



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, February 15, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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 Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



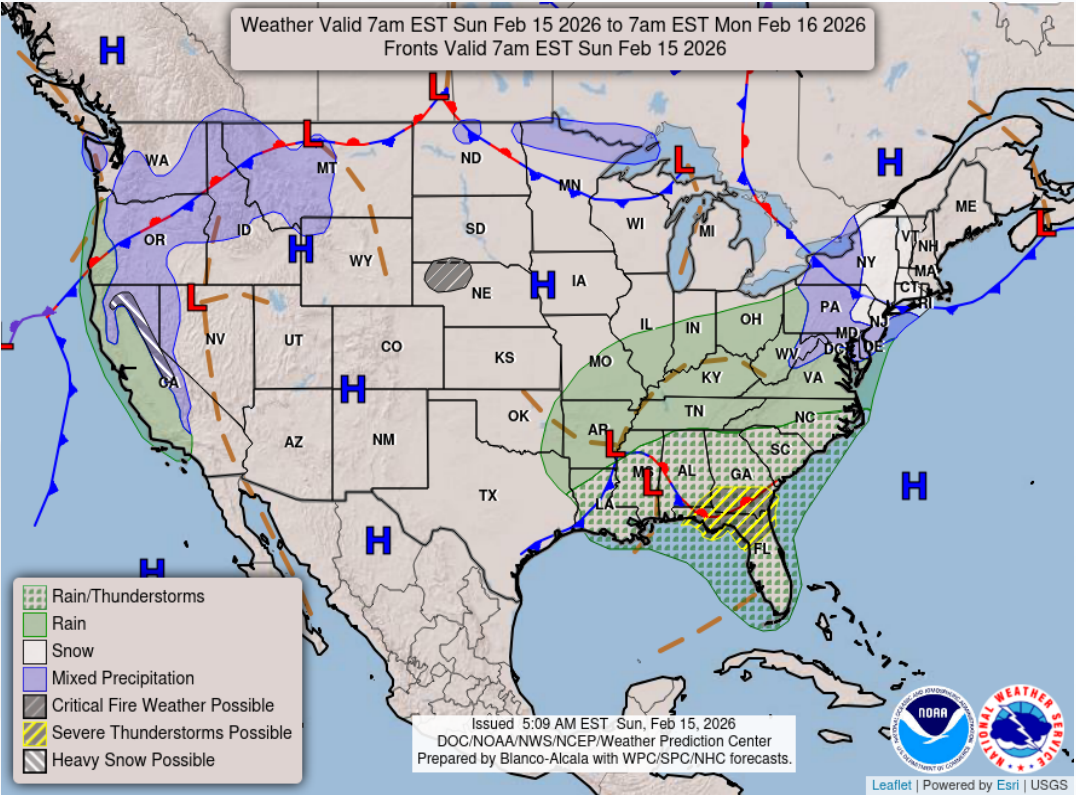
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: 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	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

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

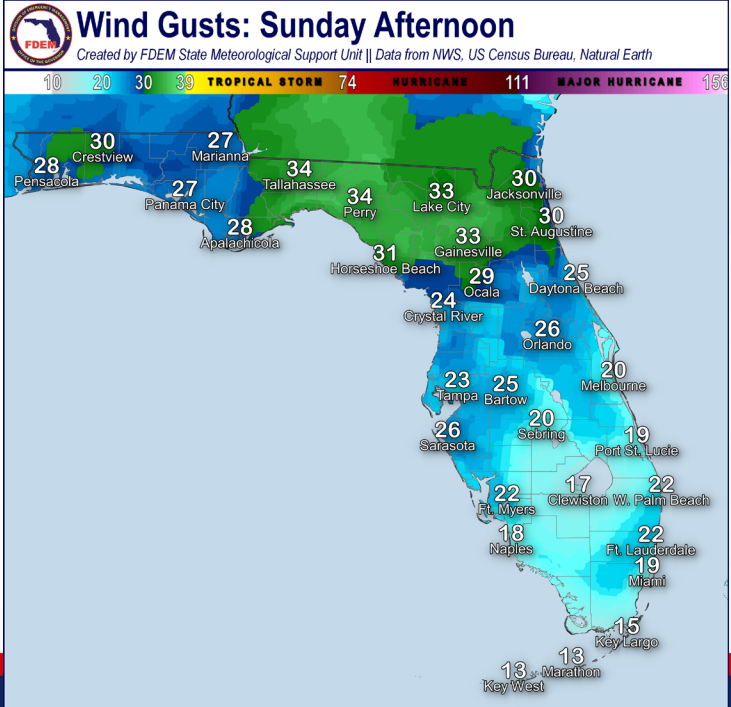
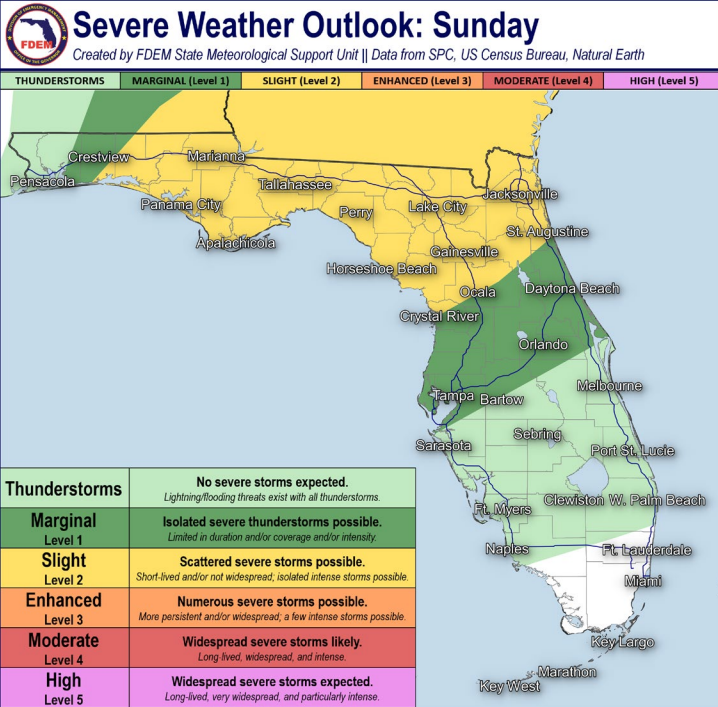


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	
Tornado	M	M	M	M	L	L	L			
Damaging Wind	M	M	M	M	L	L	L			
Hail	L	L	L	L	L	L	L			
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L						
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	M	M	H	H		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.58 ft. (1.99 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	503 (+4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Active weather returns to the Sunshine State after a few days of pleasant conditions and high pressure. A squall line of showers and thunderstorms has moved into the Panhandle this morning, bringing some stronger thunderstorm activity along with it. This line of thunderstorms will continue to move eastward throughout the day, with more favorable atmospheric and environmental conditions to its east bringing a chance for severe thunderstorm development this afternoon and evening across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida (80-near 100% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across most of North Florida, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending through Central Florida and the I-4 corridor this evening and tonight. Any of these **strong to severe thunderstorms** that develop will be capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (60-70 mph), an embedded tornado or two, large hail (upwards of 1") and locally heavy rainfall. A **Tornado Watch** has been issued for much of the Big Bend until the mid-afternoon hours, and may be extended into Northeast Florida later today if conditions warrant. Out ahead of this line, gusty winds outside of thunderstorm activity will develop reaching 15-25 mph beginning late this morning and continuing throughout the daytime hours across the state. Wind **gusts will reach 20-30 mph** statewide, with **strong gusts of 35-45 mph** across North and North-Central Florida. **Wind Advisories** have been issued for most of North Florida through this evening as these gusty winds can be expected outside of thunderstorm activity. Another brief line of showers looks to follow behind the main line across the I-10 corridor late this afternoon and into the evening bringing an additional round of isolated to widely scattered showers. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across North Florida and along portions of the Nature Coast where some locally heavy rainfall or training of thunderstorms could bring **nuisance and localized ponding of water**, especially for urban areas. Ongoing drought conditions and dry soils will help to limit the widespread nature of the flash flood risk.

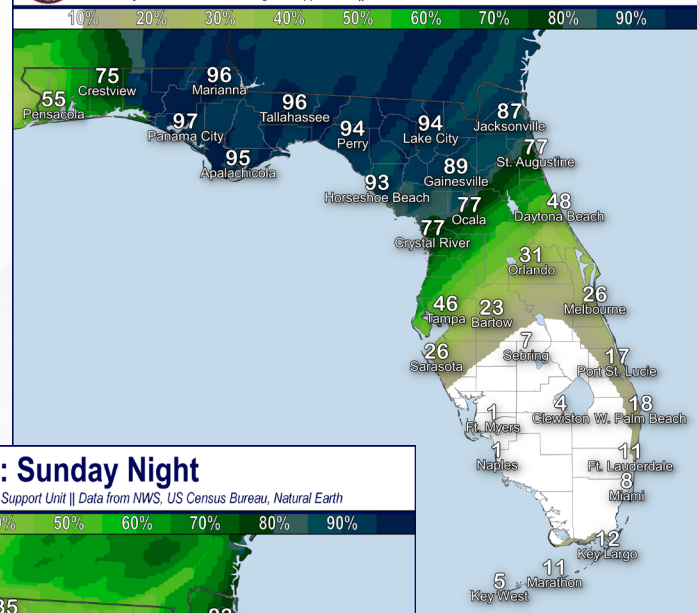
This cold front will continue to push through the state this evening and overnight, weakening and becoming less organized as it crosses through Central Florida overnight (35-50% chance of rain). Near sunrise on Monday morning, shower and thunderstorm activity will remain mostly over South Florida as the cold front makes its final push through the state. Calmer winds will slowly return overnight as well, with winds reaching upwards of 10-15 mph at times before falling below 10 mph by the early morning hours. Wind gusts will remain slightly elevated near 10-20 mph overnight.

High temperatures will reach the 70s across the Panhandle and western Big Bend due to earlier rain chances and cloud cover. A delay in shower and thunderstorm activity and pockets of sunshine will allow the rest of the state to see high temperatures in the upper 70s to middle 80s. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida and 60s across Central and South Florida tonight.



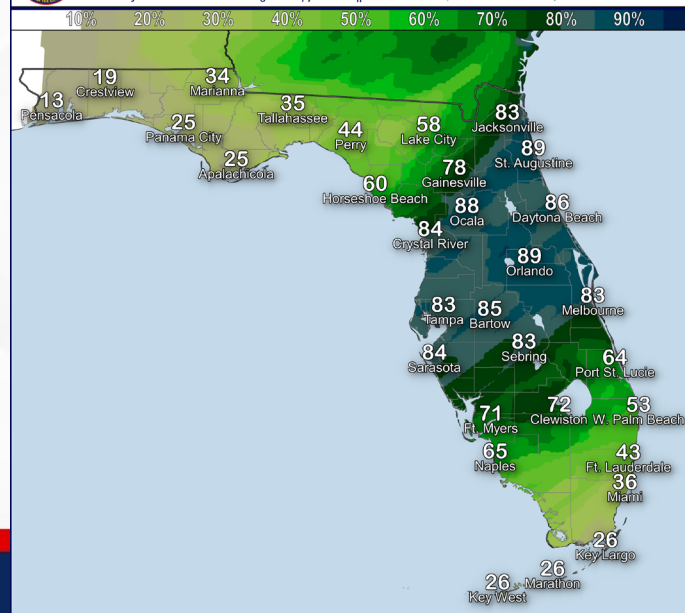
Chance of Rain: Sunday

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



Chance of Rain: Sunday Night

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Gusty southerly to southeasterly winds and large ocean swells associated with a cold front moving through the state will bring a **moderate to high rip current risk** statewide. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Large long-period ocean swells will create **wave heights of 5-7'** along the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend throughout the day. **High Surf Advisories** remain in effect along the Panhandle through this evening for **dangerous surf and beach conditions**. Beaches across the rest of the state can also expect elevated surf conditions with **wave heights of 2-5'**.

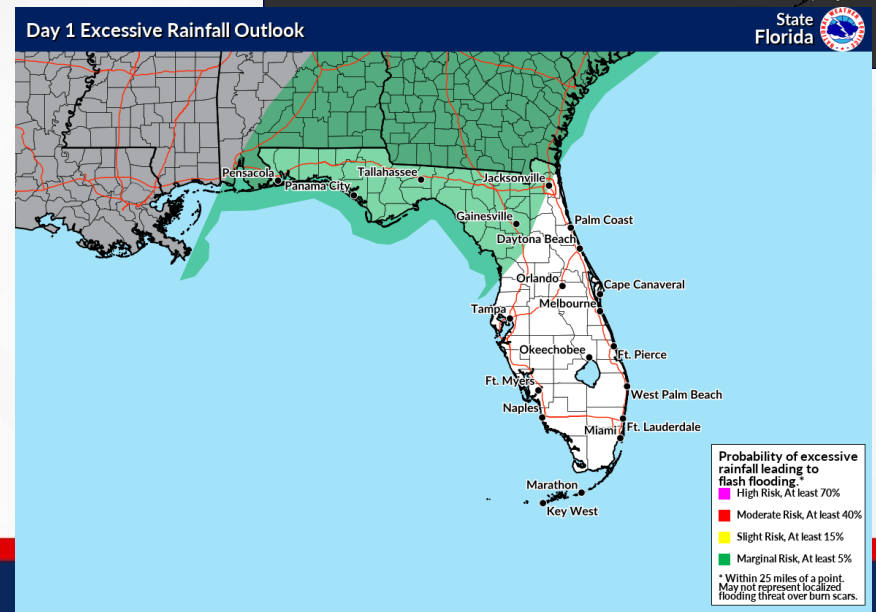
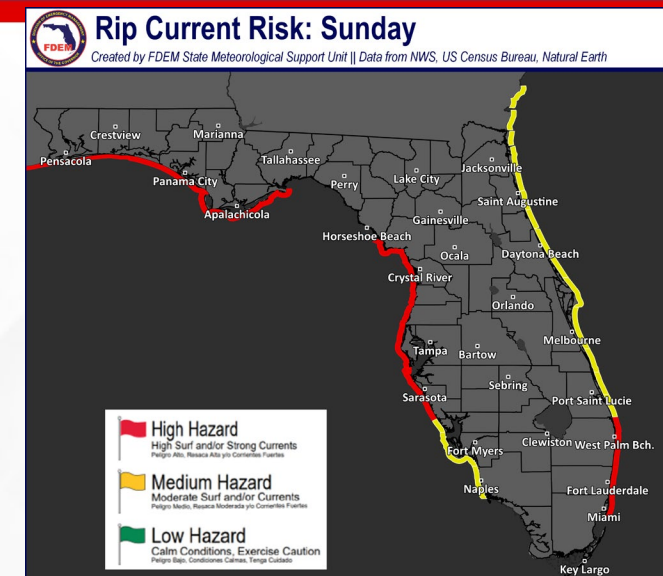
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week (valid 2/6/2026).

Coastal Flooding: **Nuisance to minor coastal flooding** near times of high tide may be possible along the Nature Coast with water levels reaching 1-2' above normally dry ground due to large ocean swells and southerly winds.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across North Florida and towards the Nature Coast as scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms associated with a cold front. Favorable atmospheric and environmental conditions will help to pull moisture from the gulf and may allow for quick downpours associated with thunderstorm activity as it pushes eastward. Relatively dry soils and the more quick-moving nature of the cold front will likely **limit widespread flash flood concerns**. If heavier downpours were to occur over urban areas, **nuisance and localized ponding of water** cannot be ruled out. Generally, 0.5-1.5" of rainfall can be expected with **locally higher totals** upwards of 2" along the coastal Big Bend and Nature Coast for repeated activity moving onshore from the coast.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.58 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.99 feet below normal for this time of year.



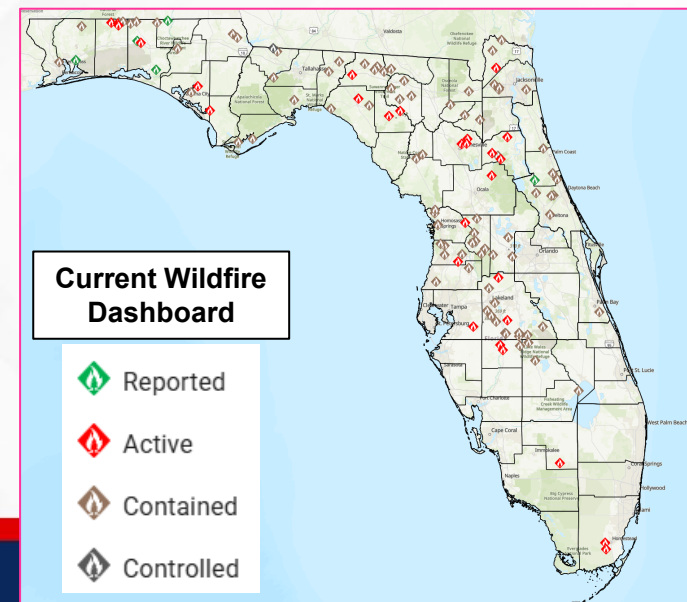
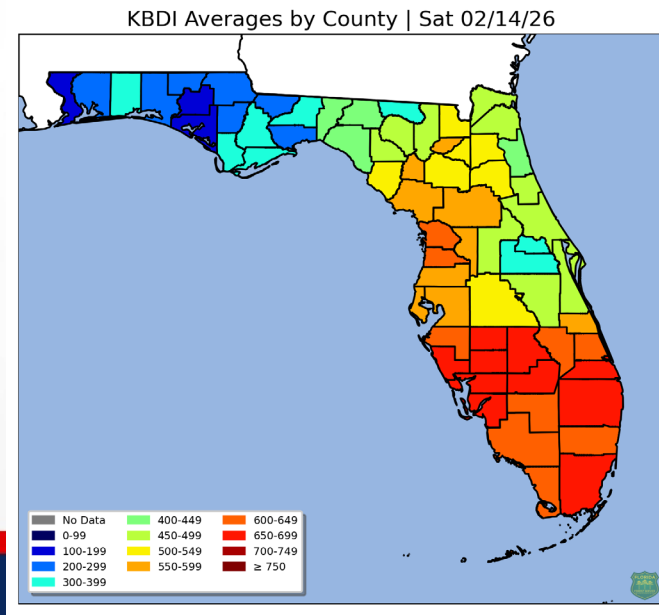
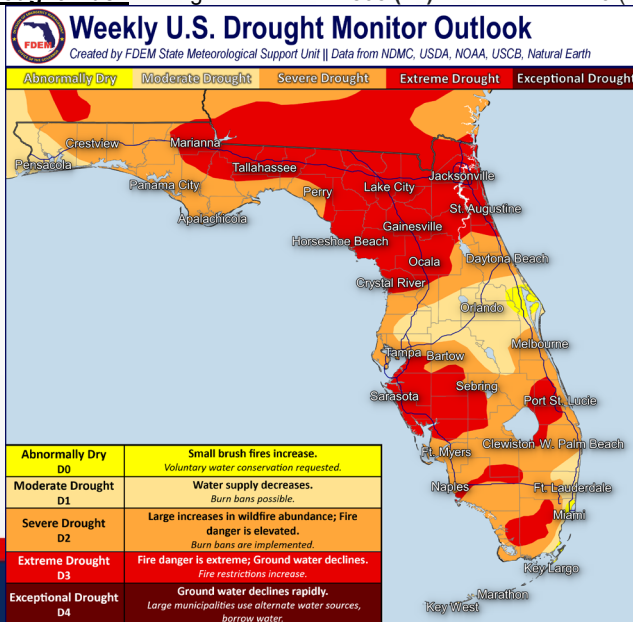


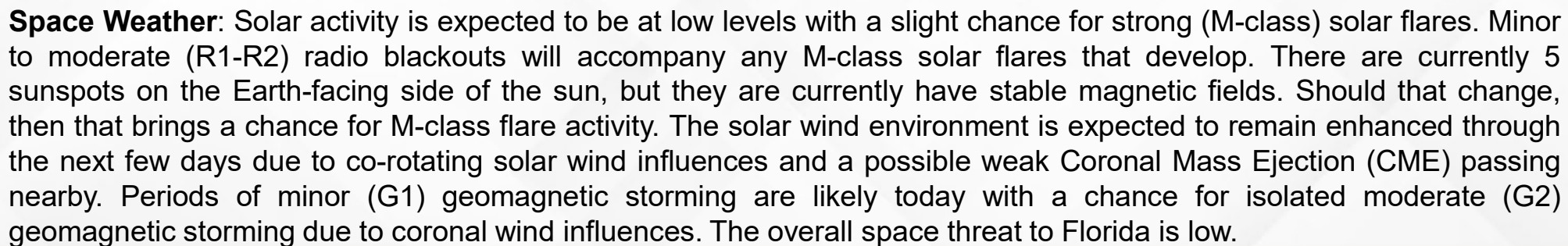
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A cold front will push through North Florida today and into Central Florida tonight bringing scattered to numerous showers and embedded thunderstorm activity. Thunderstorms will be capable of producing lightning and have erratic winds. Breezy southerly to southeasterly winds of 15-25 mph can be expected statewide today, which will also help to pull moisture northward across the help fueling shower and thunderstorm activity. Drier conditions will still linger throughout the interior peninsula this afternoon until the line of showers and thunderstorms approaches tonight; however, relative humidity values are still expected to remain **near** or above **critical thresholds (35-45%)**. Wind gusts outside of thunderstorm activity will reach **20-30 mph**, with portions of North and Central Florida seeing **gusts upwards of 35-45 mph**. **Wind Advisories** have been issued across much of North and North-Central Florida for those stronger wind gusts occurring later this morning and throughout the daylight hours. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 118 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,804 acres.

Drought (2/12/26): It has become a recent theme in the weather pattern for a frontal passage to sweep through portions of the state every week or so with light to moderate rainfall. However, rainfall totals with these frontal passages have been short of alleviating with very little relief to the ongoing drought. The most recent frontal passage, about a week ago on 2/5, continued this theme with light rain across the state but totals mainly below 0.5". With little rainfall from this system and mostly warm, dry, and even breezy conditions at times in its wake since then, drought has worsened for much of the state as reflected in the latest Drought Monitor outlook. Across North Florida, the "wettest" location in recent weeks has been the far western Panhandle where a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** remains in place. However, across the remainder of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast Florida, **severe (level 2 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** is still outlooked where 60-day rainfall departures are between 4-7". Streamflows in these areas continue to decline and run well below normal. In this week's most recent outlook, the biggest change was further expansion of the **extreme drought** eastward across the remainder of Northeast Florida to the coastline. Some slight expansion westward into Jackson County was also added as well. Throughout Central Florida and along the I-4 corridor, the abnormally dry (*emerging drought*) conditions have been mostly upgraded to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** in the most recent outlook. Locally heavier rainfall has fallen along the I-4 corridor since late Autumn, though dry conditions in recent weeks have begun to bring further drought deterioration. Worsening of drought was also noted in portions of South Florida with only the coastal areas of Southeast Florida remaining in a moderate drought. Elsewhere, a **severe** to **extreme drought** is in place, with the newest pockets of extreme drought across interior Martin and St. Lucie counties, interior Monroe and Miami-Dade counties, and Collier/Hendry counties. 60-day rainfall departures throughout South Florida have grown to 2-4" for most locations, with pockets of 5" departures in localized areas. Recent KBDI also indicates short-term "flash drought" has worsened across all South Florida with widespread county-averaged values of greater than 600. A recent uptick in wildfire activity has been observed because of the worsening drought and dry conditions. Over the next week, a strong cold front is forecast to pass through the state Sunday and early Monday (2/15-2/16) with scattered showers and a few embedded thunderstorms. Some of this activity could bring a few locally heavy downpours, and rainfall totals are forecast to reach 1-2" for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend. However, this activity will likely begin to weaken as it treks south and east across the Peninsula with rainfall totals below 1" across Central Florida and below 0.5" in South Florida. Although there could be some *beneficial* rains to North Florida with this front, rainfall totals will not be nearly enough to put much of a dent in the drought. Similarly across Central and South Florida, though even lower rainfall totals will encourage worsening drought which will likely be reflected in next week's Drought Monitor. As of this outlook, nearly 99% of the state is under a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** or worse.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **503 (+4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **35** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).







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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