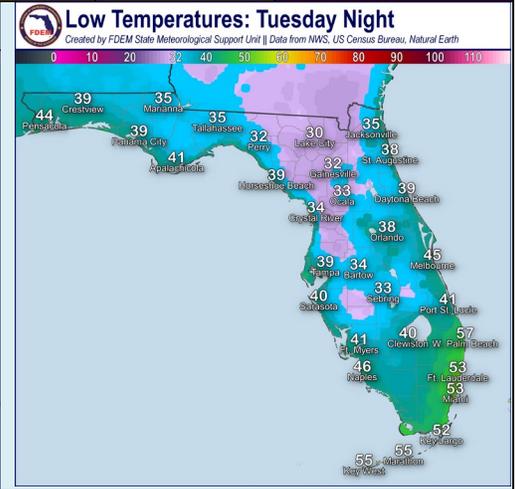
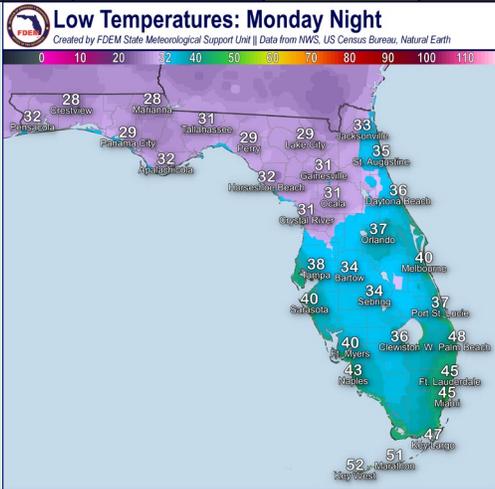
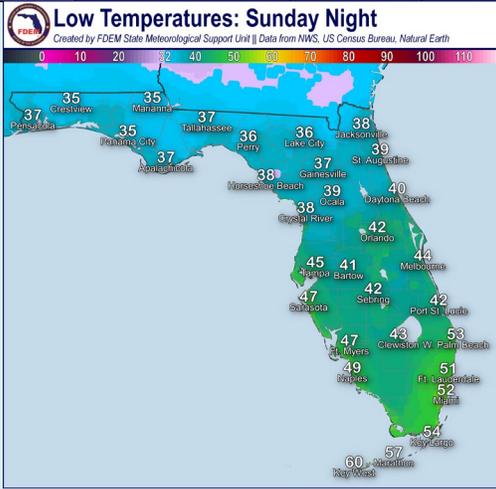


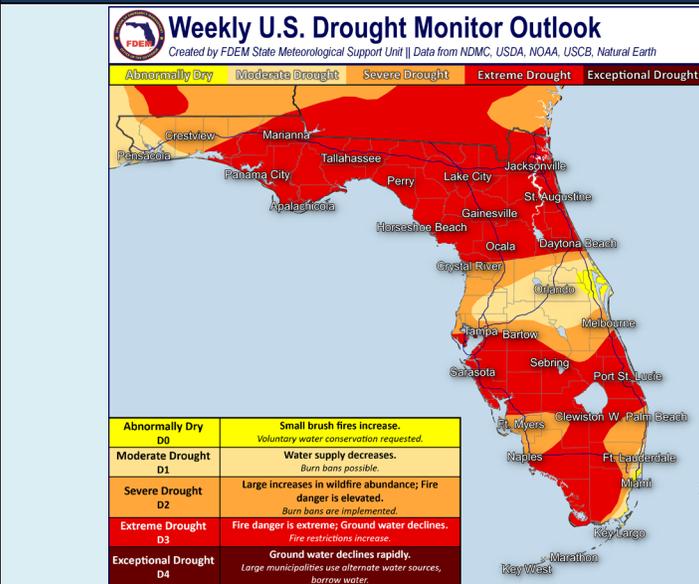
Friday, February 20, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

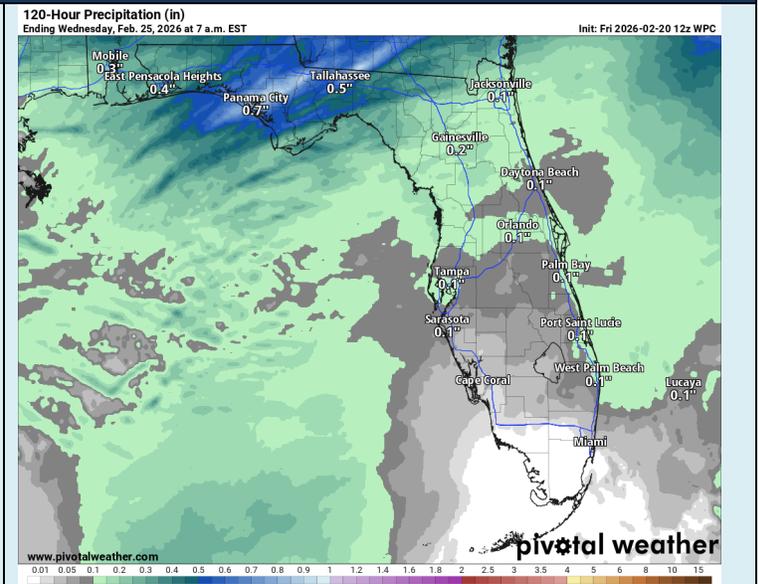
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Fog (Overnight)	Wind Chill (Overnight)	Freeze (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Florida Panhandle & Big Bend			Locally Gulf Coast & Peninsula Elsewhere			FL Peninsula Elsewhere	Florida Panhandle & East Coast West Coast
Sat	Florida Panhandle & Big Bend		Int. Florida Panhandle	Locally West-Central FL Elsewhere			FL Peninsula Elsewhere	Florida Panhandle East Coast West Coast
Sun	Iso. Central Florida Peninsula				North Florida Int. Central Florida	North Florida	Locally Statewide	Statewide Southeast Florida
Mon					Locally North & Int. Central FL Elsewhere	North & Int. Central FL Int. South FL	Central & South Florida FL Panhandle	Statewide
Tue					North Florida & Nature Coast	North Florida Panhandle & West FL	FL Peninsula Elsewhere	Florida Peninsula Florida Panhandle



Forecast Low Temperatures: Sunday Night, Monday Night, & Tuesday Night



Drought Monitor: Valid 2/19/2026



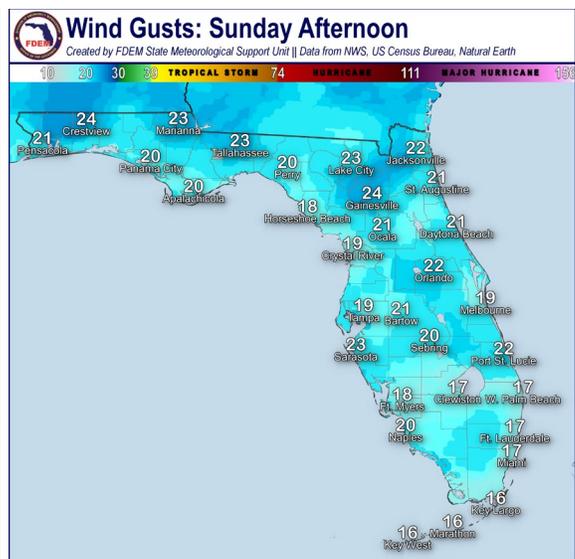
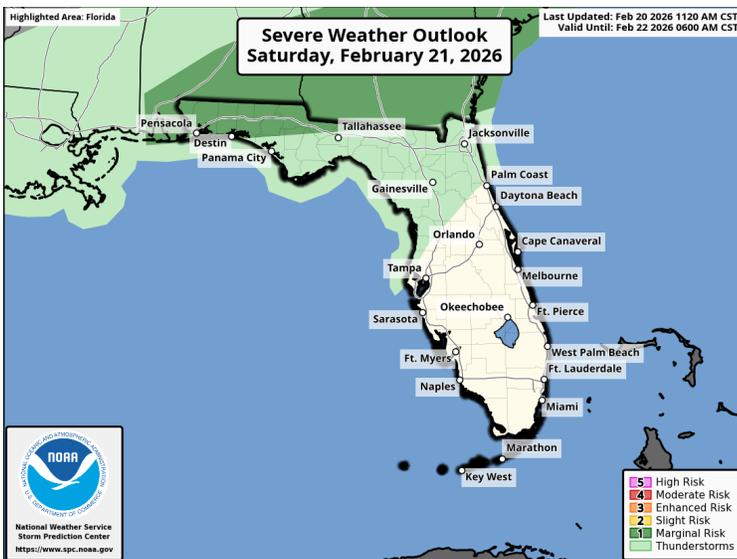
5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



...Following Our Recent Above Normal Temperatures, Freezing Temperatures Make Their Return Next Week...Cold Front to Bring an Isolated Strong Thunderstorm or Two North of I-10 Saturday...Dry Air & Breezy Post-Frontal Winds May Prompt Red Flag Warnings Early Next Week; Dangerous Wildfire Conditions Likely Statewide...Hazardous Beach & Boating Conditions Develop; High Surf Advisories May Be Warranted Along the East Coast...

Friday - Sunday:

Widely scattered showers are ongoing across the Panhandle this afternoon within moist southerly flow south of a stalled frontal boundary over Central Georgia. Additional scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms will develop and lift northward across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend through daytime hours (50–65% chance of rain). While no organized severe weather or flash flooding risk exists, isolated heavier downpours may produce localized rainfall totals approaching 1.5–2”. Elsewhere, mostly sunny and dry conditions are expected. Winds will remain elevated across North Florida this afternoon, with **gusts of 20-25 mph** possible. High temperatures will rise **well above normal** for this time of year into the lower to middle 80s statewide, with upper 80s to even the **lower 90s** across interior Central and South Florida. Showers will lift north of the state line and diminish this evening and overnight across the Florida Panhandle (25-40% chance of rain). Areas of **low clouds and fog** are expected to develop tonight, especially along the Gulf Coast and interior Florida Peninsula, where **locally dense fog** is possible. Overnight lows will fall into the middle to upper 60s across the Panhandle, Big Bend, and coastal Southeast Florida. Much of the Peninsula will dip into the upper 50s to lower 60s.



The once stalled frontal boundary over Georgia will begin moving south toward Florida on Saturday. Isolated morning showers are expected across the Florida Panhandle (25-50% chance of rain), increase coverage during the afternoon across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend (40-75% chance of rain). Winds will remain breezy across North Florida, **gusting to 20-25 mph** at times. High temperatures will reach the 80s across much of the state, with 70s along the immediate coast. Shower and embedded thunderstorm activity will increase Saturday evening and early overnight across North Florida as the primary cold front approaches (50-80% chance of rain). An **isolated strong to severe thunderstorm** is possible, particularly north of the I-10 corridor. A **Marginal Risk (Level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is in place across the northern Florida Panhandle, primarily for isolated damaging wind gusts and heavy downpours; however, the severe weather threat will be limited and bound by the lack of daylight hours and shift the greater chance of strong to severe thunderstorm activity Saturday evening into the Deep

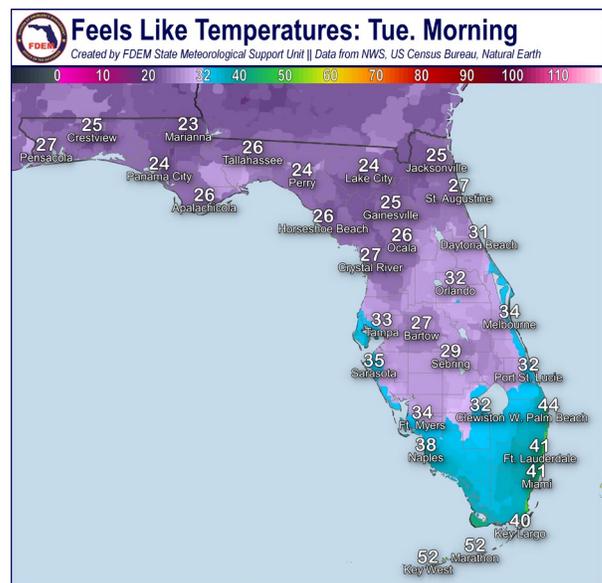


South. Low-level moisture across Central and South Florida will continue to promote **fog and low cloud development** on Saturday night, some of which may become **locally dense**. Behind the front, temperatures will cool into the lower to middle 50s across the western Florida Panhandle, with upper 50s to middle 60s elsewhere.

Isolated to widely scattered showers along and ahead of the cold front will shift south through the Florida Peninsula Sunday (30-60% chance of rain). Breezy post-frontal northwest winds will develop Sunday afternoon, with **gusts up to 30 mph** across North and Central Florida. A much colder and drier airmass will follow, bringing critically low relative humidity values back into North and Central Florida. High temperatures will remain in the 60s across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, 70s across Northeast Florida, and upper 70s to middle 80s across Central and South Florida. Dry conditions return statewide Sunday night, accompanied by a surge of colder air and return of **below normal low temperatures**. Lows will fall into the **30s** across North Florida, with **wind chills in the middle 20s to lower 30s**. **Freeze Watches** will likely be issued this weekend in advance of **sub-freezing temperatures** across North and interior Central Florida. **Cold Weather Advisories** may be required if trends continue. Central Florida will see lows in the lower to middle 40s (**feels-like temperatures mid to upper 30s**), while South Florida remains milder, with lows in the lower 50s.

Monday & Tuesday:

Rain chances drop to near-zero statewide Monday as the frontal boundary exits into the Florida Straits. Breezy northwesterly post-frontal winds will reinforce a pronounced shift toward much drier and colder conditions. Afternoon highs will struggle to warm, reaching only the lower to middle 50s across North Florida, middle 50s to lower 60s across Central and interior South Florida, and lower to middle 60s across South Florida and the Keys. Primary attention will focus on continued breezy winds, with **gusts of 20-25 mph** statewide. These conditions, combined with a very dry airmass, will **elevate wildfire concerns**. Clear skies and persistent winds Monday night will set the stage for the first widespread freeze since earlier this month. Lows are forecast to fall into the **upper 20s to lower 30s** across North Florida and the Nature Coast, **lower to middle 30s** across Central Florida, and isolated



pockets of **sub-freezing temperatures** along the spine of the Peninsula into interior South Florida. **Wind chills** will make conditions feel even colder, with **feels-like temperatures** dropping into the **lower 20s** across North Florida and **middle 20s** across the interior Central Peninsula. Some locations south of Lake Okeechobee could briefly experience **sub-freezing wind chills**. **Freeze Warnings** and **Cold Weather Advisories** are likely Monday night into Tuesday morning across much of the state.

Cloudless skies and a gradual warming trend will begin Tuesday, though temperatures will remain below seasonal averages. Afternoon highs will reach the middle to upper 50s across North Florida and the 60s elsewhere. Rain chances remain near-zero as winds gradually ease with high pressure building along the Gulf Coast. Another cold night is expected Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. While not as widespread or intense as Monday night, temperatures **at or below freezing** are possible across the Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins and portions of interior West-Central Florida. **Middle 30s** are expected along the I-10 corridor of the Florida Panhandle and across interior portions of the southern Florida Peninsula. One more round of **Freeze Warnings** may be required across parts of North-Central Florida. With lighter winds developing, **Frost Advisories** may also be needed where



patchy frost forms on grassy and elevated surfaces. A more sustained warming trend appears likely beyond midweek.

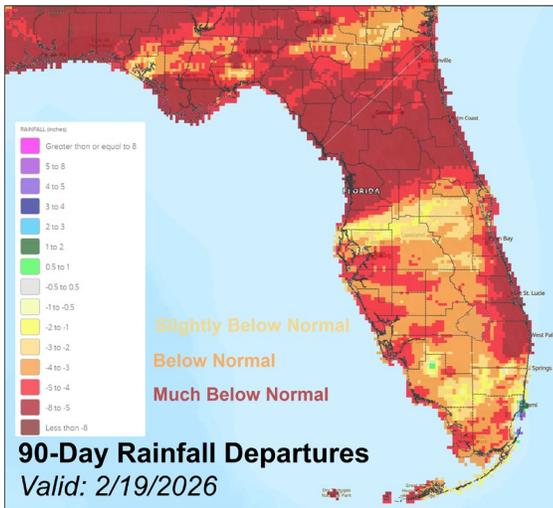
Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk of flash flooding across Florida during the forecast period. While rain chances increase today and into the weekend, precipitation totals are expected to remain light overall. The primary focus for measurable rainfall will be across the Florida Panhandle, where scattered amounts of 0.5-1” inches are forecast. Isolated heavier downpours within stronger or more organized showers and thunderstorms Saturday could produce localized totals approaching 1.5”; however, rainfall rates and coverage are not expected to support a broader flooding concern. Most of this rainfall will be welcomed, particularly across drought-ridden Sunshine State; however, the frontal passage will lose most of its associated rainfall south of the I-4 corridor on Sunday, with much of the Florida Peninsula receiving only trace amounts of rainfall through the remainder of the forecast period. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine flooding concerns. Numerous North-Central Florida rivers are running well-below normal streamflow given the ongoing drought conditions and lack of rainfall. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

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

Drought & Fire Weather:



Another strong cold front passed through the state Sunday, 2/15/2026, bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. However, rainfall totals associated with this frontal passage were not nearly enough to yield any improvements within the ongoing drought and further drought expansion or degradation was noted in this week’s [Drought Monitor](#). The heaviest rainfall from this cold front was found across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, with widespread totals between 0.5-1.5” and localized amounts upwards of 2.5-3”. When comparing the rainfall that occurred within the short window of time of Sunday, 30-day rainfall deficits across the region remain between 2-4” below normal for this time of year. This resulted in an 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 the entirety of the Florida Big Bend and eastern Florida Panhandle down to the coastline. A **moderate (level 1 of 4) to severe (level 2 of 4) drought** remains unchanged across the western Florida 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 changes were made along the I-4 corridor where a **moderate (level 1 of 4) drought** remains. However, additional expansion 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” below normal for much of Central Florida, with East-Central Florida up to 7” in some locations. Nearly no

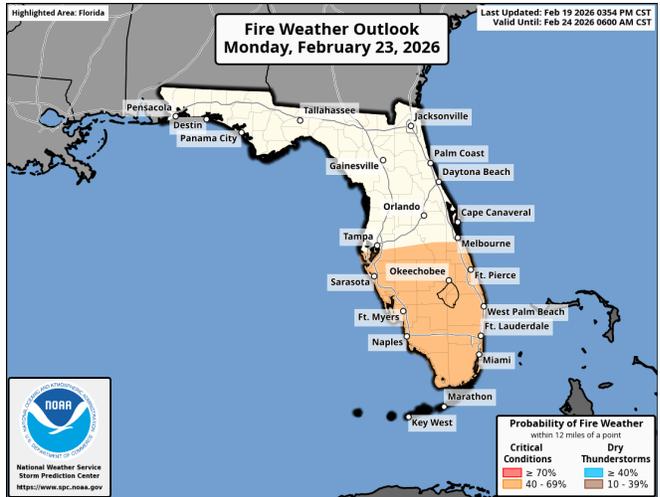
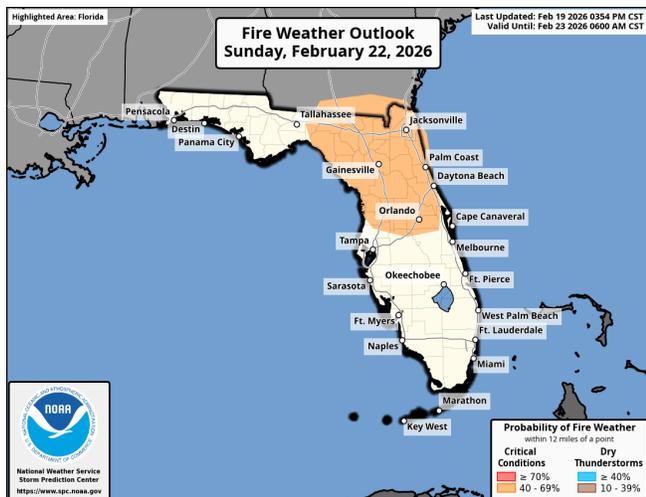
City	Year-to-Date (in)	Departure (in)	Normal (in)
Pensacola	5.26	-2.80	8.06
Tallahassee	4.34	-2.62	6.96
Jacksonville	1.75	-3.36	5.11
Tampa	1.57	-2.89	4.46
Orlando	1.14	-2.67	3.81
Melbourne	1.11	-2.89	4.00
Fort Myers	0.93	-2.69	3.62
Miami	1.72	-1.57	3.29
Key West	0.68	-2.19	2.87



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**. Rainfall over the next 5 days will be confined to regions north of the I-4 corridor, with the focal point of measurable rainfall across the Florida Panhandle. Totals associated with this next frontal system will be light in nature, with no location accumulating enough to push the needle toward drought alleviation.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **479** 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).

Relative humidity values across the state will remain mostly above critical thresholds today and Saturday as our next frontal system makes its approach to the Southeast United States this weekend. The driest conditions are expected throughout interior Central and South Florida where relative humidity values fall into the 35-45% range each afternoon; **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected. As the frontal system makes its way through the Sunshine State, thunderstorms may bring the threat of lightning and gusty/erratic winds, presenting localized fire weather concerns along and north of the I-10 corridor; however, all eyes turn to the strong post-frontal winds and extremely dry airmass that are to follow early next week. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is already outlooking **elevated to critical** wildfire conditions across portions of the state Sunday and Monday. **Critically low relative humidity values of 25-35%** arrive Sunday afternoon and overspread North Florida, accompanied by breezy north to northwest winds gusts of 20-30 mph. The timing and southward progression of the driest air will need to be monitored closely Sunday into Monday; however, **Red Flag Warning** conditions may develop, particularly across the Florida Peninsula on Monday. Expect existing **Burn Bans** to get extended or reissued for much of North-Central Florida and through the Florida Peninsula. **Relative humidity values** plummet into the **20s and 30s**, with some interior portions of the Florida Peninsula falling into the **upper teens**. Westerly wind gusts of 10-20 mph, combined with very dry fuels, could support rapid fire ignition and spread, as well as increasingly **erratic fire behavior**. Relative humidity values remain at or near critical thresholds Tuesday across much of the state with **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** likely, although winds are expected to gradually diminish. Areas of **fog and low clouds** are forecast tonight and Saturday night; further reductions in visibility can be expected near any ongoing wildfires or burn areas. According to the **Florida Forest Service**, there are currently 57 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,712 acres.

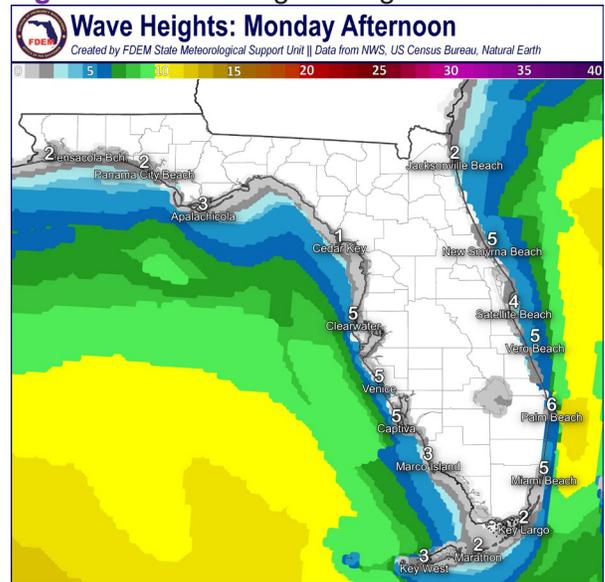


Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Unsettled beach and marine conditions can be expected throughout the forecast period. A **moderate to high risk of rip currents** will persist along Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches today and Saturday. As southerly winds build ahead of our next frontal system Sunday, **high rip current risk** conditions are forecast along most Gulf and Atlantic Coast beaches. A **high risk of rip currents** can be expected along all Florida beaches on Monday and Tuesday, although portions of the western Florida Panhandle may gradually return to **moderate** thresholds by Tuesday.

Wave heights of 2-3' statewide today and Saturday will rapidly build throughout Florida's coastal and surf zones, courtesy of strong frontal breezes. **Wave heights of 3-5'** can be expected along the Gulf Coast Sunday, with localized **wave heights** reaching **6'** along the Florida West Coast. Strong post-frontal north to northwest winds early next week will produce a hazardous sea state along Florida Peninsula beaches. **High Surf Advisory** conditions are possible along portions of the East-Central and Southeast Florida Coast Monday and Tuesday. **Wave heights of 4-6'** will linger along the West Coast Monday, before the highest surf shifts to Atlantic beaches. Widespread **wave heights of 5-7'** are forecast along the Atlantic Coast Monday, with **localized breakers of 8-11'** possible along southern portions of the Space Coast and Treasure Coast. Winds begin to ease Tuesday; however, elevated surf and choppy coastal conditions will persist along the Florida East Coast, where breakers of **4-6' (locally 7')** remain likely.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 60 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **Moderate levels of algal blooms** were reported with the Pahokee Marina in southeastern Lake Okeechobee, the Sebastian Canal within the Caloosahatchee River, Lake Avalon and Crescent Lake, Shands Bridge, Doctors Lake, Mandarin Point within the St. Johns River basin.



[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend & stay warm next week!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

