



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Saturday, February 21, 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	Cody Nowak	(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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Polk	Polk County Sheriff Outdoor Event
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Medical Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

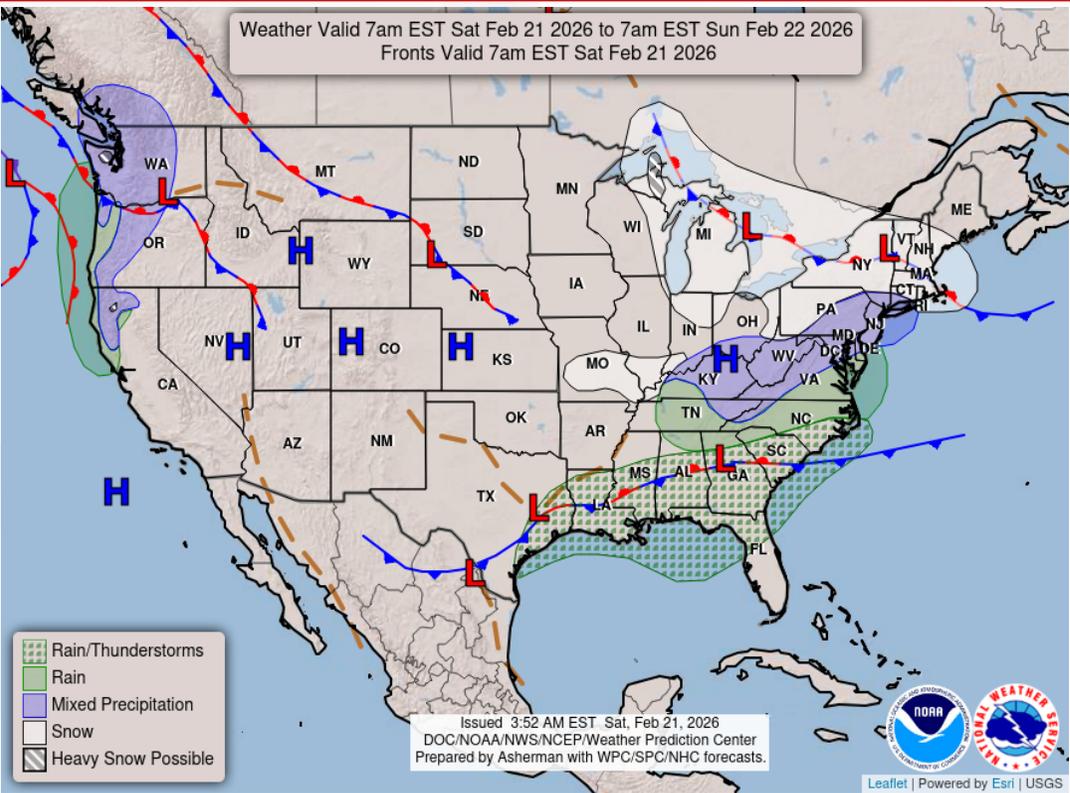
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

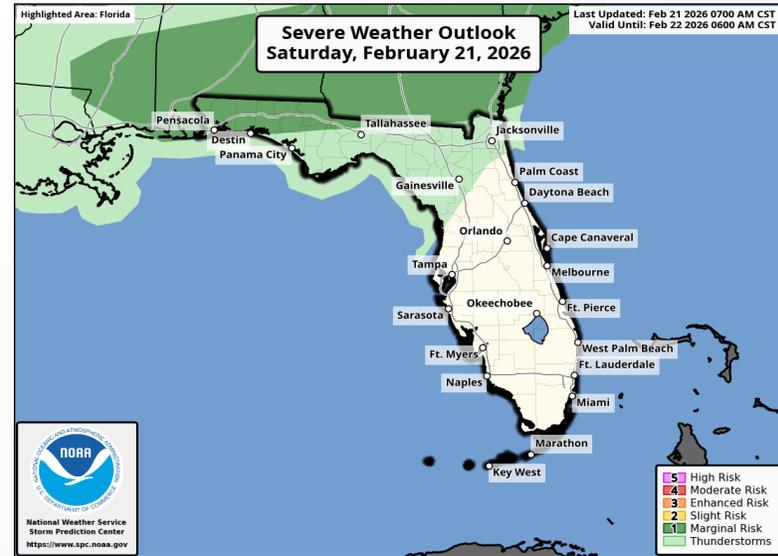


# Meteorology Summary

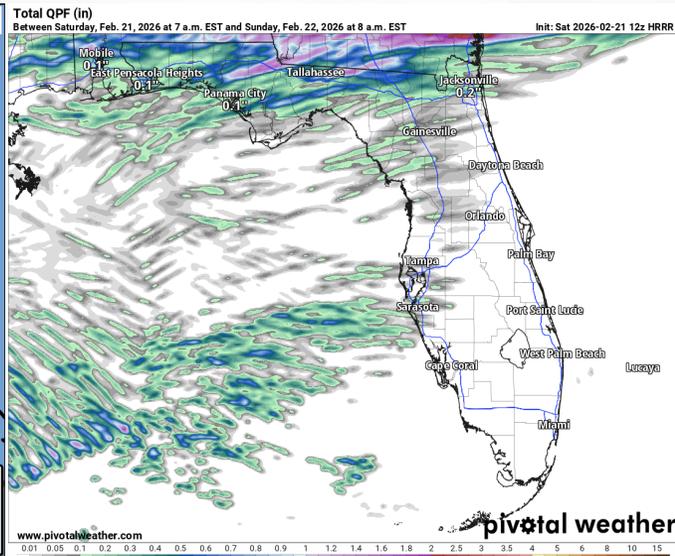


Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	L	L	L						
Tornado	L	L								
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail	L									
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.46 ft. (2.09 ft. <u>Below Normal</u> )									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	485 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Severe Weather Risk – Today



Forecast 24-Hour Rainfall Totals



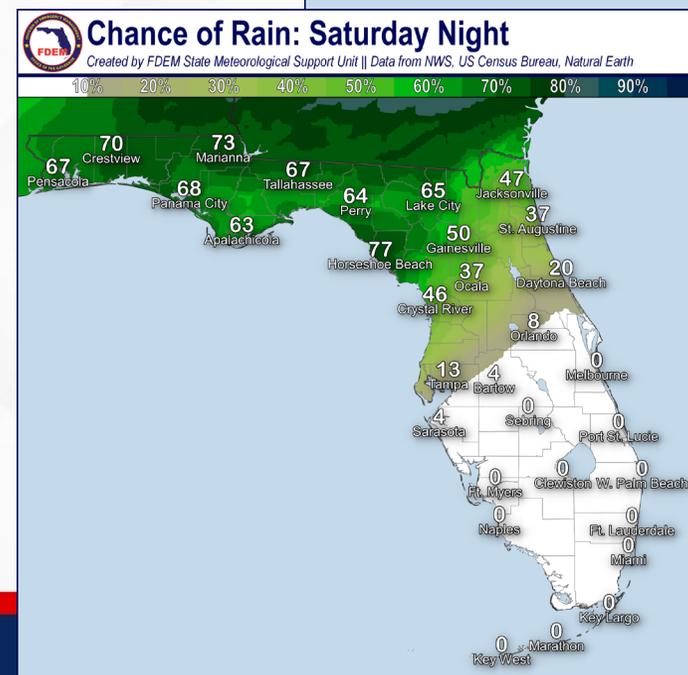
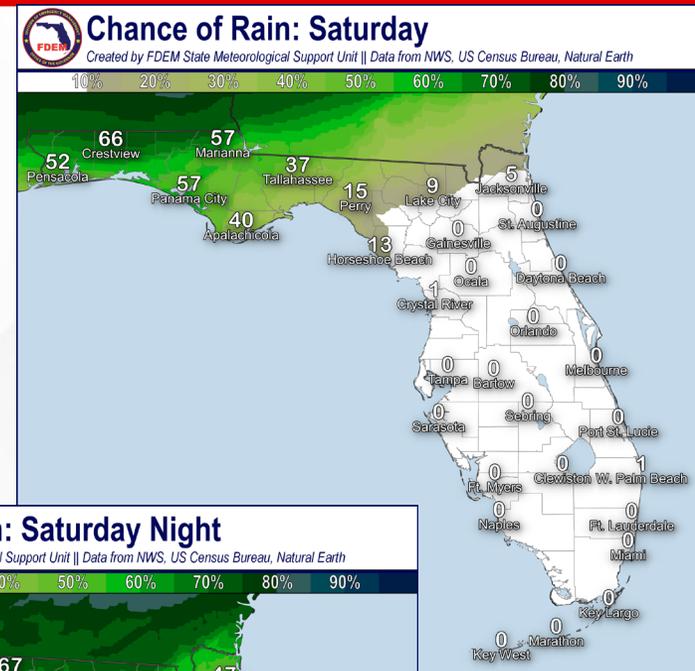
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Fog and low clouds along Gulf coastal zones will likely linger into the late morning hours and may persist into the early afternoon in some locations. The primary weather headline today will be a frontal system triggering scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms across the Florida Panhandle (35-65% chance of rain). A few thunderstorms may become **strong to locally severe** following the peak heating hours of the day. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) has placed the Florida Panhandle under a **Marginal Risk (Level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather**. Primary hazards include locally damaging wind gusts of 45-60 mph, occasional lightning, and isolated instances of hail (0.5-1" in diameter). While the greatest tornado potential appears to remain just north of the Florida state line across the Deep South, thunderstorms along and north of the I-10 corridor could still produce a brief, isolated tornado. The overall severe weather threat will be limited by the amount of energy available to maintain these thunderstorms as activity may maximize in coverage during the end of the daytime hours. Rain chances will increase and gradually shift eastward through the evening and overnight hours (45-75% chance of rain), setting the stage for a wet Sunday across portions of the Central Florida Peninsula. The severe weather threat will largely diminish after sunset.

Afternoon highs will reach the upper 70s to lower 80s across North Florida. Across the Florida Peninsula, ample sunshine and minimal rain coverage will allow temperatures to climb into the middle to upper 80s, with a few interior locations potentially eclipsing the **90-degree mark**.

Mild conditions continue for one more night, with lows falling into the upper 40s to middle 50s across the Florida Panhandle and into the 60s across the Florida Peninsula. Abundant low-level moisture ahead of the approaching shower and rain activity will support another night of **patchy to locally dense fog and low clouds**.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Increasing southerly winds ahead of the approaching frontal system will result in a **high risk of rip currents** along all Florida Panhandle beaches. A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for all Florida East Coast beaches, with a **locally high risk** along Palm Beach County beaches. Low risk conditions will persist along the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Winds increasing ahead of the advancing frontal system will allow **wave heights** to reach **2-4'** along Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches today.

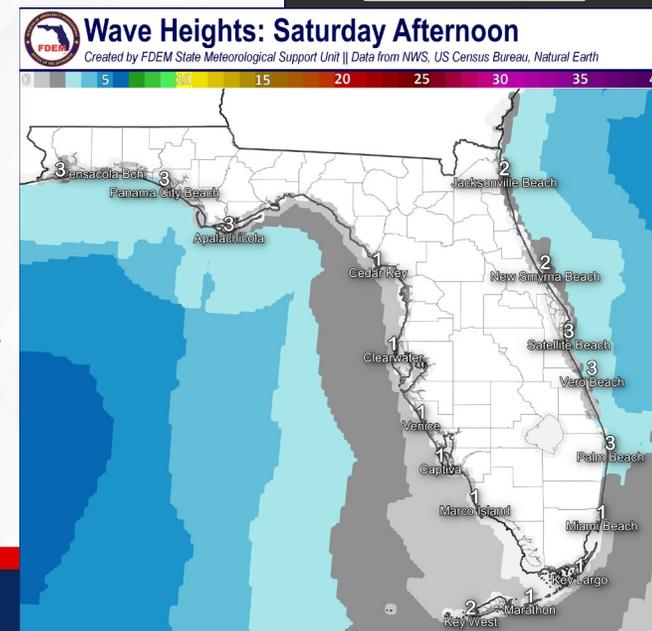
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe and Miami-Dade County, with very low concentrations collected along Bay County. (valid 2/13/2026).

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms are forecast to increase in coverage and intensity along the Florida Panhandle this afternoon, gradually spreading eastward along the I-10 corridor this evening and tonight. Rainfall totals will generally remain between 0.5-1"; however, **locally heavy downpours** within the stronger or more organized activity will be possible. Isolated pockets of 1-2" cannot be ruled out, especially for Florida Panhandle locations that see multiple rounds of rain and thunderstorm activity.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.46 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.09 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



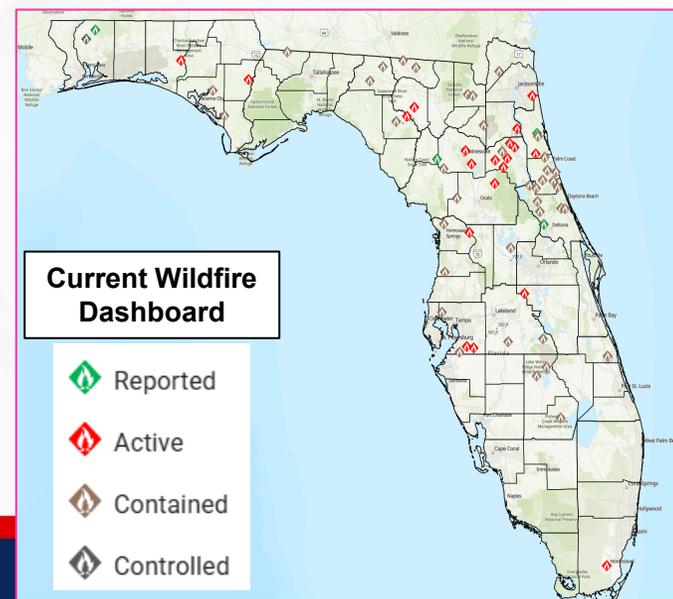
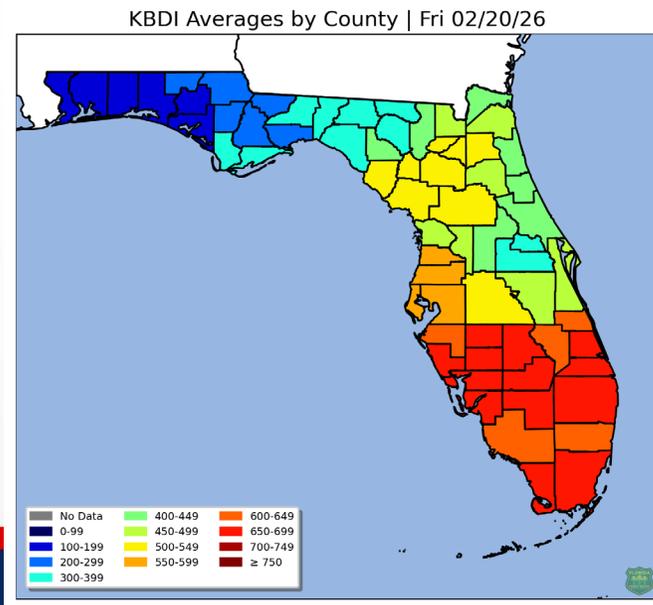
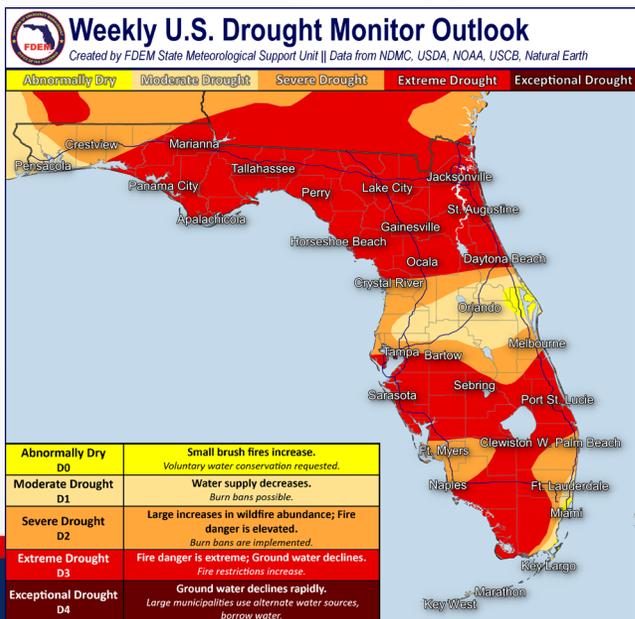


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** High pressure conditions will continue to limit rain chances for much of the state outside of the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend where a frontal system will influence increasing rain and thunderstorm chances today. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds; however, the driest conditions (**30-40% relative humidity**) are expected throughout the interior Florida Peninsula. Winds are expected to remain near 5-15 mph throughout the state, with **higher wind gusts of 15-25 mph** possible closer to the approaching cold front across North Florida. A few thunderstorms along the I-10 corridor today may be **strong to locally severe**, and pose the risk of lightning and gusty/erratic winds. Despite rain chances in the equation, persistent long-term drought and dry soils/vegetation will still promote an **elevated to locally sensitive wildfire threat** statewide. Calm winds ahead of the frontal system will allow for pockets of **fog and low clouds** to develop throughout the southern Florida Peninsula tonight into Sunday 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.

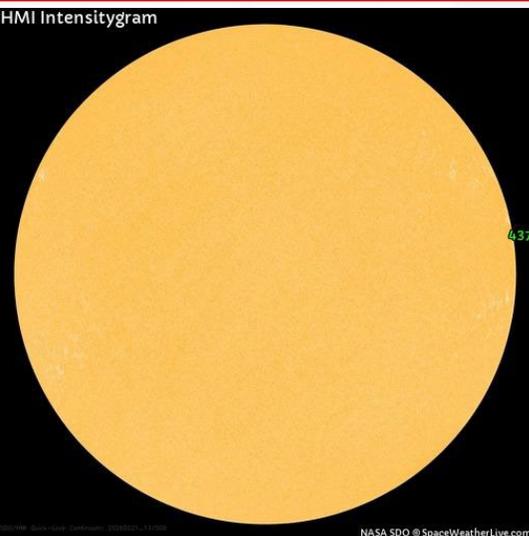
**Drought (2/19/26):** Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **485 (+6)** 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).

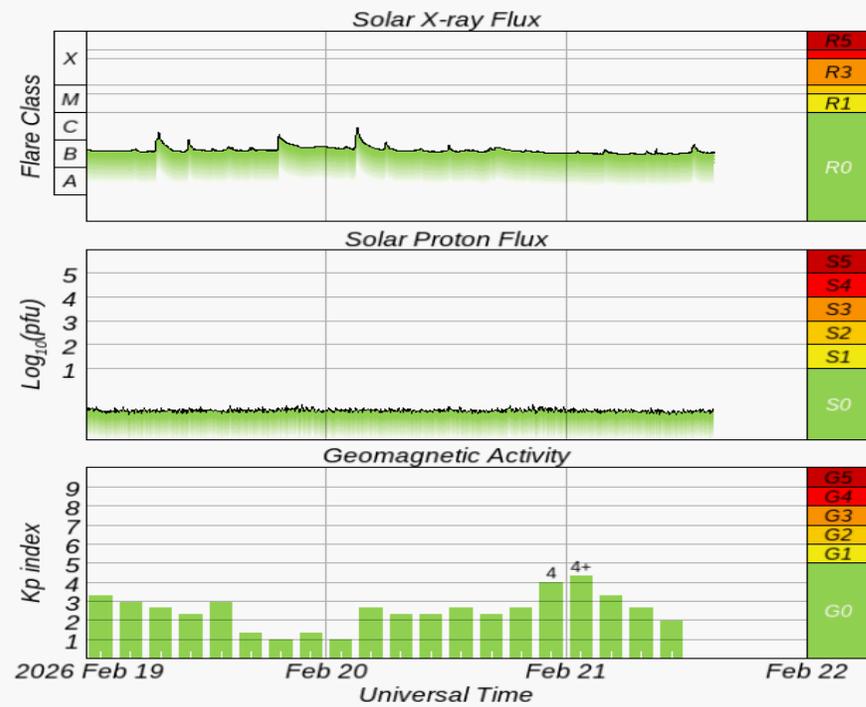
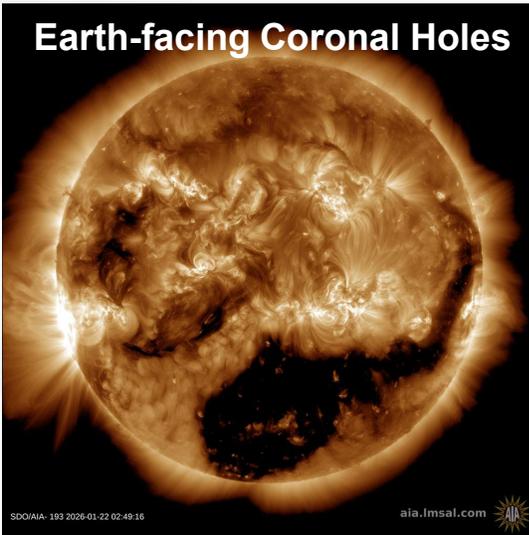




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	B4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/21	2/22
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 is expected to continue at very low levels with a chance for isolated moderate (C-class) solar flares over the next 24 hours. Chances for a more active solar flare pattern will be possible into Sunday due to old sunspot regions returning to the eastern limb. An ambient-like state within the solar winds is forecast for today and no organized geomagnetic storming is expected. The overall space weather 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	

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