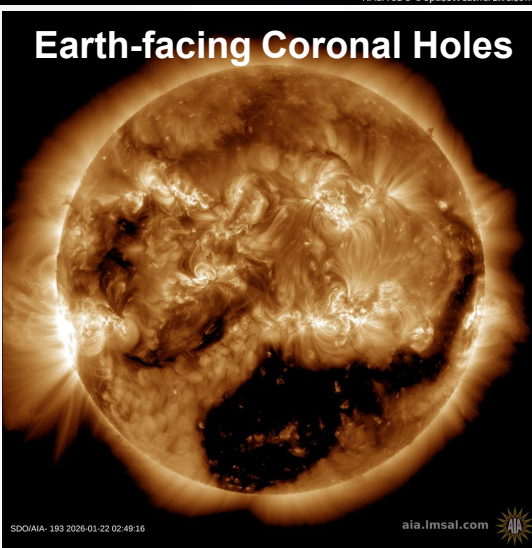




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/31	2/1
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: All current Earth-facing sunspots contain magnetic fields that pose little threat for solar activity with only a slight chance for a strong (M-class) solar flare through the weekend. Should a strong solar flare erupt, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would occur. The solar wind environment will remain at near-background conditions with diminishing coronal hole influences. Mostly quiet geomagnetic activity is expected under the near-background regime. 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