



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, February 18, 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	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(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	Okaloosa	Okaloosa CRS Flood Exercise / Escambia Quarterly EM Partners Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gulf	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	LSA Follow-ups / Office Admin
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	L-102 Course
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Highlands	Region 7 Annual Hurricane Readiness Session
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin / Readiness Session Prep
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	FGCU EM Visit / Planning Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	LEPC 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	Okaloosa	County Flooding Exercises
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jackson	ERTF & LMS Meetings
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Flagler/Putnam	County EM Meetings
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Flagler/Putnam	County EM Meetings
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Volusia	RSF Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Highlands	R7 Hurricane Readiness Session
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Highlands	R7 Hurricane Readiness Session
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Flagler/Putnam	County EM Meetings

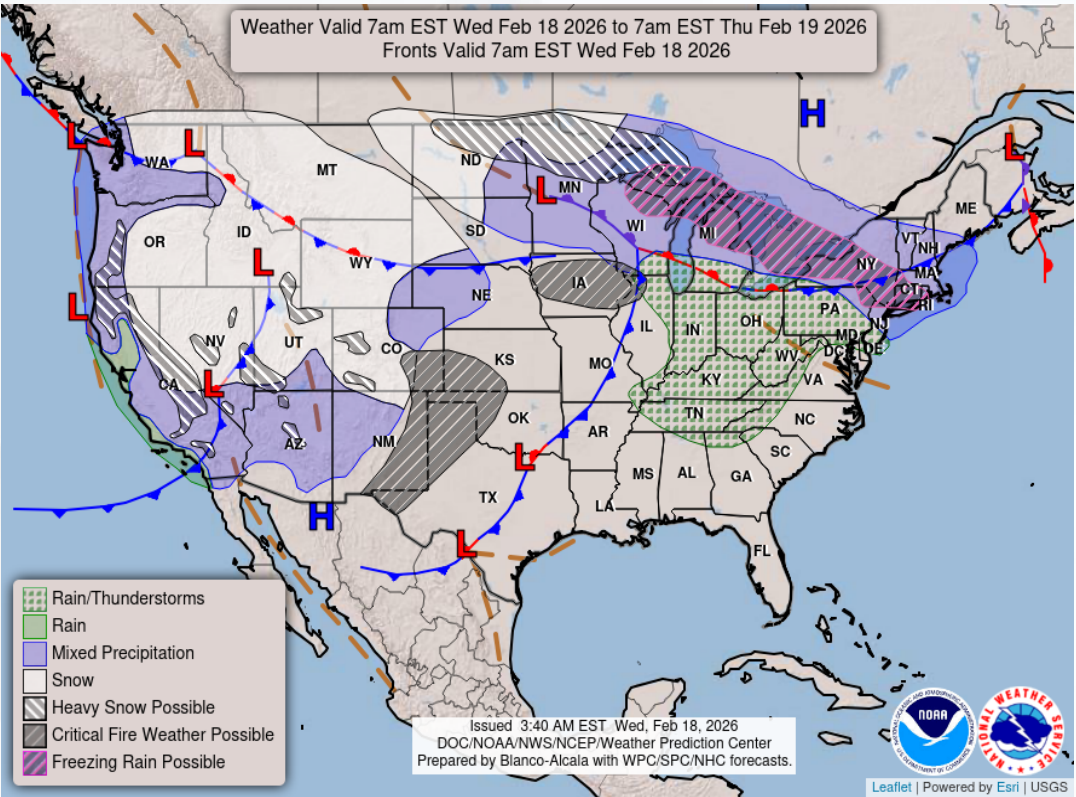
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

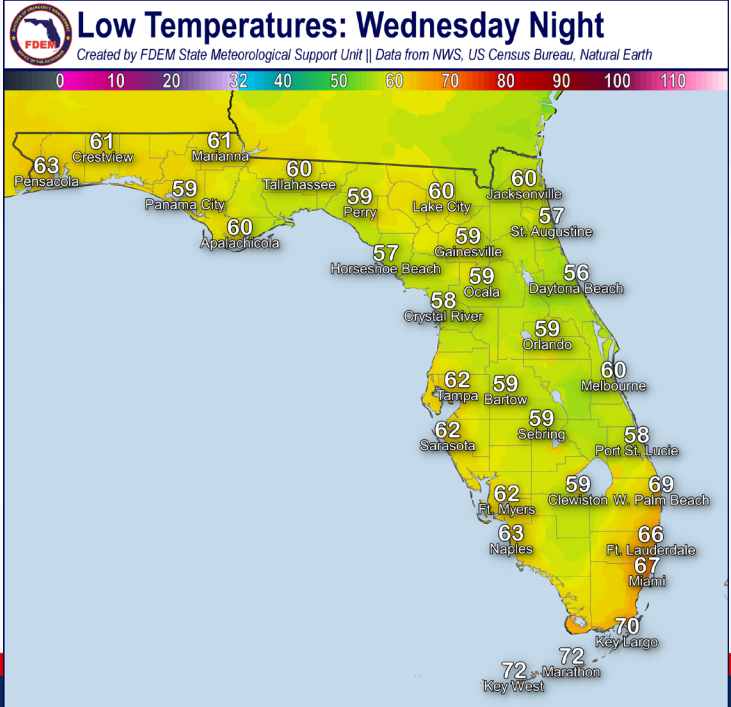
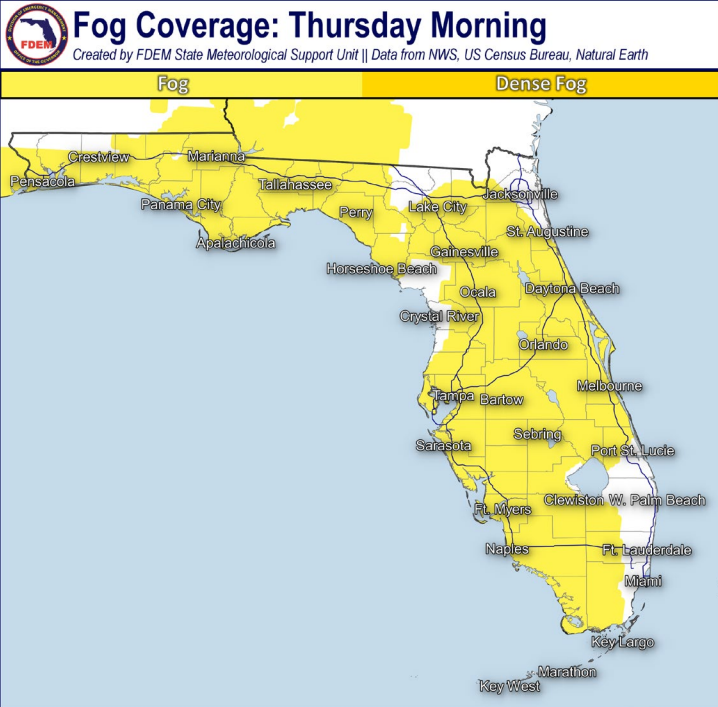


Meteorology Summary



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	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.52 ft. (2.05 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	470 (+4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

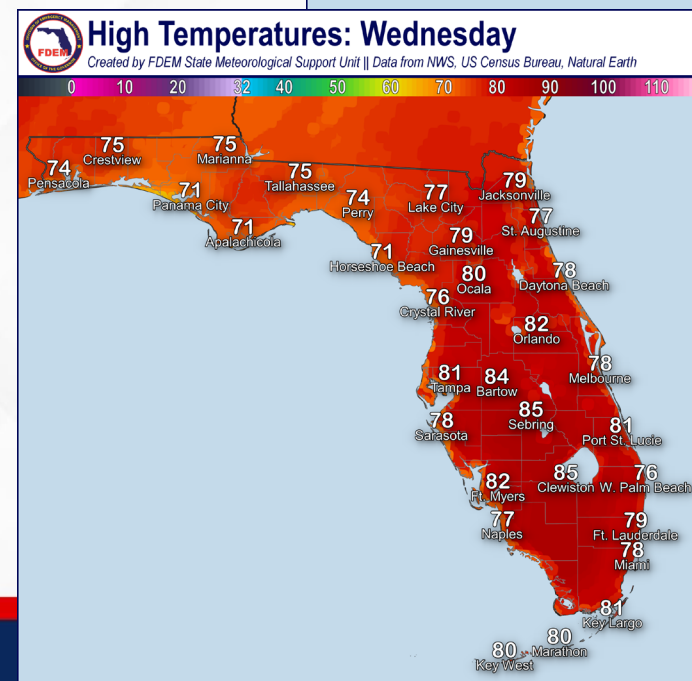
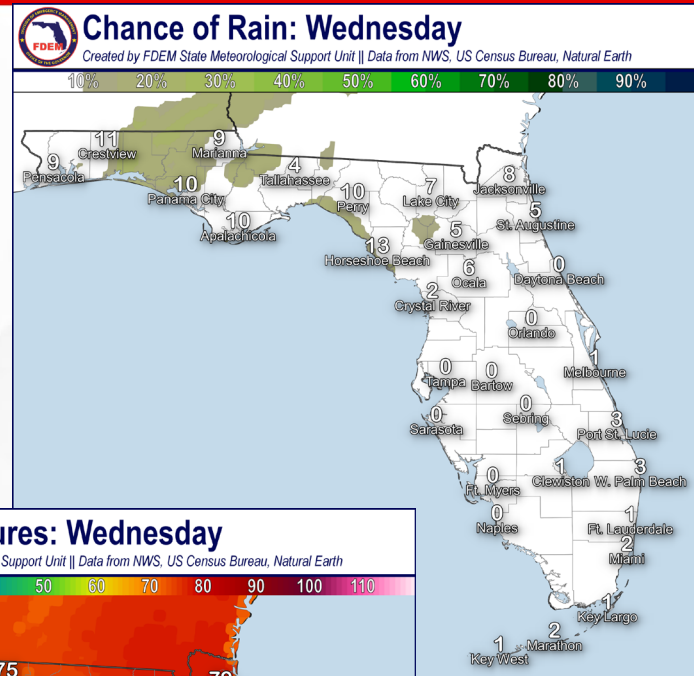
Areas of fog have developed this morning for portions of the state, with dense fog along the eastern Panhandle. A **Dense Fog Advisory** remains in effect until the mid-morning hours for **reduced visibilities** due to fog and low clouds.

Mostly sunny and dry conditions can be expected across the state once the fog lifts and dissipates, courtesy of high pressure overhead. Low-level moisture and daytime heating may create a few sea-breeze induced brief showers along the Panhandle and Big Bend throughout the day (10-15% chance of rain). Any of these showers that develop will likely remain closer towards the coast, but regardless any shower activity will be light and brief. While low-level moisture continues to increase, interior portions of South-Central Florida and around Lake Okeechobee will see relative humidity values dip **close to critical thresholds this afternoon (35-45%)**. Wind gusts across the Suwannee Valley and interior Northeast Florida will **increase to 15-20 mph** late this afternoon.

High temperatures will continue to warm up into the 70s to middle 80s across the state this afternoon.

Light showers will continue this evening and into portions of the overnight hours across the Panhandle and Big Bend due to upper-level support. Just like the daytime showers, these will be light and brief (10-20% chance of rain). Otherwise, mostly dry conditions can be expected overnight. Low-level moisture and calm winds overnight will lead to **widespread patchy fog** developing overnight and early Thursday morning throughout the state. **Locally dense fog** cannot be ruled out in some areas, especially low-lying areas.

Low temperatures will fall into the upper 50s to upper 60s throughout the state overnight.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: The long-period ocean swell and onshore winds along the Florida East Coast will create a **high risk for rip currents** for all beaches. A **moderate risk** returns for nearly all Panhandle beaches, except for Gulf County which will see a **locally high risk**. West Coast beaches can expect a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: The long-period ocean swell off the southwestern Atlantic waters continues to produce elevated **surf conditions of 3-5'** along the Florida East Coast, with locally elevated **surf upwards of 6'** along the Treasure Coast. Calm marine conditions of 1-2' can be expected for the entire Gulf Coast.

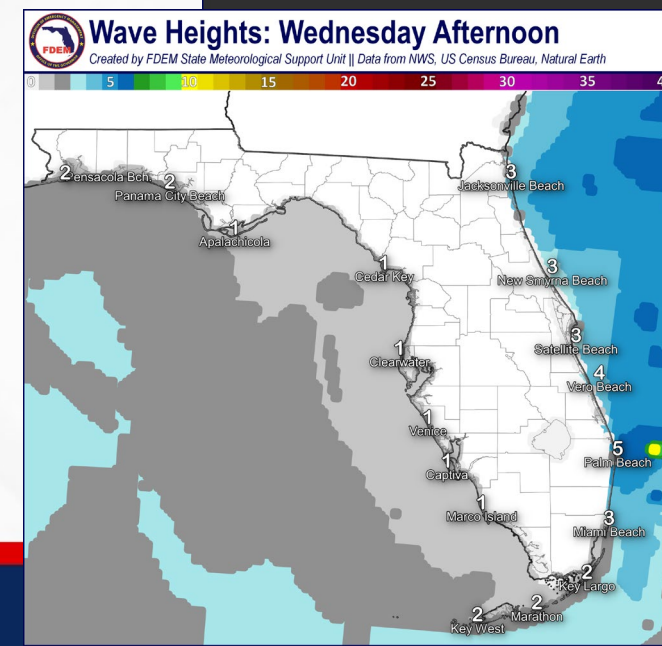
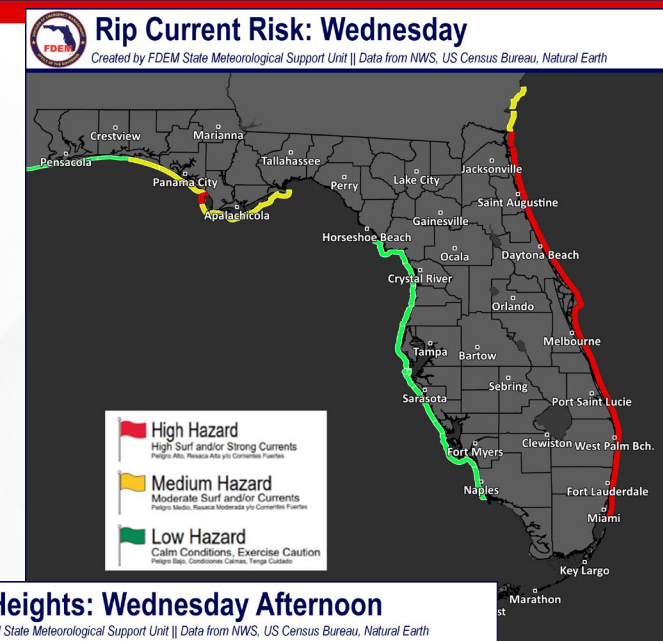
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week (valid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

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

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

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.52 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.05 feet below normal for this time of year.



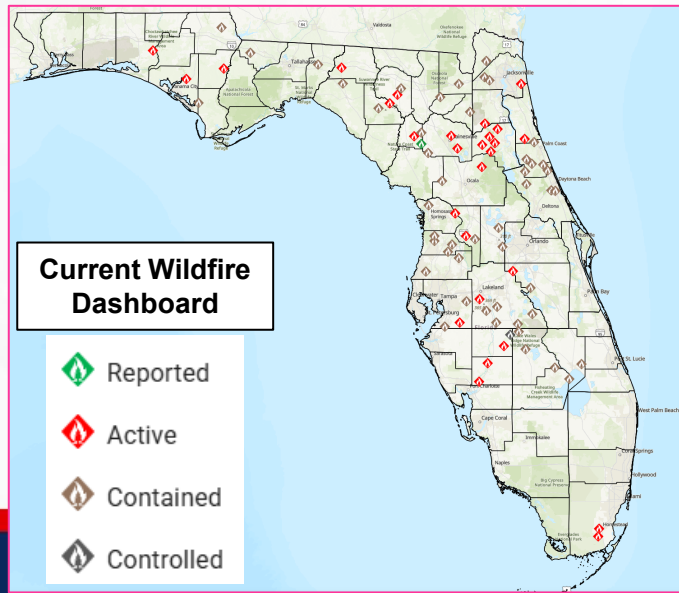
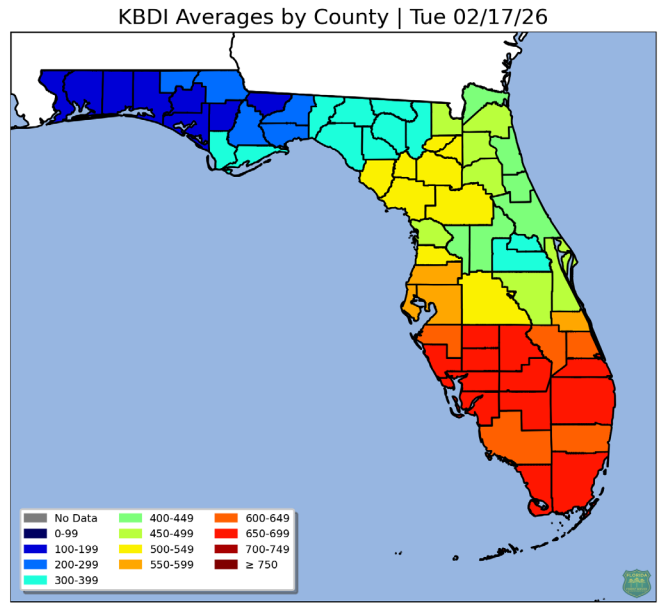
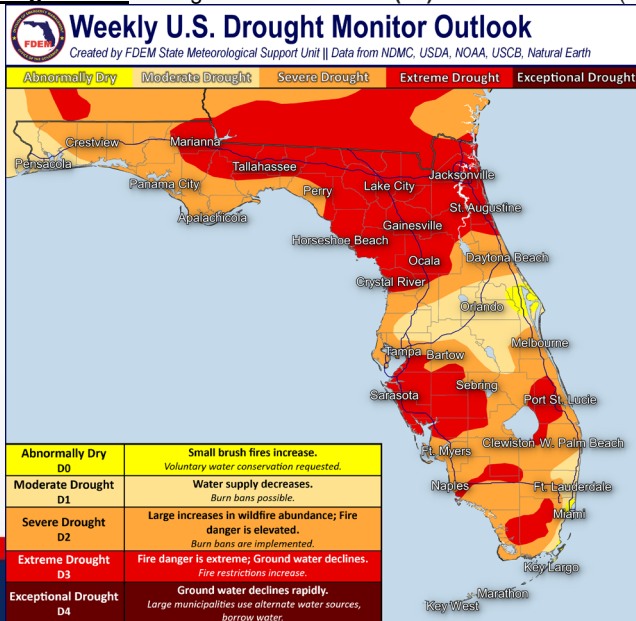


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure conditions will continue to limit rain chances across the state, with the exception of a few coastal showers due to a weak sea breeze effect. Relative humidity values throughout the state look to remain mostly above critical thresholds; however, the drier conditions will be across into Central and South Florida near Lake Okeechobee with **relative humidity values as low as 35-45%** this afternoon. Southerly to southeasterly winds across the state are helping to pull moisture northward keeping those relative humidity values mostly above critical thresholds. Winds will remain light today near 7-10 mph, with stronger winds upwards of 12-13 mph within the Suwannee Valley. Similarly, wind gusts will keep near 10-15 mph with stronger wind **gusts upwards of 20 mph** across interior Northeast Florida. Calm winds overnight and clearing skies will give way to **patchy to locally dense fog** nearly statewide early Thursday morning. *Foggy conditions in areas with ongoing wildfires will further reduce visibilities.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 79 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,087 acres.

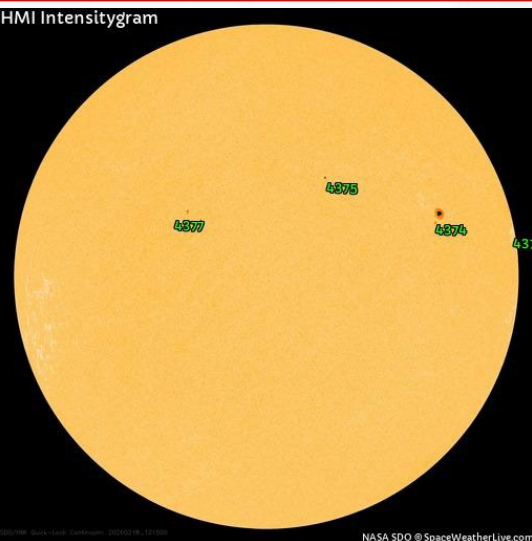
Drought (2/12/26): It has become a recent theme in the weather pattern for a frontal passage to sweep through portions of the state every week or so with light to moderate rainfall. However, rainfall totals with these frontal passages have been short of alleviating with very little relief to the ongoing 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 **470 (+4)** 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).

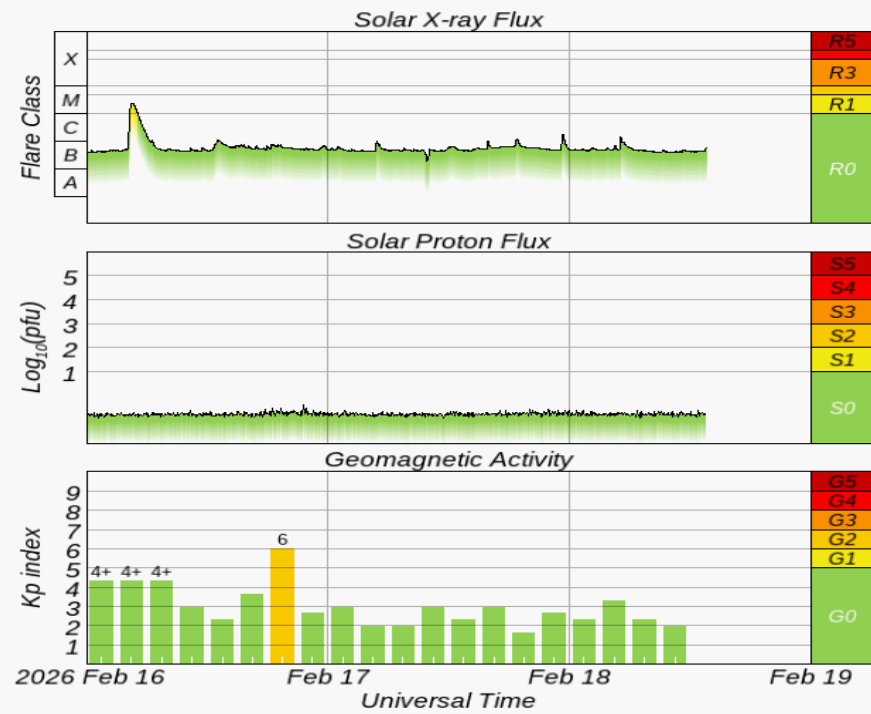
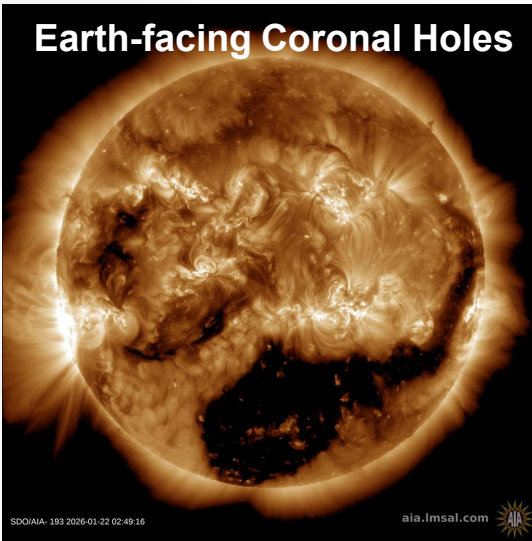




Space Weather



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	
2/18	2/19
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity will persist at low levels through the next few days with an isolated chance for strong (M-class) solar flares. Currently all Earth-facing sunspots have stable magnetic fields; however, should they become unstable they will bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will remain enhanced through the end of the week as Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) wind influences continue to decline. Late today and into tomorrow, glancing impacts from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun on 2/16 will be possible. Quiet to active geomagnetic storming are expected, with a chance for minor (G1) geomagnetic storming conditions due to the slowly declining CH HSS conditions and the possible glancing impacts from the CME. The overall space threat remains 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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