



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, February 19, 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	Austin Johnson	(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	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	DLDODHDutyOfficers@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	Washington	TIM Training / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	TLH Airport FSE
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	LEPC Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	L-102 Course
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	SRT Assessment (Hillsborough Co FR)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Palm Beach	Region 8 Annual Hurricane Readiness Session / G-402 Course
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	World Cup Planning Meetings / Vehicle Maintenance



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	NWS Basic Spotter Training
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	NOAA/SPC Refresher Training
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Duval / St Johns	County EM Meetings
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval / St Johns	County EM Meetings
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	FEPA Meeting / Recovery Contractors Call
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Palm Beach	Regional Hurricane Readines Session / FL Senior Officials Course
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Duval / St Johns	County EM Meetings

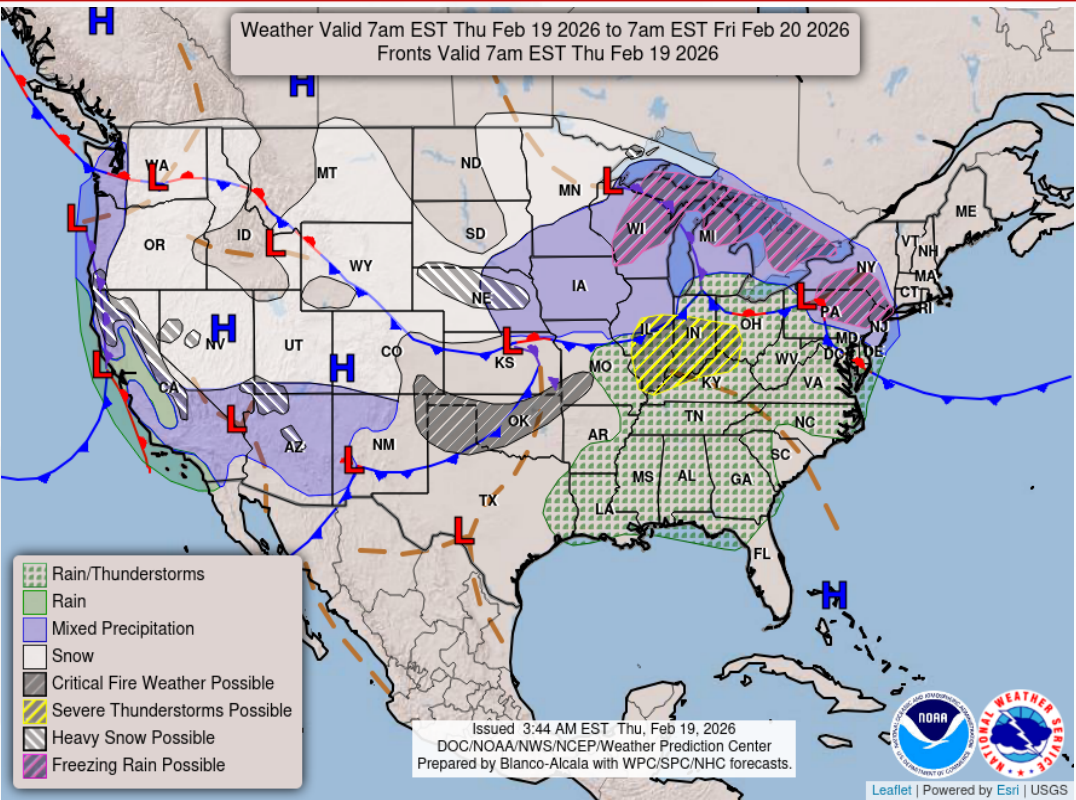
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

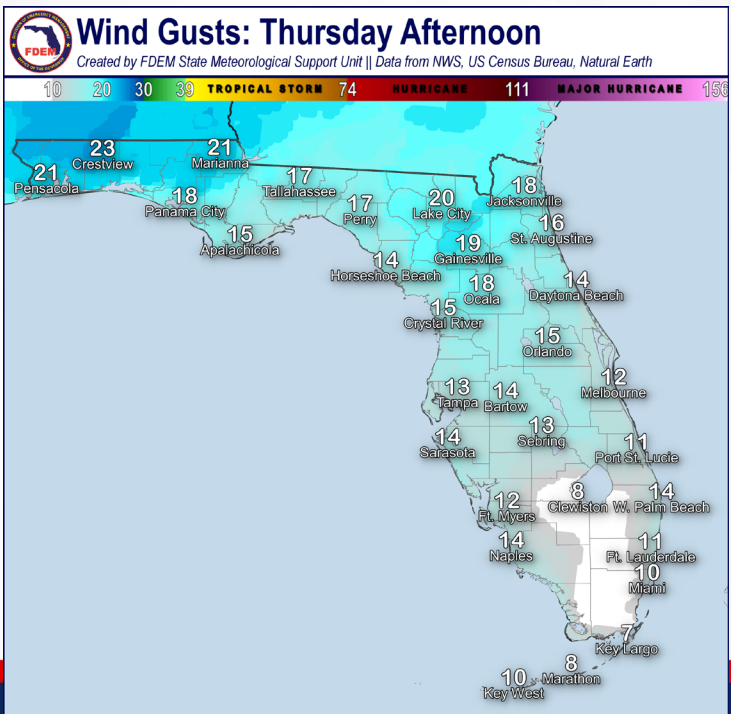
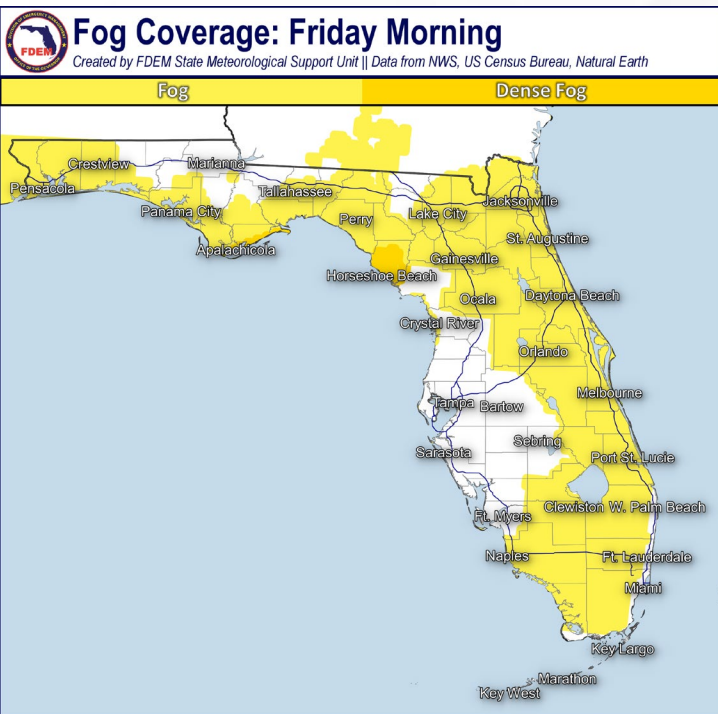


Meteorology Summary



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	L	L	M	L	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.50 ft. (2.06 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	474 (+4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **low clouds and fog** have developed across much of the state this morning, some of which has become **locally dense** and **Dense Fog Advisories** are in effect along the Big Bend and Panhandle coast. These areas of fog will slowly lift and dissipate through the morning hours, giving way to another sunny and mostly dry day for the Sunshine State.

A weak upper-level disturbance passing to the north of the state may spark a few light and brief showers across the Panhandle and Big Bend this morning (15-25% chance of rain). Elsewhere, chances of rain will remain near zero. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds this afternoon throughout the state; however, pockets of lower values will be found throughout the interior Peninsula keeping a **locally elevated wildfire threat** in place. A few wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** are possible across the Panhandle this afternoon and up to **20-25 mph** throughout the remainder of North and Central Florida. High temperatures in the lower to middle 80s are expected throughout much of the state, with a few isolated **upper 80s** possible in interior South Florida. *Temperatures may end up cooler if the low clouds and fog linger longer than expected through the morning hours.*

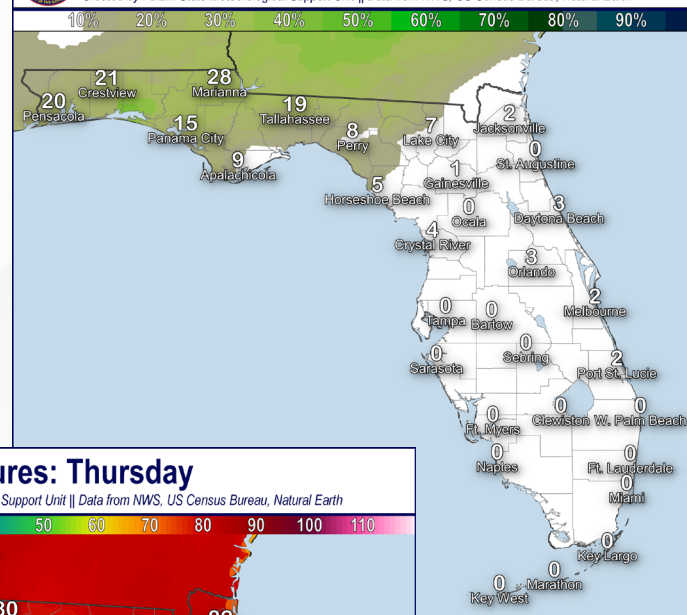
Moist southerly flow will continue to bring a few isolated to widely scattered showers to the Panhandle and Big Bend through the overnight hours (25-40% chance of rain). Additional development of **low clouds and fog** are expected across much of the state tonight, some of which could be **locally dense**, especially along the Gulf Coast and throughout the Peninsula.

Low temperatures are expected to remain very warm tonight, only reaching the lower to middle 60s for most with upper 60s to lower 70s across coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys.



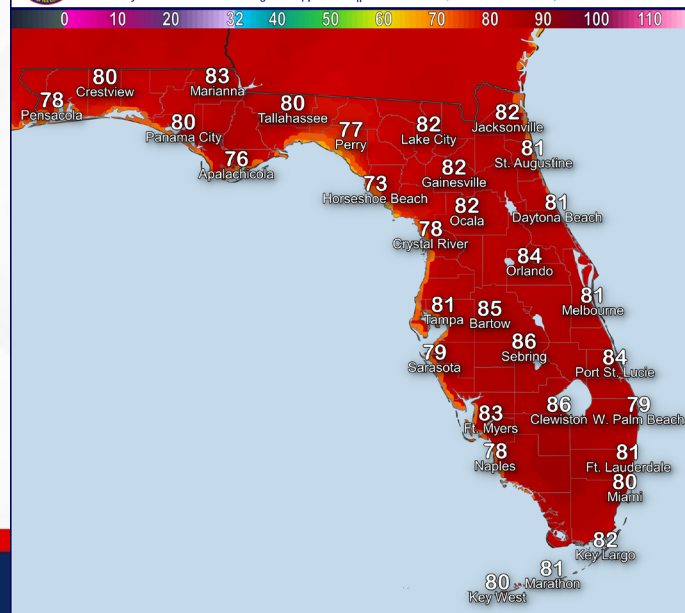
Chance of Rain: Thursday

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



High Temperatures: Thursday

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: The long-period ocean swell and onshore winds along the Florida East Coast will continue to create a **high risk for rip currents** for most beaches, with a local **moderate risk** for Northeast Florida beaches. A **moderate risk** returns for all Panhandle beaches with breezy onshore winds. 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. Calm marine conditions of 1-2' can be expected for the entire Gulf Coast, though waves will increase to **3-4'** for Panhandle beaches tonight.

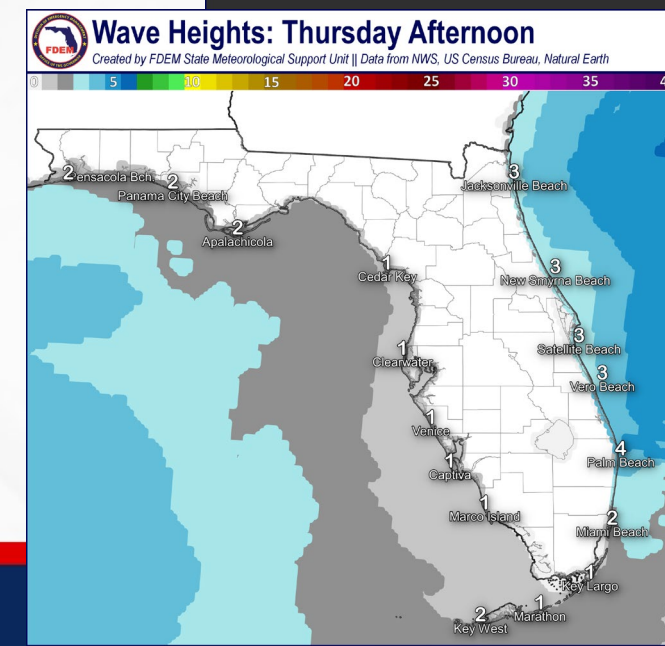
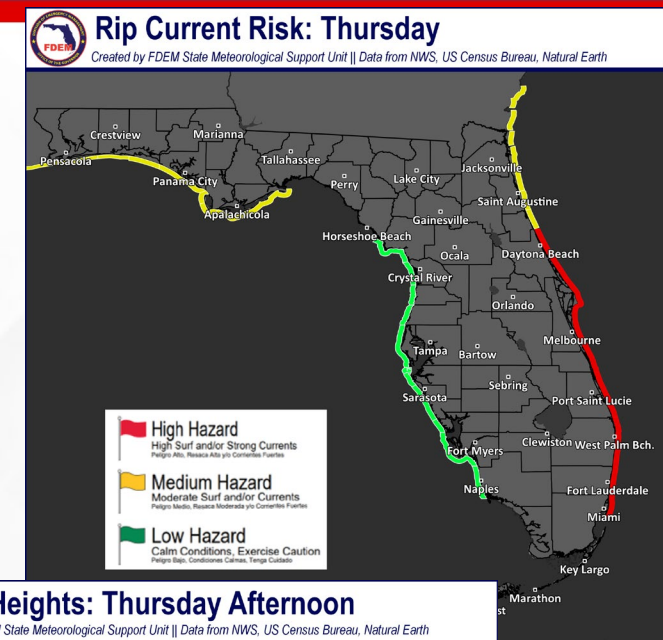
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week (valid 2/13/2026).

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 12.50 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.06 feet below normal for this time of year.



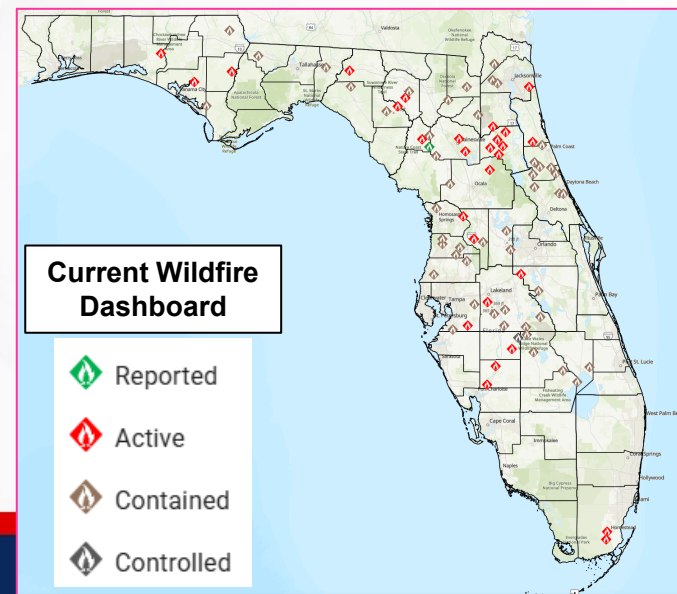
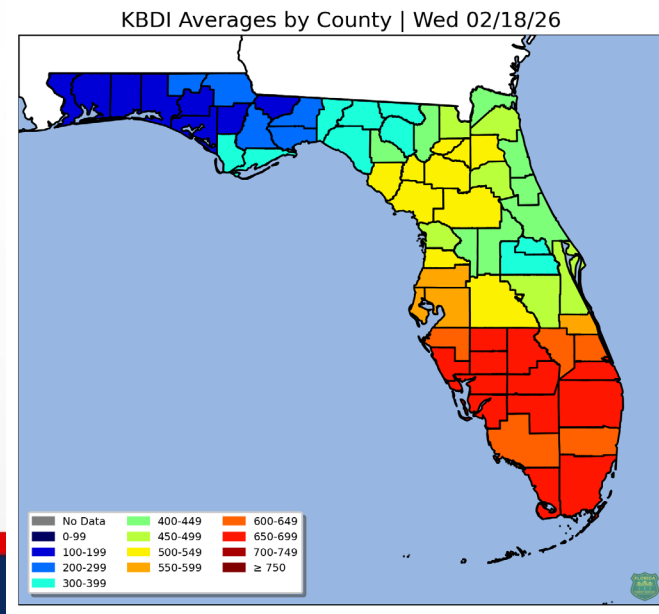
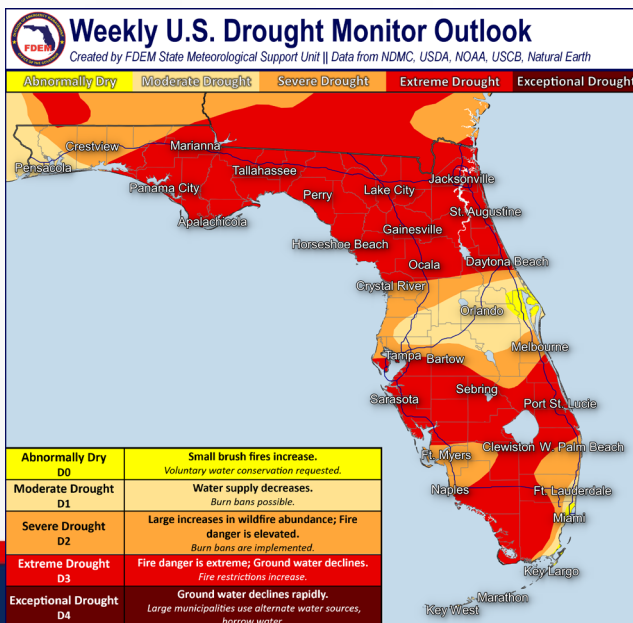


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure conditions will continue to limit rain chances across the state, except for a few light showers across the Panhandle from a weak upper-level disturbance passage to the north. Relative humidity values throughout the state look to remain mostly above critical thresholds; however, the driest conditions are expected throughout interior 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 are expected to remain near 10-15 mph across the Panhandle this afternoon, with gusts **upwards of 30 mph**. A few wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** are possible throughout the remainder of North and Central 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 77 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 6,134 acres.

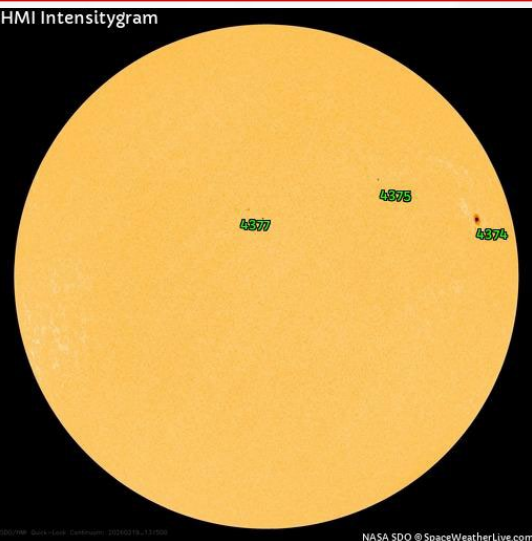
Drought (2/19/26): Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion or degradation was seen in this week's latest Drought Monitor outlook. The heaviest rainfall from this cold front was found across the Panhandle and Big Bend, with widespread totals between 0.5-1.5" and localized amounts upwards of 3". Still, much of the Panhandle and Big Bend remain between 2-4" below normal in rainfall over the past 30 days. As such, expansion of the **extreme (level 3 of 4) drought** into the remainder of Flagler County and northern Volusia County along the East Coast, as well as all the Big Bend and eastern Panhandle down to the coastline, was made in this week's outlook. A **moderate (level 1 of 4) to severe (level 2 of 4) drought** is still in place and unchanged across the western Panhandle. Throughout Central Florida, rainfall totals ranged from 1-2" across the Nature Coast to nearly no appreciable rainfall down to Lake Okeechobee. Very little chances were found along the I-4 corridor where a **moderate (level 1 of 4) drought** remains. Additional expansion, however, of the **extreme (level 3 of 4) drought** was made across South-Central Florida in Highlands, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties. Long-term rainfall departures (90 days) are between 2-4" for much of Central Florida, with East-Central Florida up to 7" in some locations. Nearly no appreciable rain fell over the past week across South Florida where **extreme (level 3 of 4) drought** has expanded across all interior Glades, Hendry, Collier, Monroe, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. Coastal Southeast Florida remains under a **moderate (level 1 of 4) to severe (level 2 of 4) drought**. Over the next week, very little rainfall is expected with only a few scattered showers across North Florida. Rainfall totals will likely remain below 0.5" with continued drought deterioration.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **474 (+4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **31** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

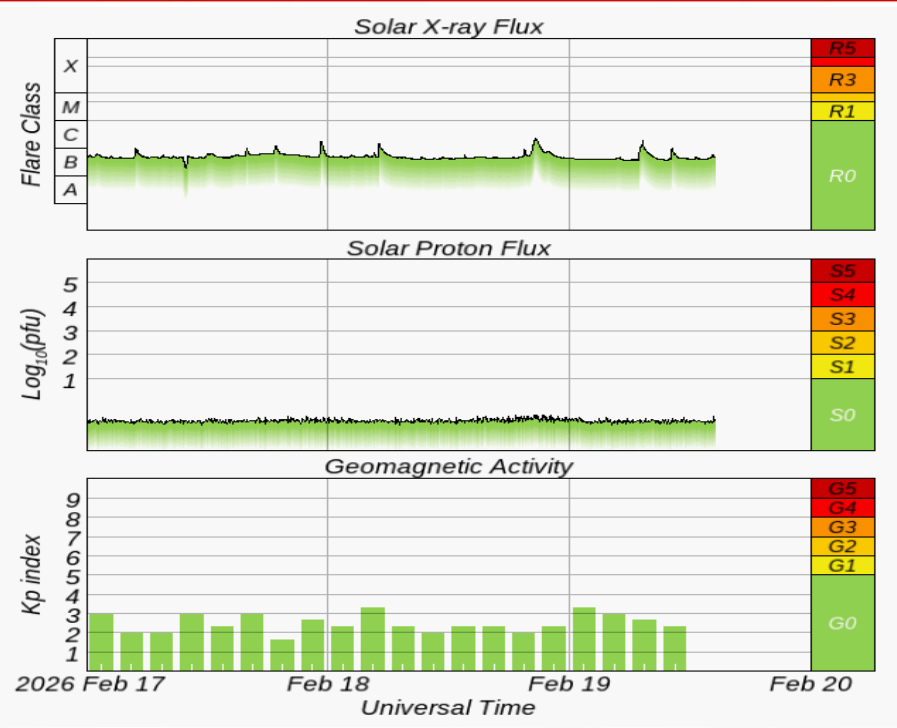
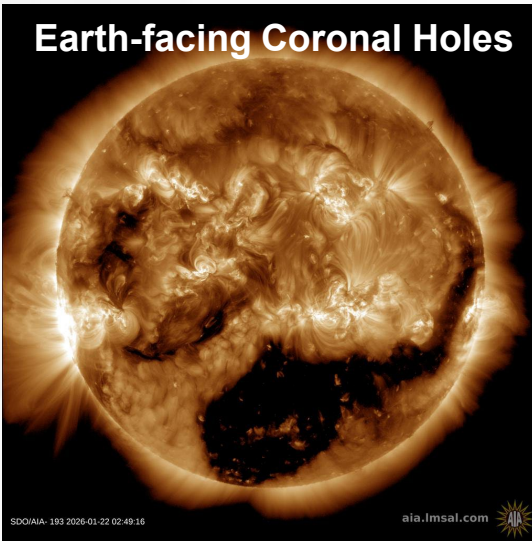




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/19	2/20
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% 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. The solar wind is expected to return to background levels by Saturday. Quiet to active periods of geomagnetic storming are expected, with a chance for Minor (G1) storming today from CH HSS effects and a glancing coronal mass ejection (CME). Conditions will wane back down to mostly quiet levels by Saturday. The overall space threat to Florida 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	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP