



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Friday, February 20, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	<a href="mailto:Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com">Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Austin Johnson	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:paige.lay@em.myflorida.com">paige.lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	Office Admin
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Office Admin
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Office Admin
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	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	County EOC Meeting / Office Admin
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	AWR-940 Course / Southwest Florida International Airport EM Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Meeting / Exercise Planning 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	DRA Reviews
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Medical Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon	New SEOC Tour / HQ Admin
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	New SEOC Tour / HQ Admin
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hillsborough	County EM Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Administrative Duties
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In State	Return Travel to R10

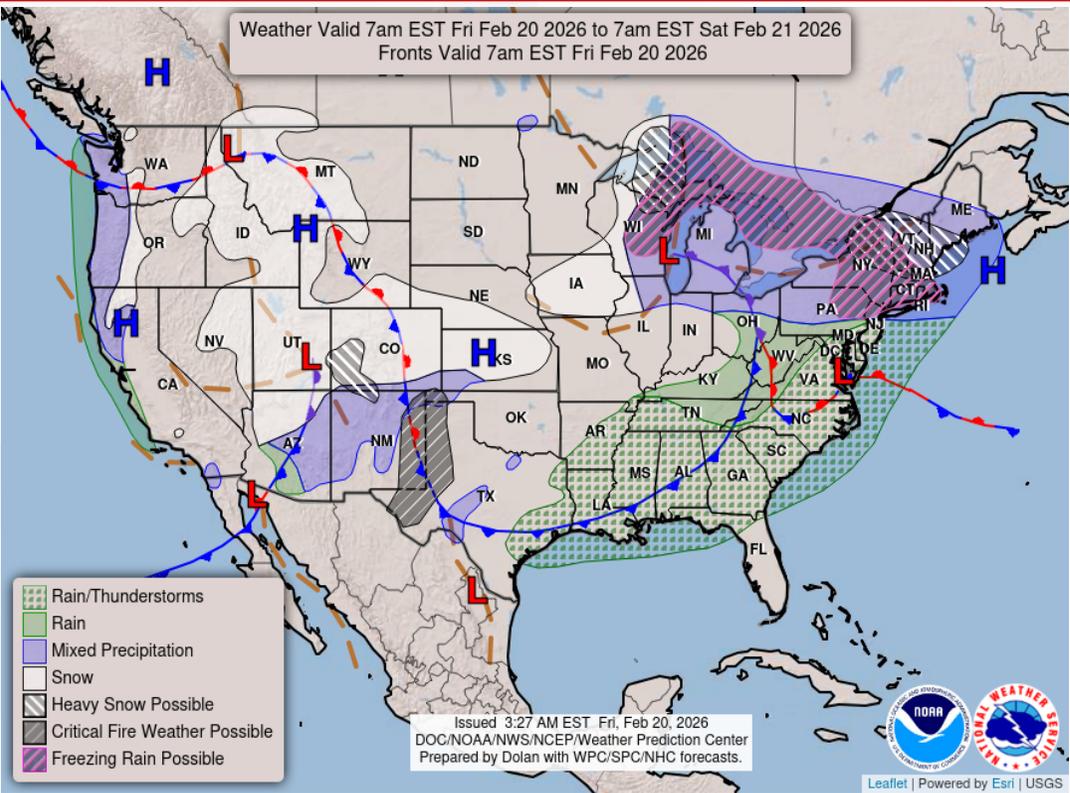
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

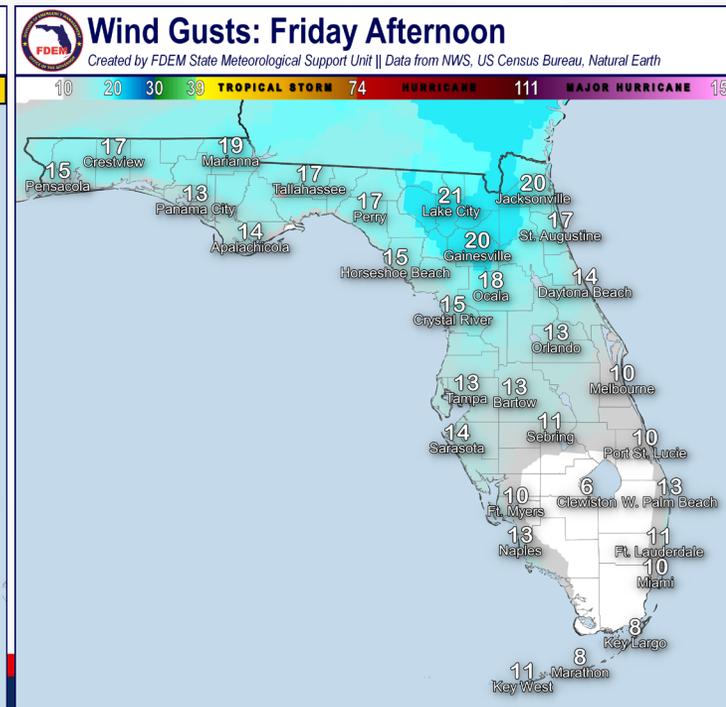
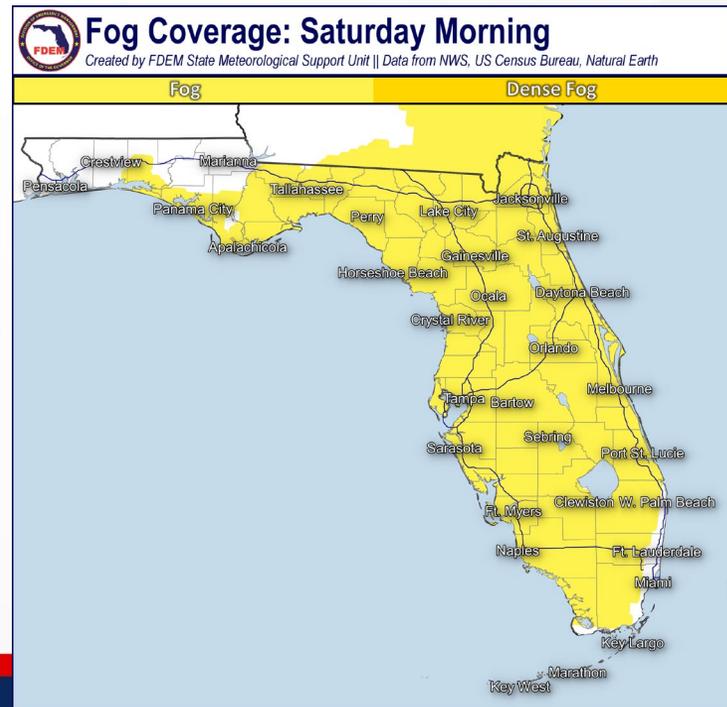


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L									
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	H	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.48 ft. (2.08 ft. <u>Below Normal</u> )									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	479 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





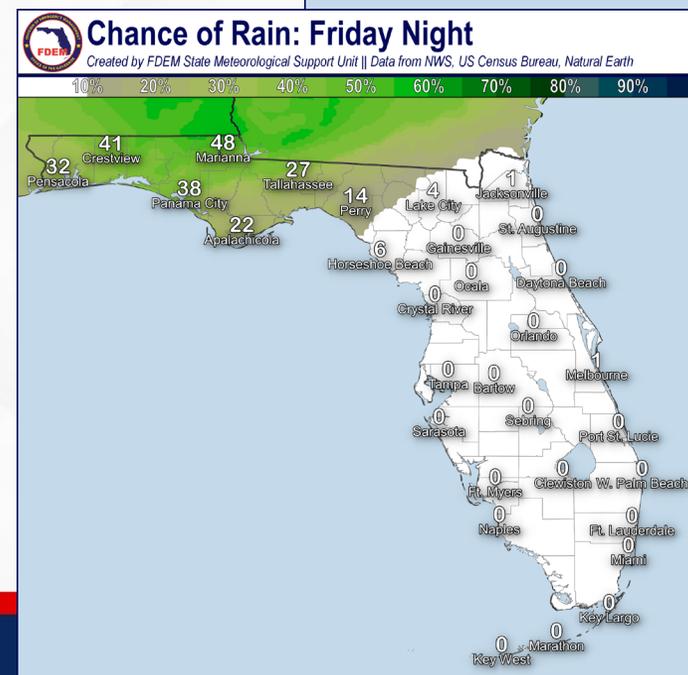
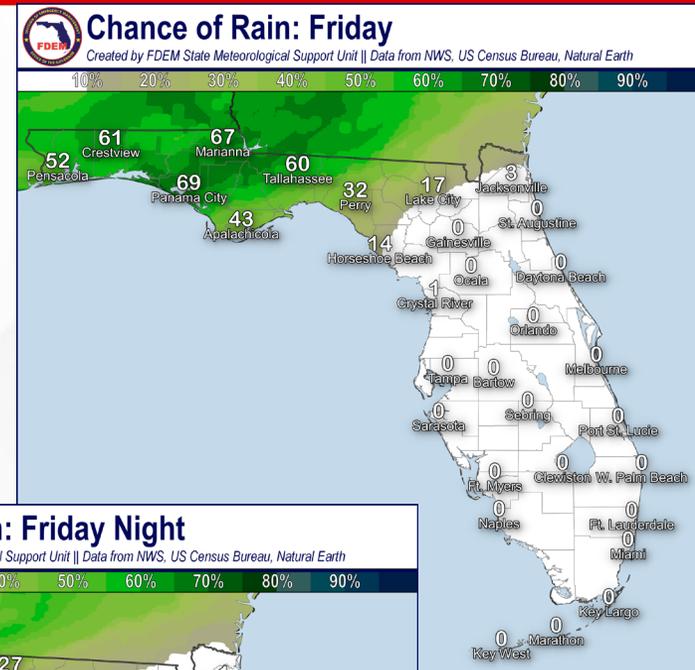
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **fog and low clouds** across the coastal Big Bend and interior Peninsula will slowly lift and dissipate through the morning hours. *Some areas of fog may linger longer, especially along the coasts.* Widely scattered showers are also ongoing across the Panhandle this morning amidst moist southerly flow south of a stalled frontal boundary over Central Georgia. Additional scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms will develop and stream northward across the Big Bend and Panhandle through this afternoon (50-65% chance of rain), diminishing in coverage tonight as they lift north of the state (20-45% chance of rain). Although there is no organized risk for flash flooding, a few **locally heavy downpours** cannot be ruled out and localized rainfall totals **upwards of 2"** in areas that receive repeated rounds of heavy showers. Otherwise, a mostly sunny and dry day is expected elsewhere across the state. Winds will remain elevated over North Florida this afternoon, with gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** possible. Pockets of **low relative humidities** will also bring **locally elevated wildfire conditions** to portions of interior South and Central Florida today.

High temperatures this afternoon will climb into the lower to middle 80s throughout much of the state, with **upper 80s** to **lower 90s** across interior Central and South Florida. Cooler temperatures in the middle to upper 70s can be expected along the coasts.

Additional development of **low clouds and fog** is expected tonight, especially along the Gulf Coast and interior Peninsula where **locally dense fog** is most likely. Lows will only fall into the middle to upper 60s for the Panhandle, Big Bend, and coastal Southeast Florida tonight. Much of the Peninsula will dip into the upper 50s to lower 60s where the greatest chance of **fog** exists.





# 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 Space and Treasure Coast beaches. A **moderate risk** is expected for Northeast and Southeast Florida beaches. Breezy onshore winds and building surf will also bring a **high risk** to most Panhandle beaches. West Coast beaches can expect a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** The long-period ocean swell off the southwestern Atlantic waters will begin to diminish today, with surf returning to **2-4'** for all East Coast beaches. Breezy winds will increase surf for Panhandle beaches to **2-4'** this afternoon. Waves near 1-2' can be expected for West Coast beaches.

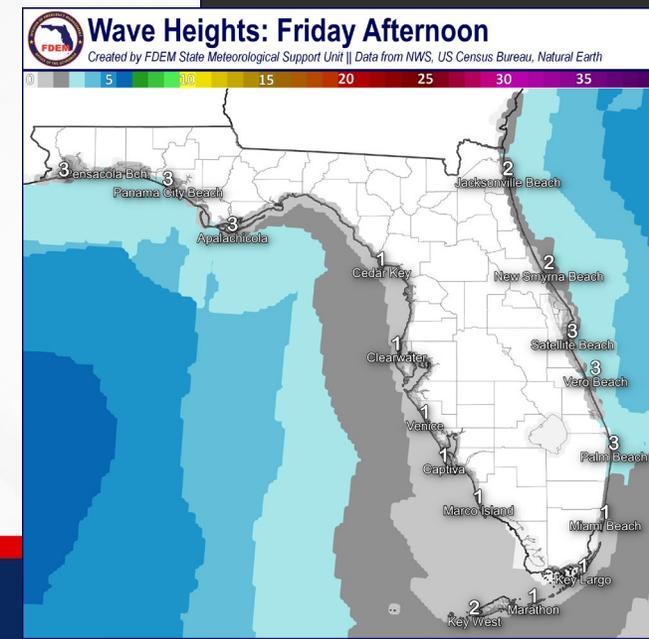
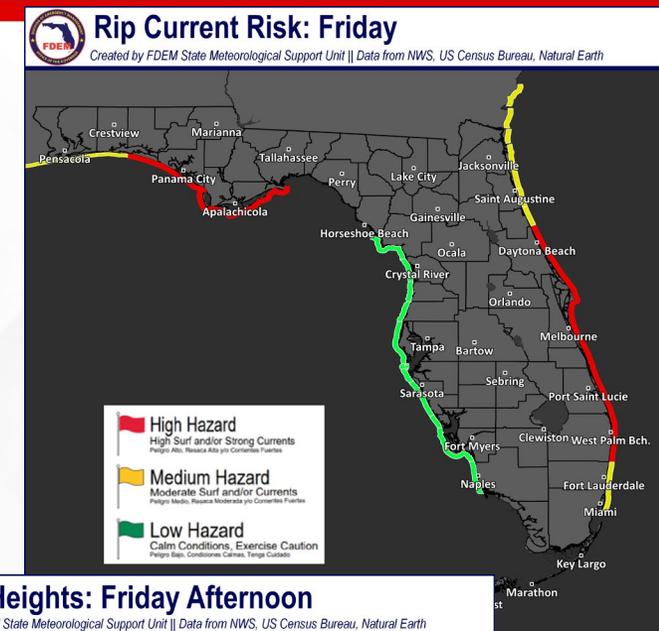
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Bay County and background to very low concentrations in Gulf County. Along the Florida East Coast, red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations from Palm Beach County. It was not observed in Southwest Florida over the past week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

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers are expected to stream northward across the Panhandle and Big Bend through this afternoon. Some of this activity could bring **locally heavy downpours** and **nuisance flooding**, especially to urban and low-lying/poor drainage locations. Rainfall totals will remain below 0.5" for most locations, however if any locations see repeated rounds of heavy downpours, localized totals **upwards of 2"** cannot be ruled out.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.48 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.08 feet below normal for this time of year.



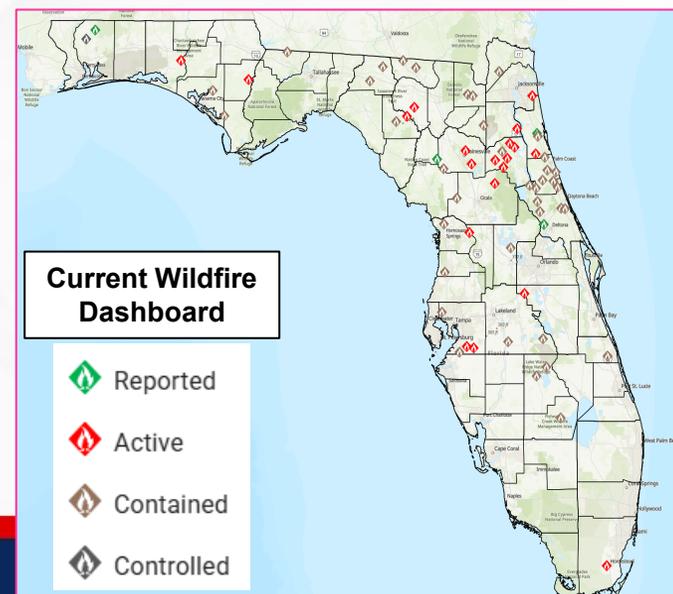
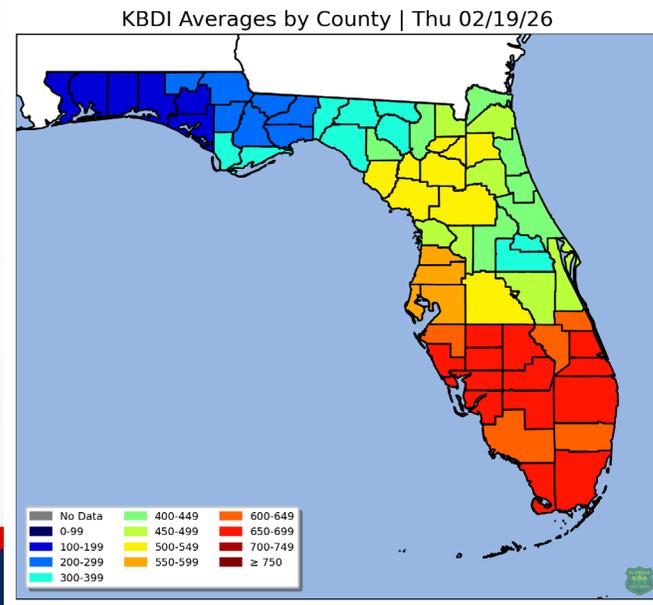
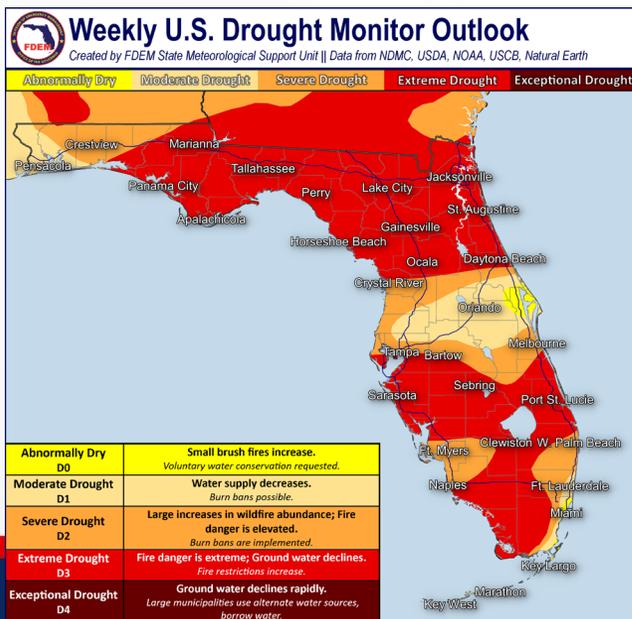


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** High pressure conditions will continue to limit rain chances for much of the state outside of the Panhandle and Big Bend where moist southerly flow will continue to bring a few scattered showers through the day. 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 North Florida this afternoon, with a few wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** possible. Calm winds overnight and clearing skies may give way to **patchy to locally dense fog** nearly statewide early Saturday morning. *Foggy conditions in areas with ongoing wildfires will further reduce visibilities.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 65 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,456 acres.

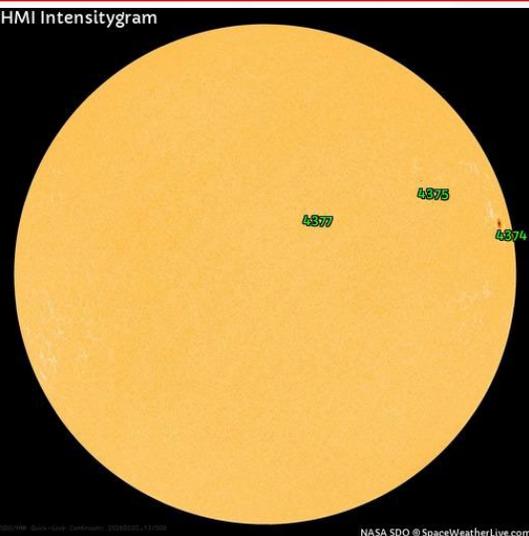
**Drought (2/19/26):** Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **479 (+5)** 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).

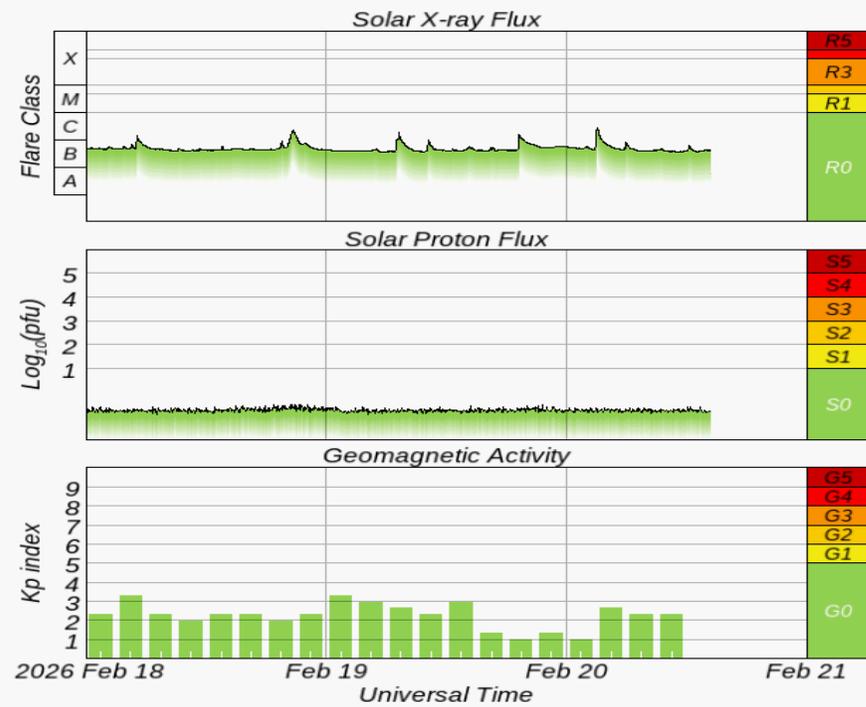
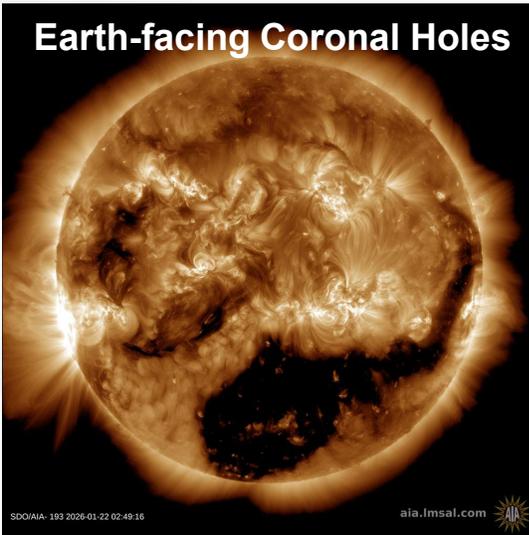




# Space Weather



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	
2/20	2/21
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity will remain 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 continue to wane as Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) influences decrease, reaching background levels this weekend. Geomagnetic activity will also return to quiet levels this weekend. 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	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](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP)