



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, February 17, 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	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	Gadsden	Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance / Office Admin
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Alachua	SRT Assessment (Gainesville FR)
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Region 4 Response & Recovery Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Marion	SRT Assessment (Marion Co FR)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pasco, Sarasota	Response/Finance Mtg/R6 Hurricane Readiness Session / SRQ Airport Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Broward	Regional Higher Education EM Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee, Sarasota	FDLE Meeting / SRQ Airport Exercise
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Regional Higher Education EM Meeting



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	Walton	Admin Duties / Team Call
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Calhoun	County EM IDA Meeting / Team Call
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Alachua	County EM Meeting / Team Call
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Alachua	County Em Meeting / Team Call
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Admin Duties / Team Call
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pasco	Regional Hurricane Readiness Session
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Broward	IHE Tri-County Partners Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Alachua	County EM Meeting (FT with 804) Team Call

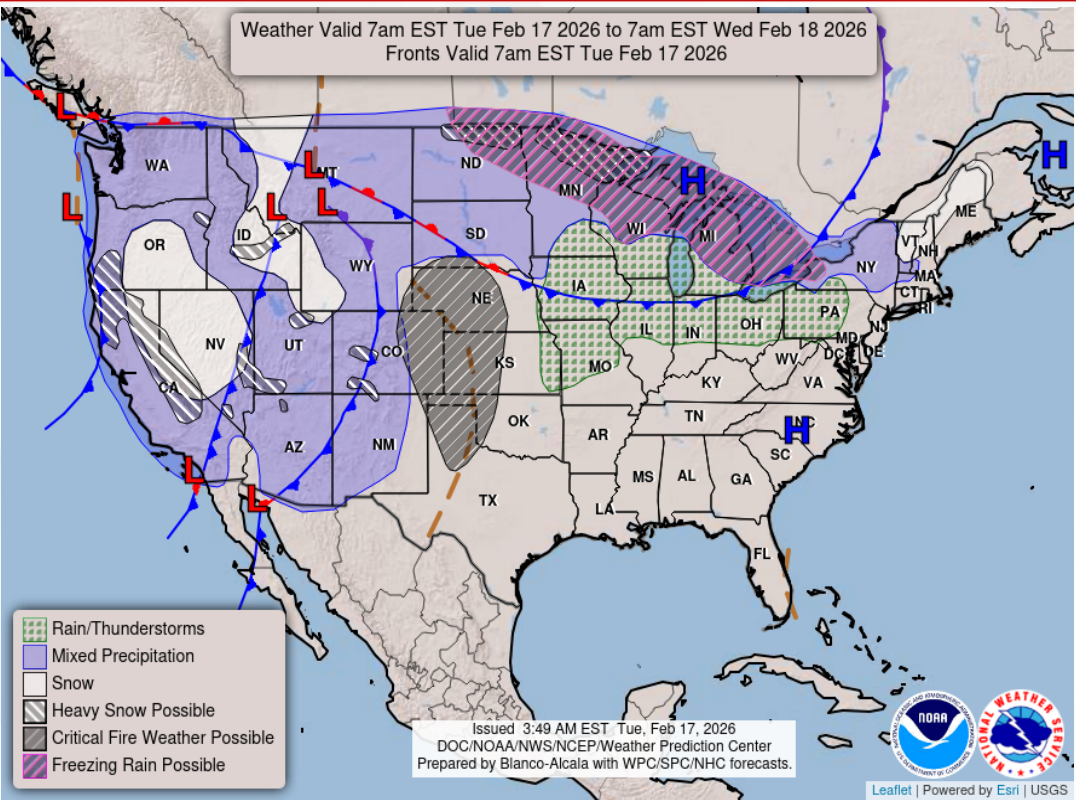
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

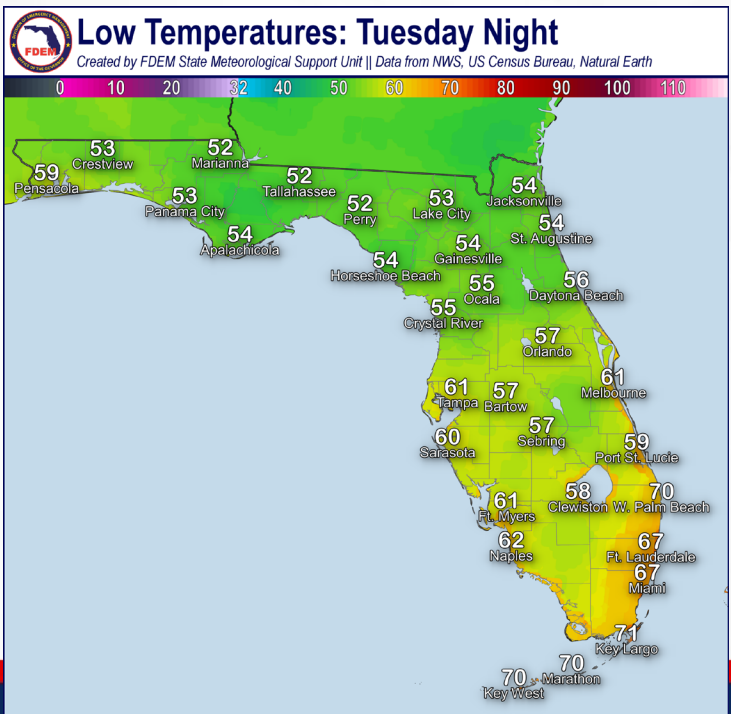
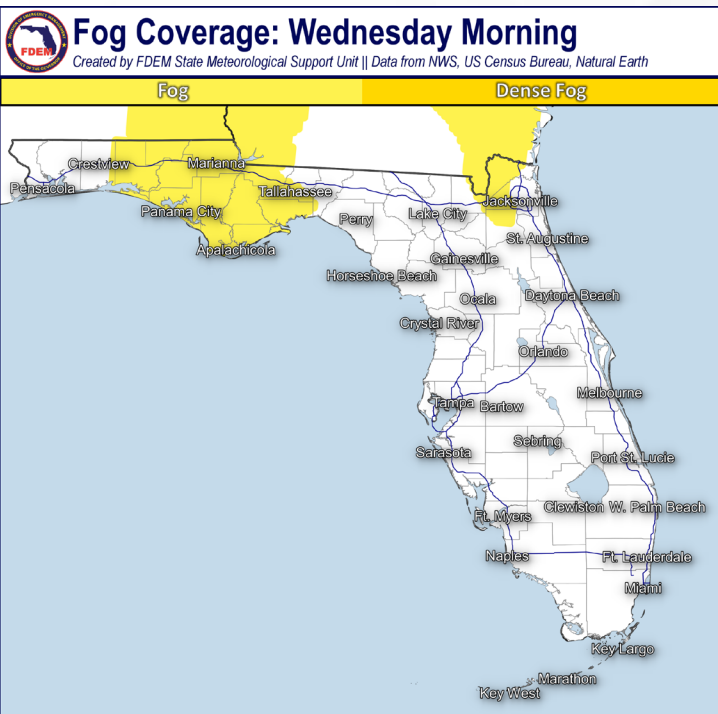


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	L	M						
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	H	L	H	H	M		H	M	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.56 ft. (2.03 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	466 (-35) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

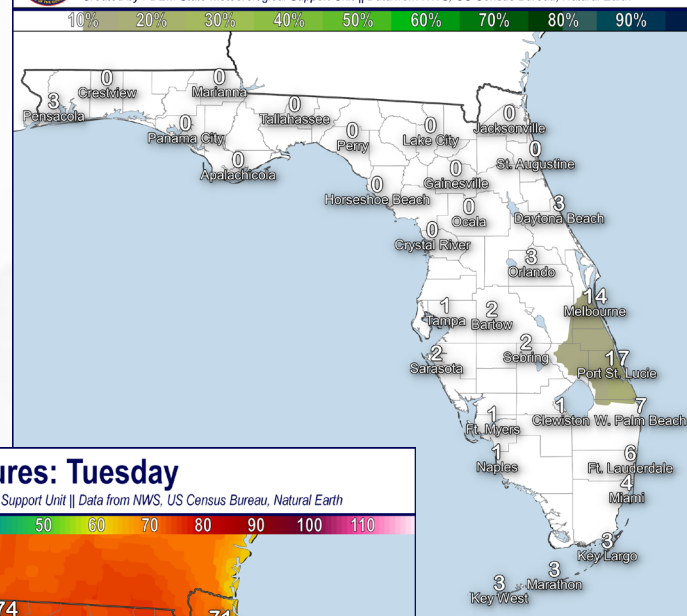
Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** this morning will gradually lift and dissipate this morning as the sun continues to rise. High pressure over the Carolina coastline will bring pleasant conditions and plenty of sunshine throughout the state today. A near-zero chance of rain can be expected nearly statewide, except for a few brief showers that look to move onshore along the Space Coast (10-15% chance of rain). Low-level moisture and onshore winds will help to bring these brief showers onshore along the coastline. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds, and winds will remain light keeping a **sensitive wildfire risk** in place across the Panhandle. A more **locally elevated threat** it possible for the Peninsula given the lack of rainfall with this last frontal system and the recent increased activity is wildfires. High temperatures will reach the 70s to lower 80s across the state this afternoon.

Calm and clear skies can be expected to continue through the overnight period across the state. Recent rainfall and low-level moisture will help to create instances of **patchy to locally dense fog** early Wednesday morning across the Panhandle and upper Suwannee Valley. Low temperatures will fall into the lower 50s across North Florida, middle 50s to lower 60s across Central Florida and middle 60s to near 70-degrees across South Florida.



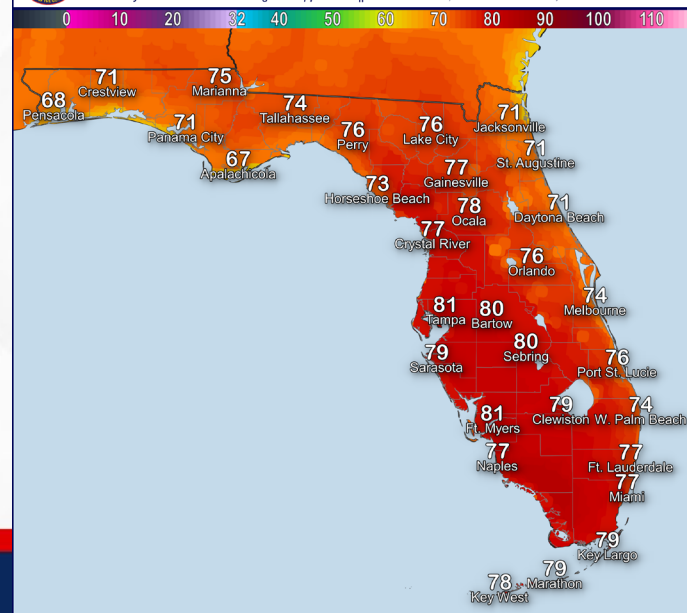
Chance of Rain: Tuesday

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



High Temperatures: Tuesday

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 become easterly to southeasterly. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 1-3' can be expected across the state, with numerous East Coast beaches reaching **upwards of 4'**.

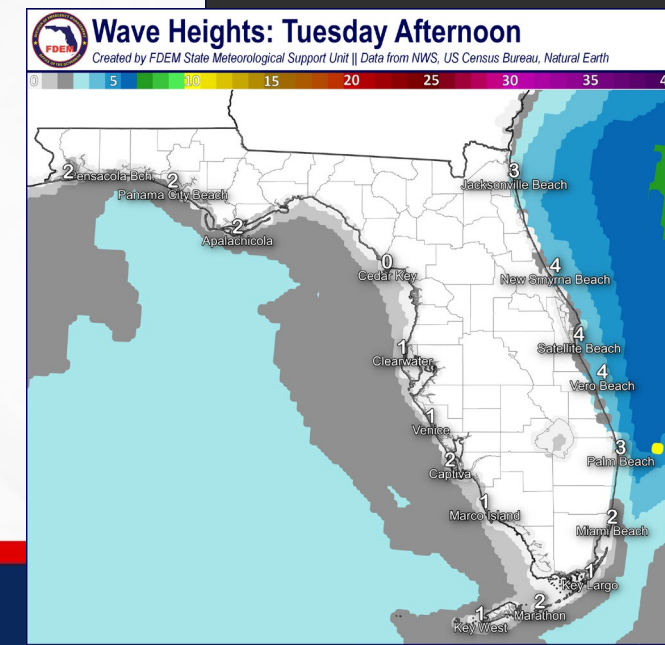
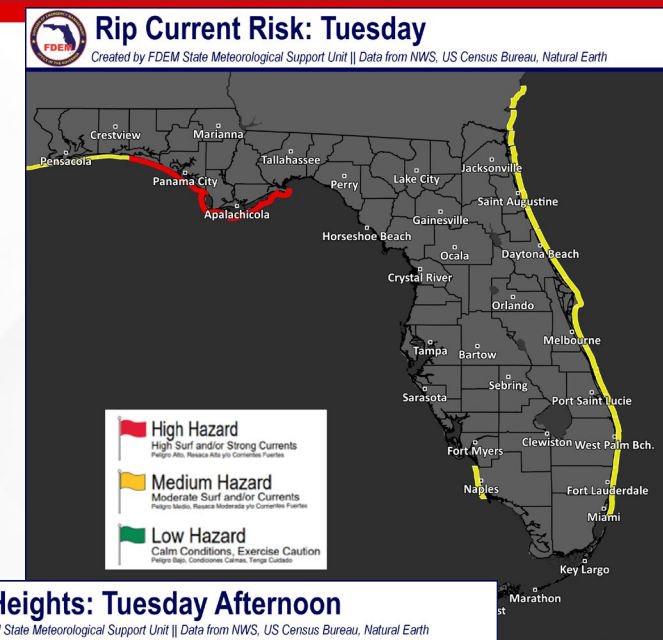
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week (valid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

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

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.53 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.03 feet below normal for this time of year.



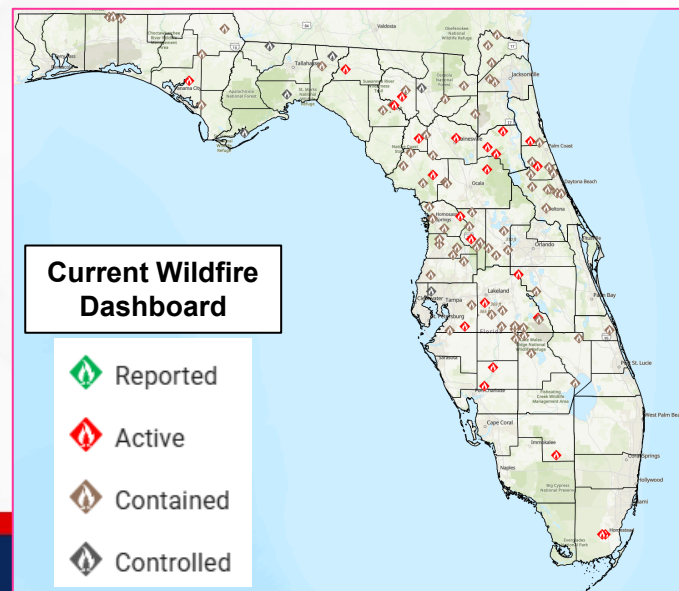
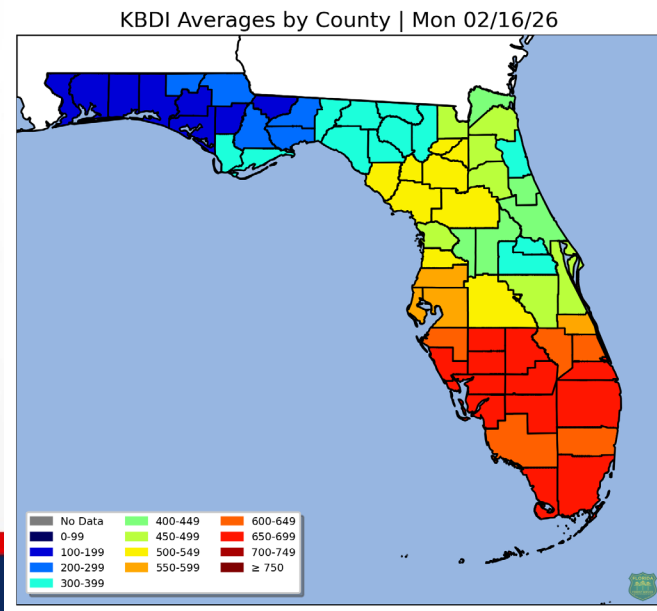
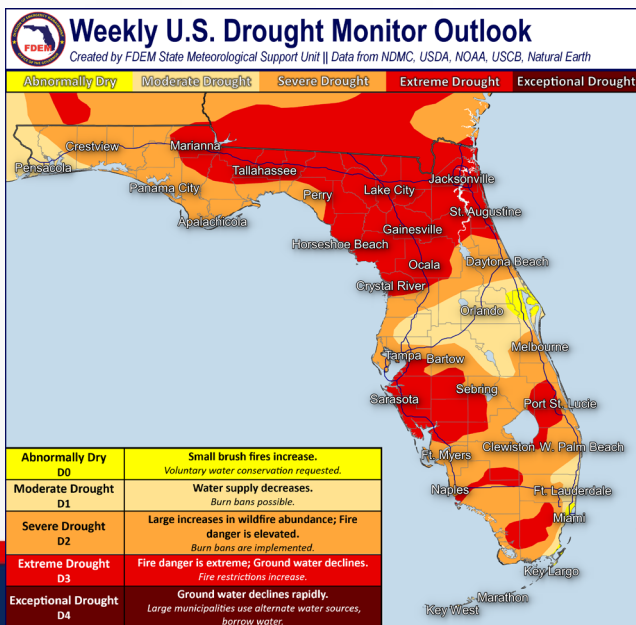


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry and mostly sunny conditions return to the state today, with a chance for brief showers along the Space Coast today. Light easterly to southeasterly winds will help to keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds across the state today. Wind gusts will reach upwards of 10-15 mph this afternoon throughout the state as well. Recent rainfall along North Florida, especially the Panhandle, should help to keep the **wildfire threat low** today. The Peninsula received less rainfall and has seen expanding drought conditions, likely keeping a more **locally elevated wildfire threat** in place, especially with the increase in wildfire activity over the last week or so. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 100 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,996 acres.

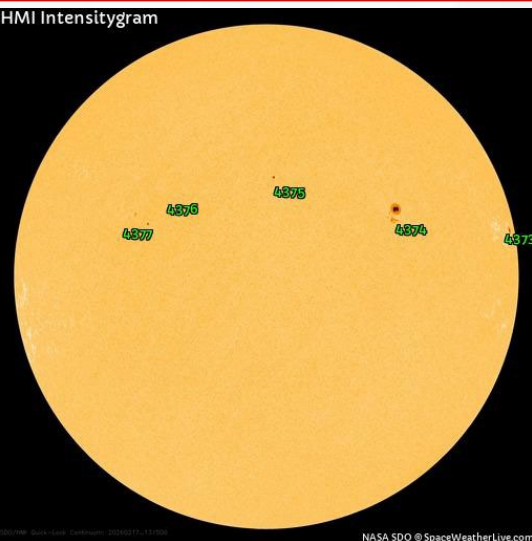
Drought (2/12/26): It has become a recent theme in the weather pattern for a frontal passage to sweep through portions of the state every week or so with light to moderate rainfall. However, rainfall totals with these frontal passages have been short of alleviating with very little relief to the ongoing 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 **466 (-35)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

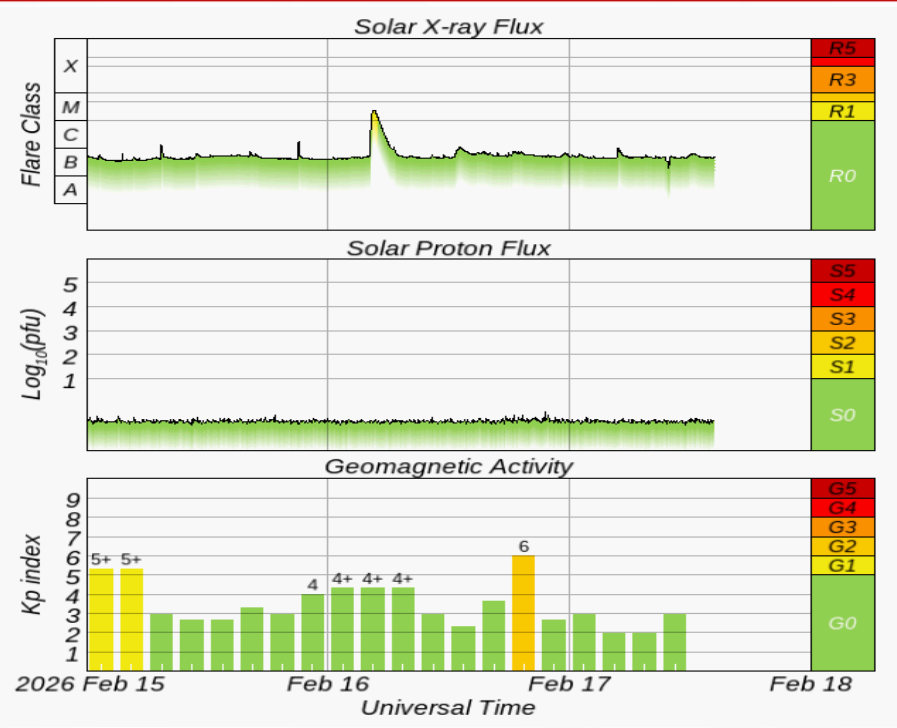
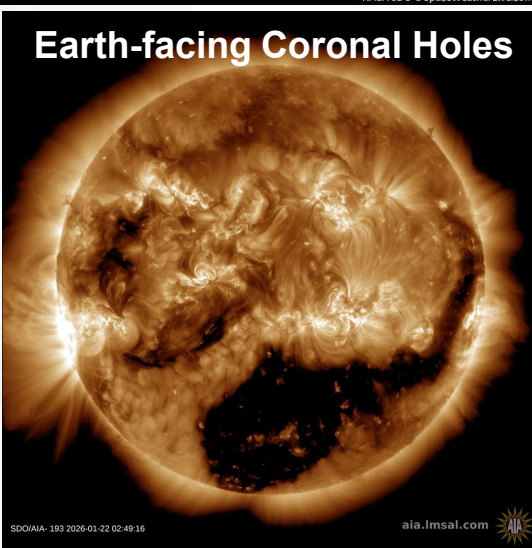




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/17	2/18
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Low solar activity can be expected with a slight chance for strong (M-class) solar flares as a new sunspot emerges. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any M-class flares that develop. Solar wind conditions will remain enhanced through midweek as Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) conditions continue to slowly weaken. Quiet to active geomagnetic conditions are expected, with a chance for minor (G1) geomagnetic storming through today due to 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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