



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, February 22, 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	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(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	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

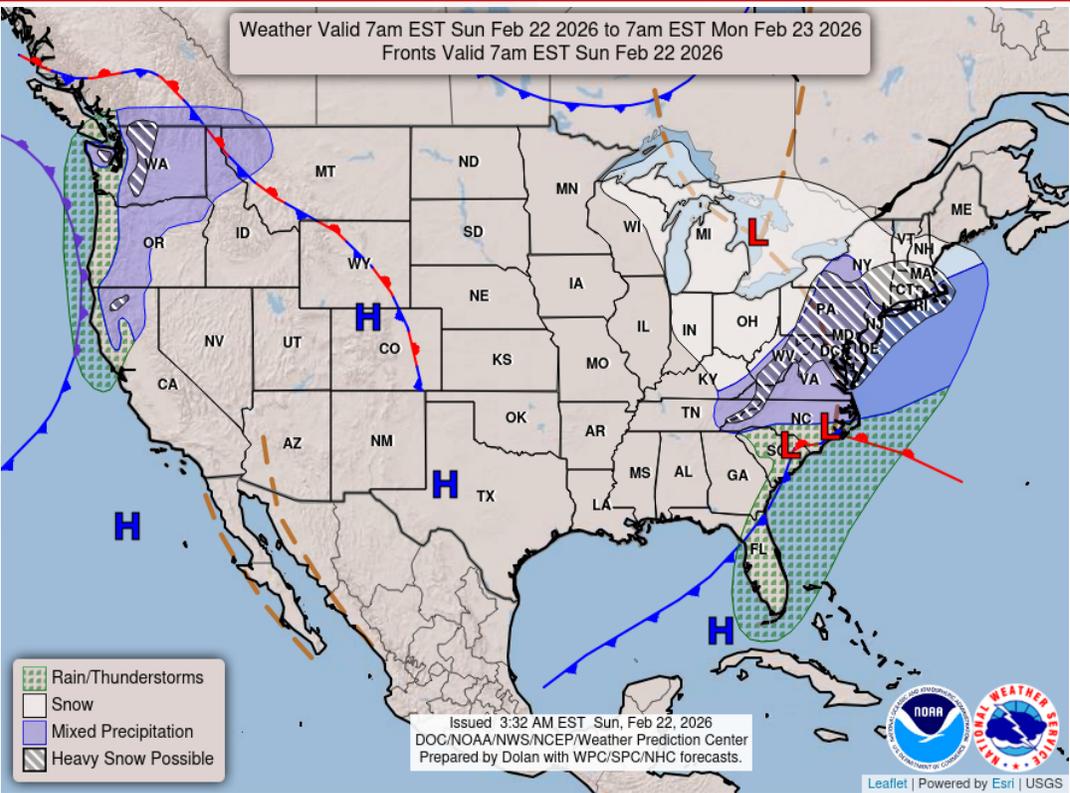
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

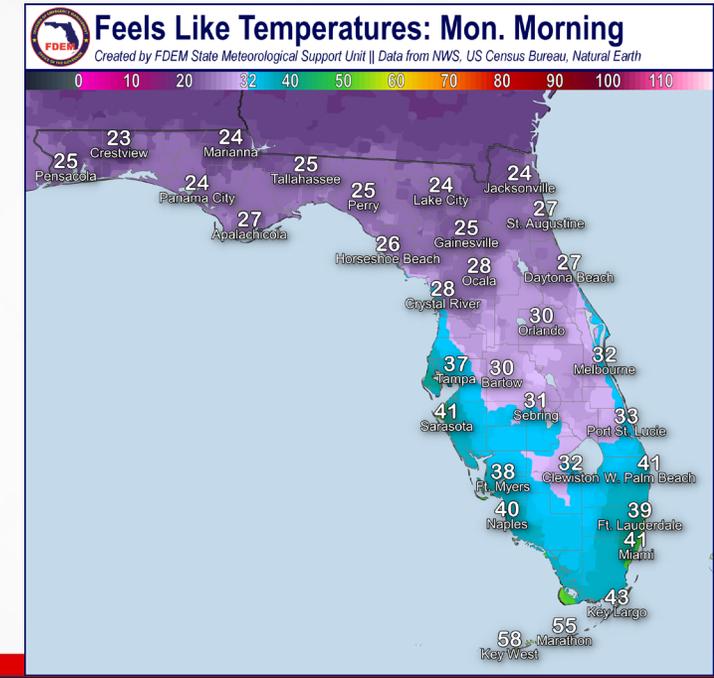
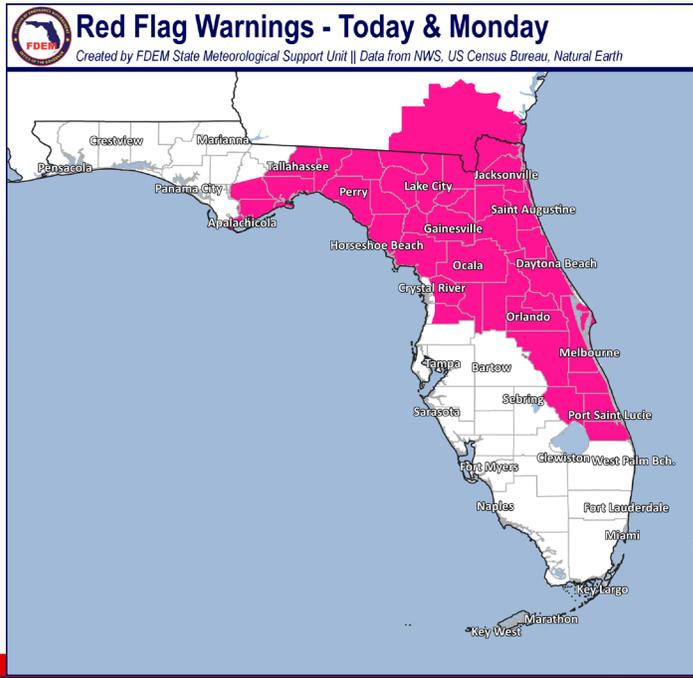


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning								L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	L	L	L			
Fog (Overnight)						L			L	L
Wildfire	M	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	H		M	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.44 ft. (2.11 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	487 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

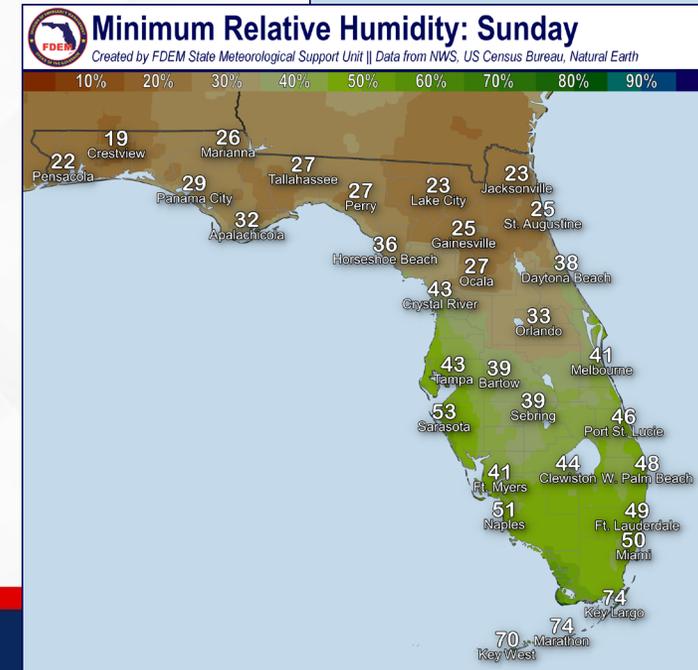
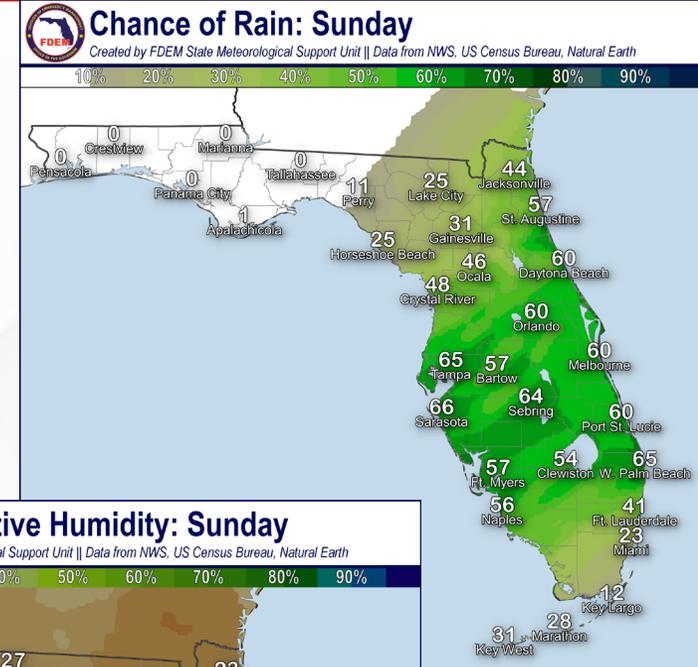
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Dense Fog conditions across South Florida will gradually lift and dissipate this morning as shower activity associated with a cold front approaches from the north. Currently the shower activity is moving through Central Florida but will push into South Florida later this morning and throughout the afternoon (45-60% chance of rain). With daytime heating and already warmer conditions across South Florida, an isolated thunderstorm or two cannot be ruled out. Behind the cold front, breezy and at times gusty winds will develop out of the northwest. Winds of 15-25 mph can be expected, with **wind gusts reaching upwards of 25-35 mph**. **Wind Advisories** extend across much of the Panhandle through this evening to account for gusty winds. Also behind this cold front will be a much drier punch of air bringing relative humidity values to **critical thresholds** this afternoon for most of North and Central Florida (**20-35%**). **Red Flag Warnings** will go into effect for most of that region to account for critical relative humidity values and elevated winds occurring over extreme drought conditions.

High temperatures will reach the middle 50s to lower 60s across the Panhandle, middle 60s to lower 70s across the Big Bend, middle to upper 70s across Central Florida and upper 70s to middle 80s across South Florida.

As the front clears the state this evening and overnight, drier and much cooler air will push southward behind the front. Elevated wind gusts of 15-25 mph will continue throughout the overnight hours across the state as that colder air rushes in. There may be a slight chance for some **patchy fog** early in the morning hours along portions of Southwest Florida, but with the elevated winds the confidence is not as high.

Low temperatures will fall into the **lower to middle 30s** across North Florida, **middle 30s** to lower 40s across Central Florida and 40s to lower 50s across South Florida. A **Freeze Warning** will go into effect tonight for portions of interior Northeast Florida for **sub-freezing temperatures** expected tonight. With elevated winds, **temperatures will feel-like** they are in the **20s** across North Florida, **upper 20s to lower 30s** across interior Central Florida and **lower to middle 30s** for the coasts, and **middle 30s** to lower 40s across South Florida near sunrise Monday morning. **Cold Weather Advisories** have been issued across several interior portions of the Peninsula ahead of Monday morning.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Gusty post-frontal winds out of the northwest and distant ocean swells will create a **moderate to high rip current risk statewide**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: A large ocean swell in the central gulf will lead to **elevated surf of 3-6'** for numerous Gulf and West Coast beaches today. Similarly, another large swell off the Atlantic Coast will create wave **heights of 3-5'** for numerous Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches. South Florida beaches will see wave heights near 2-3'.

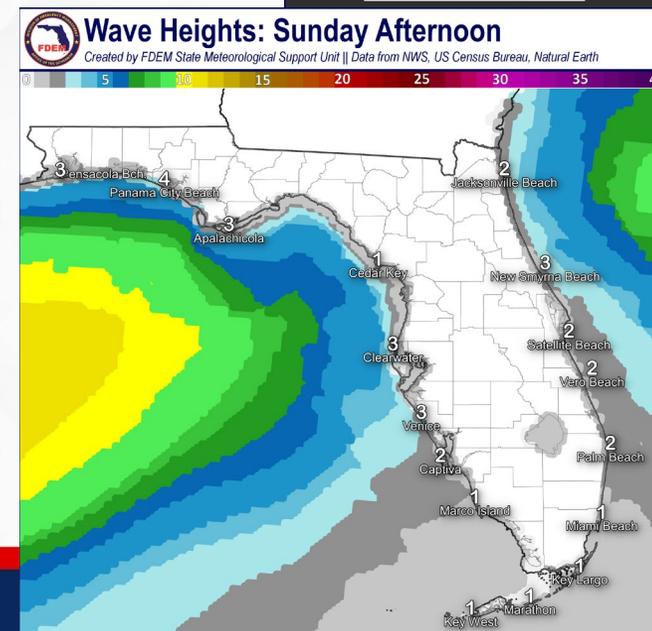
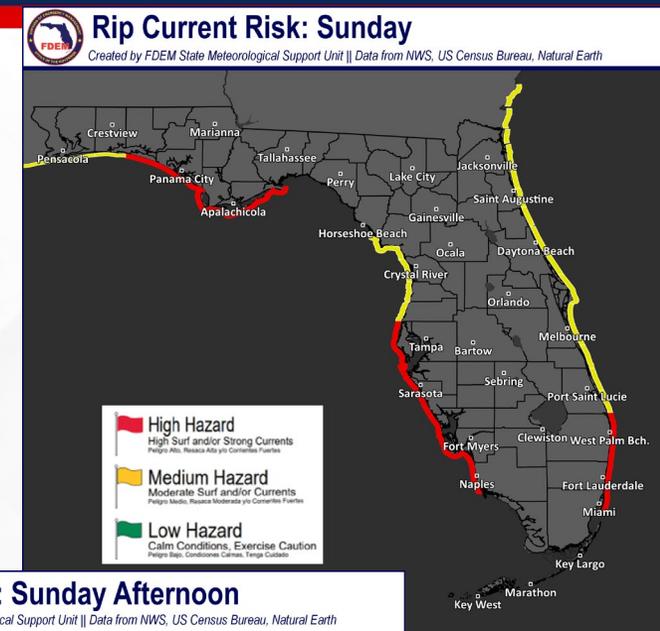
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe and Miami-Dade County, with very low concentrations collected along Bay County. (valid 2/13/2026).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers associated with the remnants of Saturday's cold front will push through the Peninsula today bringing light to moderate rainfall. An embedded thunderstorm or two cannot be ruled out this afternoon across South Florida with the help of daytime heating processes. Generally, rainfall totals are expected to remain below 0.5", but a thunderstorm or heavier downpours could produce upwards of 1-2".

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.44 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.11 feet below normal for this time of year.



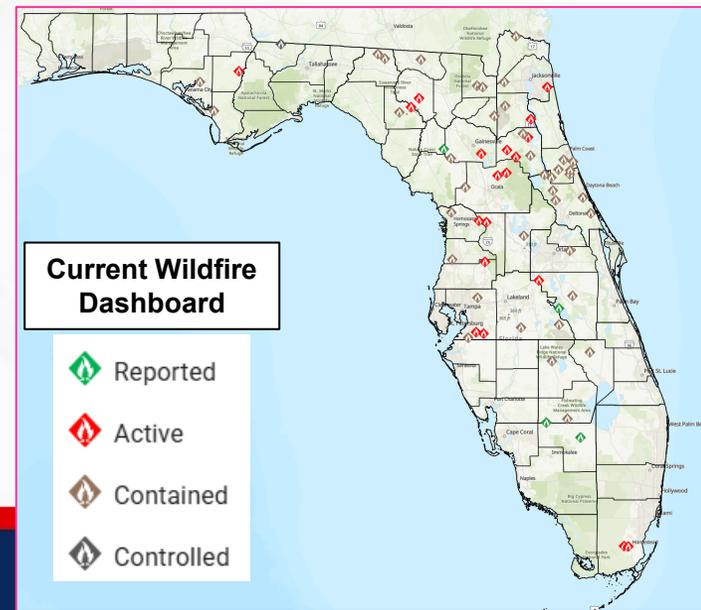
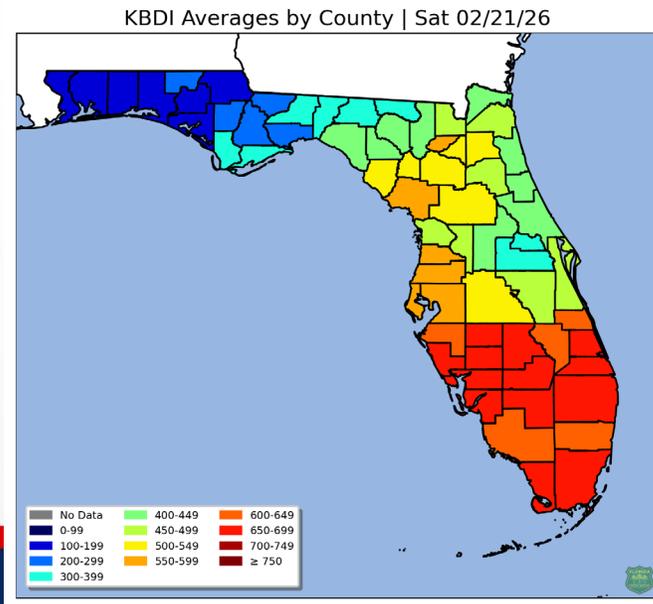
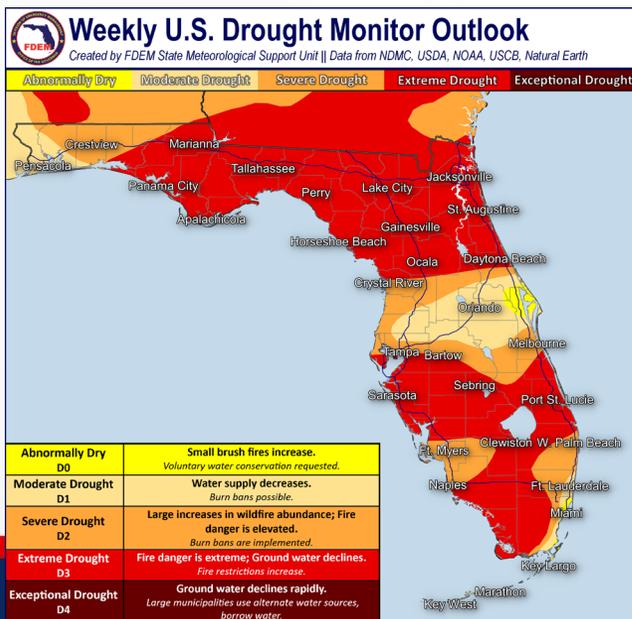


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Behind last night's cold front, much drier air and breezy winds will develop across much of North and Central Florida. Widely scattered showers associated with this cold front will push through Central Florida this morning and into South Florida where rain chances become more isolated. Relative humidity values are expected to fall to **critical thresholds** this afternoon throughout North and North-Central Florida (**20-30%**). Breezy post-frontal winds will reach 15-25 mph with stronger wind **gusts reaching 20-35 mph** this afternoon. **Red Flag Warnings** extend across much of North and East Central Florida for this afternoon as **critical fire conditions** will develop, especially given the expanding extreme drought conditions. **Wind Advisories** have been issued for the Panhandle ahead of breezy conditions and where relative humidity values won't quite reach critical thresholds. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking Elevated (level 1 of 3) Wildfire Conditions across the Big Bend and Florida Peninsula today. Some **patchy fog** may be possible early Monday morning along Southwest Florida and South Florida. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 63 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,562 acres.

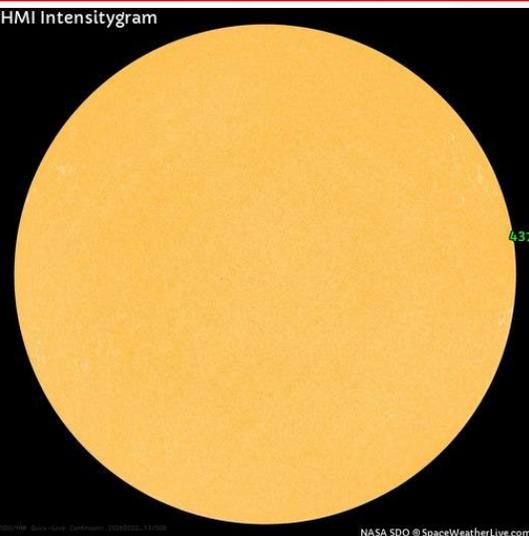
Drought (2/19/26): Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **487 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **29** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

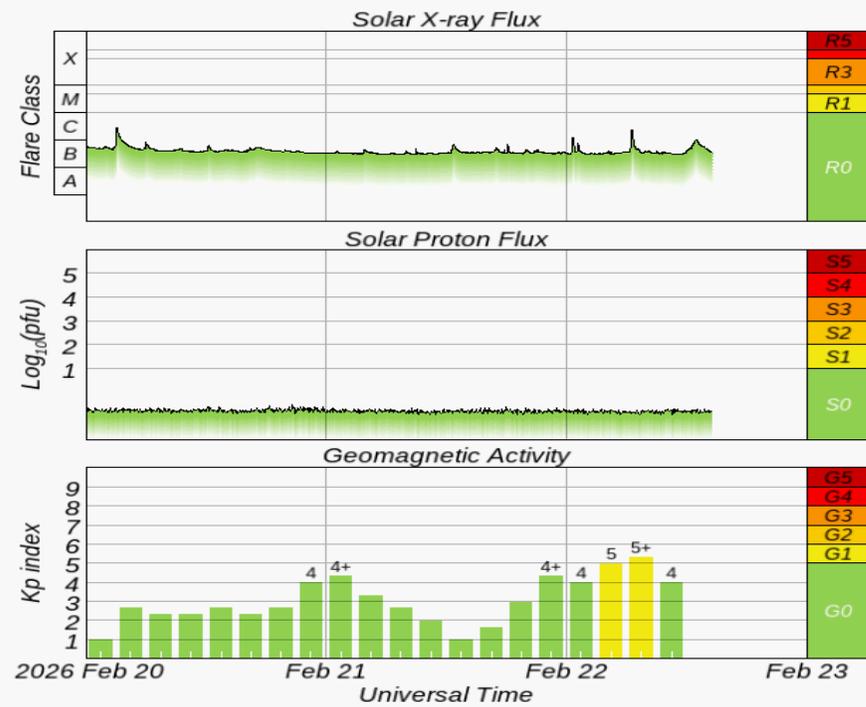
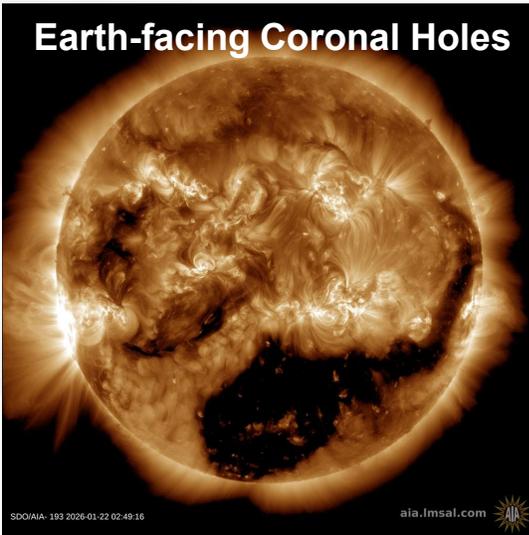




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/22	2/23
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be very low with a chance for isolated moderate (C-class) solar flares. There is a slight chance for an isolated strong (M-class) solar flare Monday and Tuesday. Any M-class flares that develop will bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions will continue due to ongoing Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to reach minor to moderate (G1-G2) geomagnetic storming conditions today due to CH HSS conditions. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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