



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, February 16, 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	Brandon Gore	(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 (State Holiday)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status (State Holiday)



Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



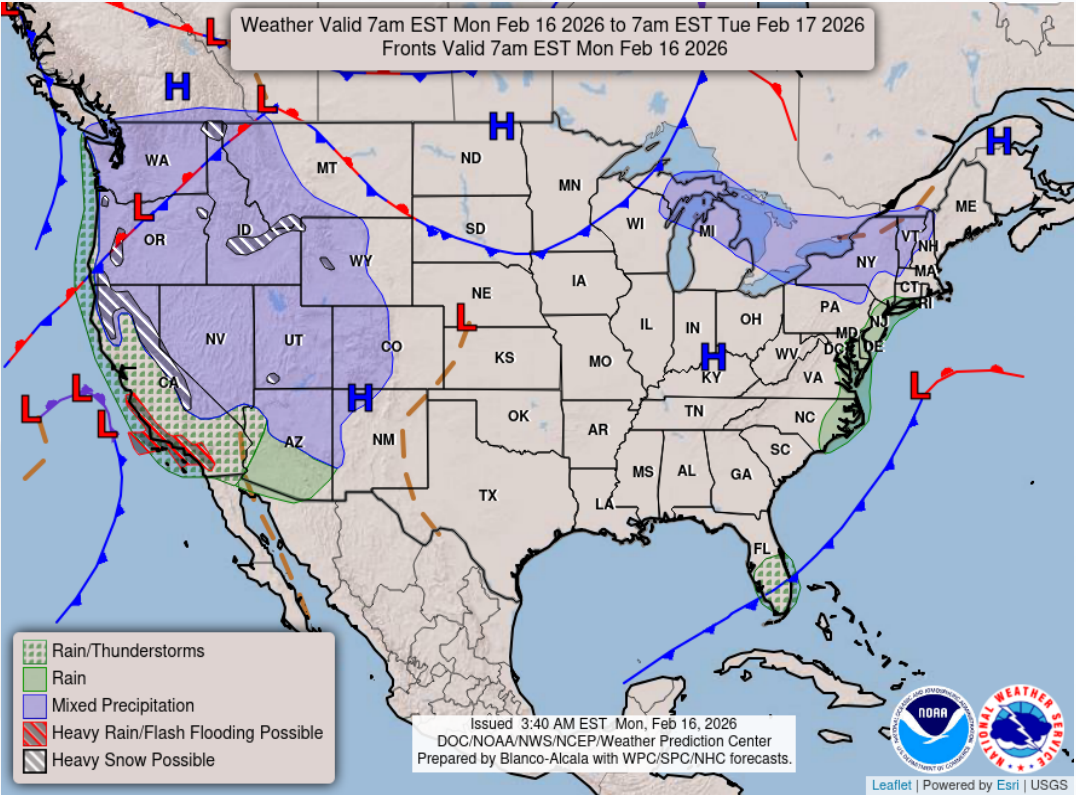
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

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 State	Travel to Region 4

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

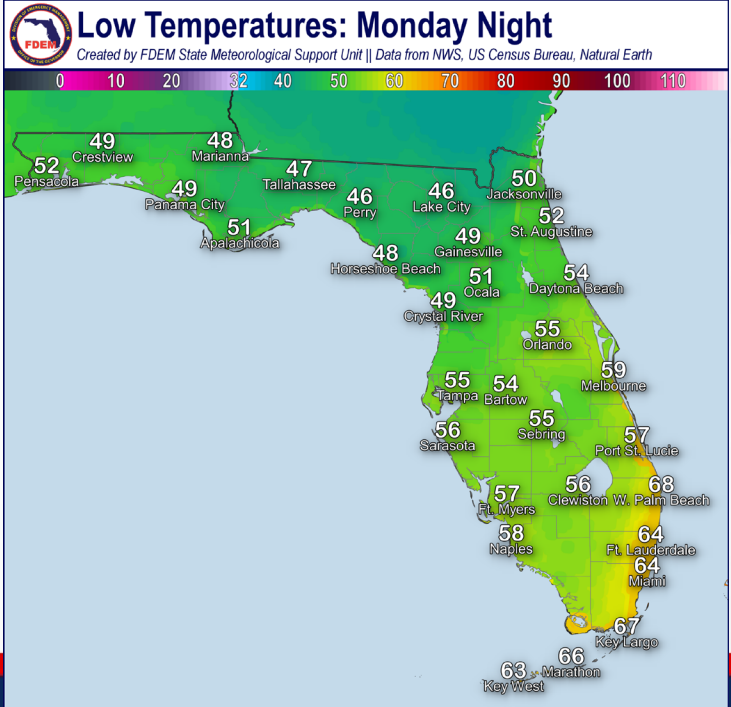
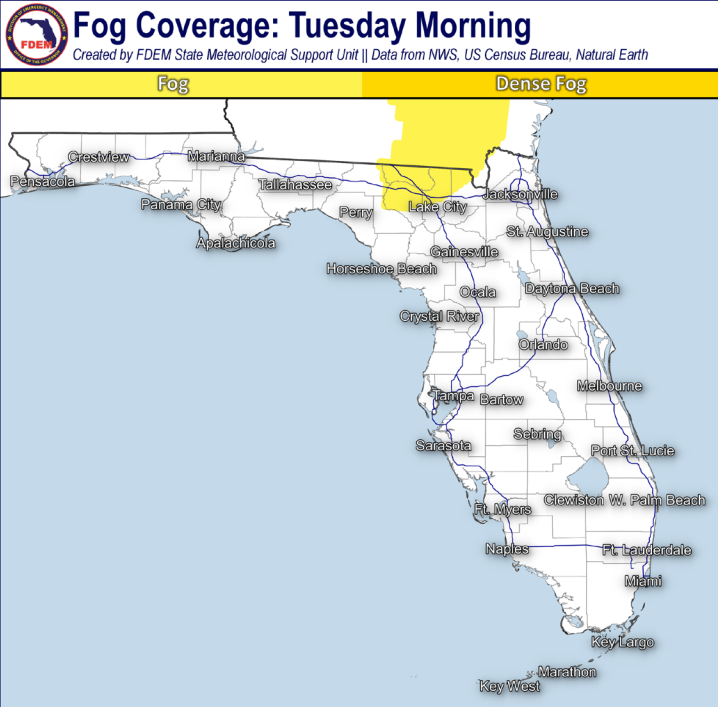


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning									L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)		L	M	L						
Wildfire	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	H	M	M	M	H		M	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.56 ft. (2.01 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	501 (-2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

The remainder of yesterday's cold front and associated shower activity will push through South Florida this morning and clearing the Keys by the early to mid-afternoon hours today (15-25% chance of rain). There may be a very slim chance for an embedded rumble of thunder this morning, especially closer towards the coastal waters of South Florida, but conditions have become unfavorable for organized thunderstorm development.

Partly to mostly cloudy skies will linger throughout the state for most of today as the upper-level disturbance associated with Sunday's frontal system moves overhead. Dry conditions return across the state; however, moisture in place and cloud cover will keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds throughout the day. Winds will begin to shift out of the north and northeast as the upper-level disturbance departs, which will also help to usher in drier conditions throughout the state. Wind gusts will remain slightly elevated near 10-15 mph throughout the day, with stronger **wind gusts upwards of 15-25 mph** along the eastern coastline.

High temperatures will reach the upper 60s to upper 70s across the state, with interior portions of South Florida reaching the lower 80s this afternoon.

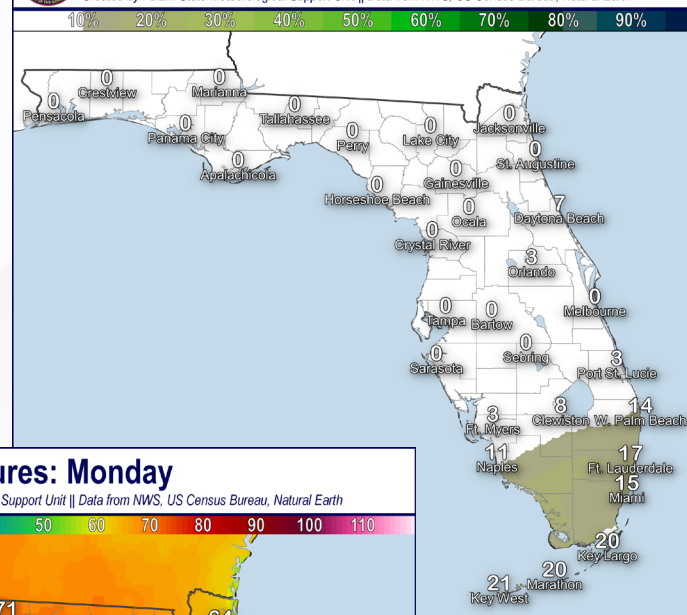
Skies will continue to gradually clear throughout the overnight hours. Onshore winds along portions of the East-Central Florida coastline and enough moisture may bring a few light sprinkles or a brief shower this evening and overnight (10-20% chance of rain). **Instances of fog** will be possible across interior portions of the Big Bend and North-Central Florida by early Tuesday morning.

Low temperatures will fall into the middle 40s to lower 50s across North Florida, 50s across Central Florida and upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida.



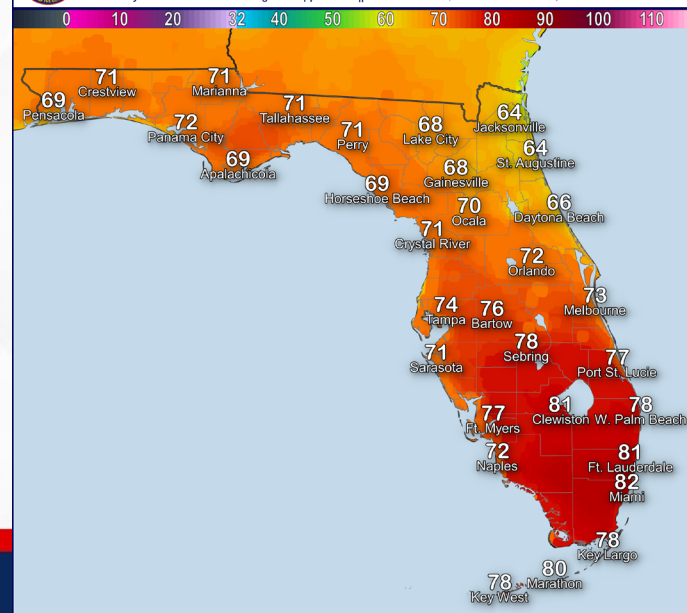
Chance of Rain: Monday

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



High Temperatures: Monday

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will linger statewide as ocean swells gradually dissipate and winds shift out of the northeast and become lighter. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Ocean swells will slowly dissipate along the eastern gulf waters keeping wave **heights near 2-4'** for all beaches. Similar conditions of wave **heights reaching 2-4'** can be expected for the East Coast.

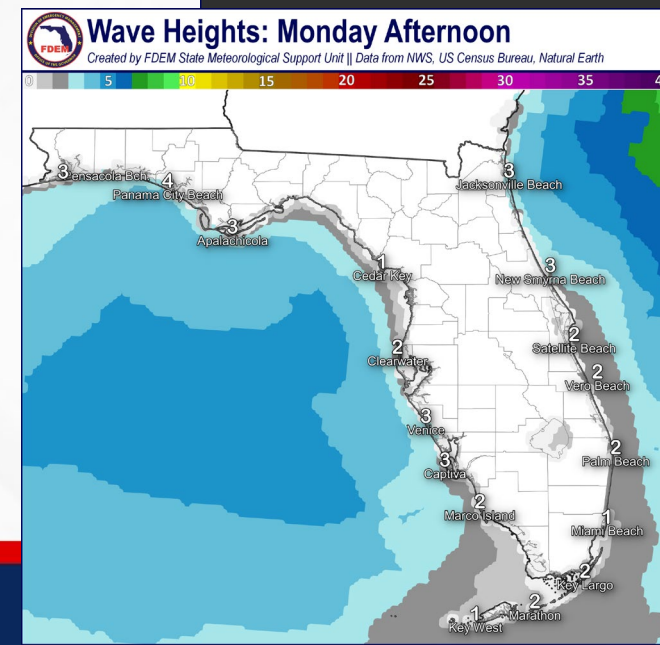
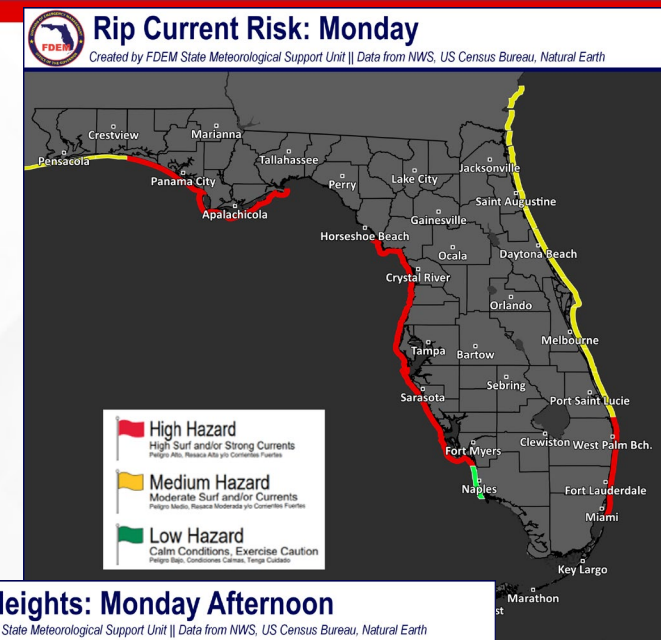
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week (valid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

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today. Lingering showers associated with yesterday's cold front will produce minimal accumulations across South Florida today below 0.5".

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.56 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.01 feet below normal for this time of year.



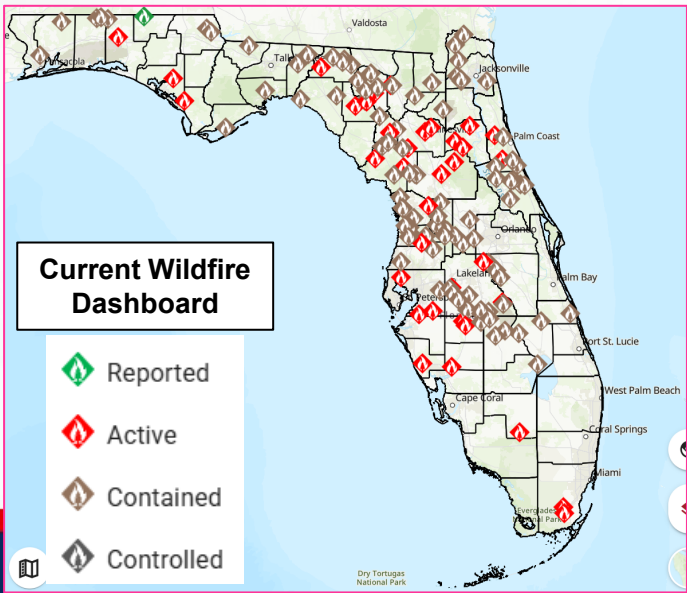
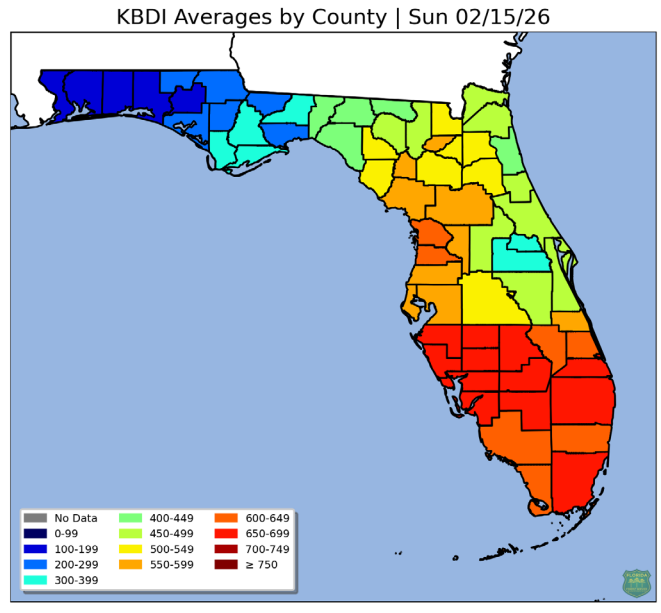
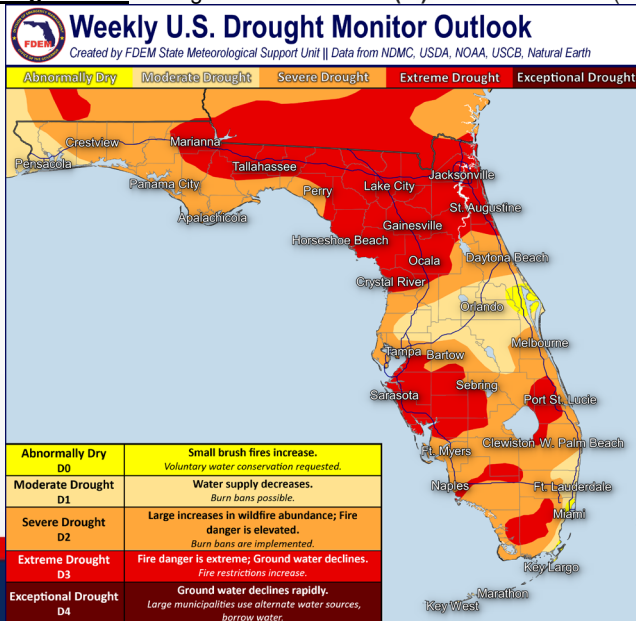


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: An upper-level disturbance associated with yesterday's cold front will move across the state today keeping cloud cover in place for portions of the state and also help to keep moisture in place before drier air filters in behind. Relative humidity values are expected to remain above critical thresholds across the state, with the lowest values across interior South Florida (45-50%) this afternoon. Wind gusts will shift throughout the day to become northeasterly which will help to bring drier conditions across the state over the next few days. Lingering wind gusts of 10-15 mph can be expected across the state, with portions of the eastern coastline reaching **15-25 mph** at times this afternoon. While much of North and North-Central Florida received between 1-2" of rainfall, lower rainfall totals of 0.5" were observed across Central Florida. While this rainfall will help the topsoils, it won't be enough to make significant improvements for the drought conditions. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 134 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,641 acres.

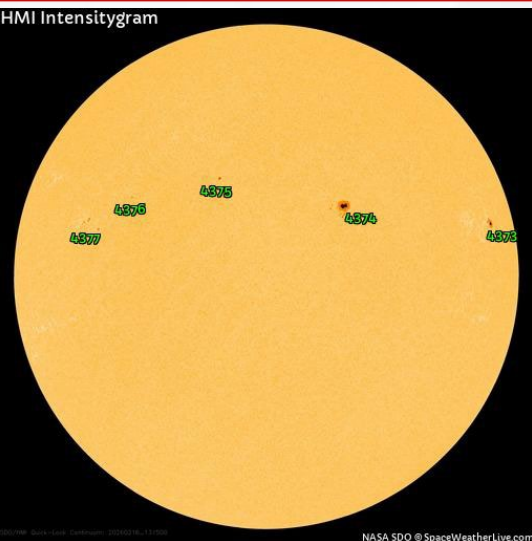
Drought (2/12/26): It has become a recent theme in the weather pattern for a frontal passage to sweep through portions of the state every week or so with light to moderate rainfall. However, rainfall totals with these frontal passages have been short of alleviating with very little relief to the ongoing 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 **501 (-2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **34** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

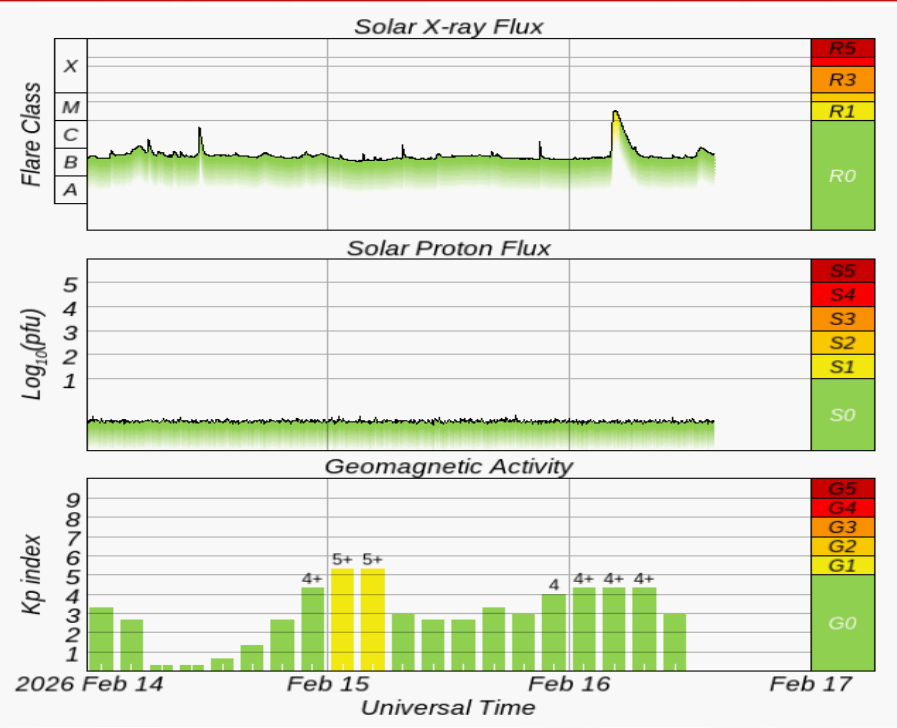
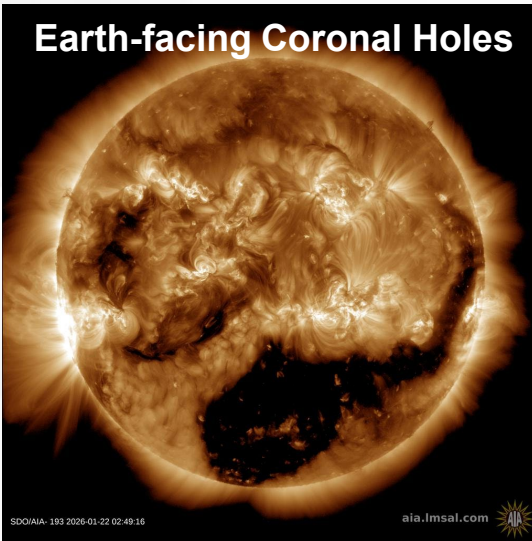




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/16	2/17
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%	Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity will remain at low levels today with a slight chance for strong (M-class) solar flares. A new sunspot is just behind the eastern limb of the sun and will become Earth-facing this week. Any additional M-class solar flares that develop will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to remain enhanced through midweek as Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds weaken. Periods of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming are possible through today due to lingering CH HSS conditions. 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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