



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, February 23, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@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	Gadsden	SPC Outlook Update Meeting (V)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Bradford	Fiscally Constrained County EM Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Leon, Bradford	Travel to FDEM HQ / Fiscally Constrained County EM Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Leon	Outreach Event / Travel to FDEM HQ
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Exercise Planning Meeting (V)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	St. Lucie	County EOC Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Sarasota	County EM Visit
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Leon	Travel to FDEM HQ



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	Holmes	F-ROC TA / Team Call
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Medical Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Bradford	EM Meeting / Team Call
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Bradford	EM Meeting / Team Call
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Admin Duties / Team Call
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Admin Duties / Team Call
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Admin Duties / Team Call
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Admin Duties / Team Call

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4

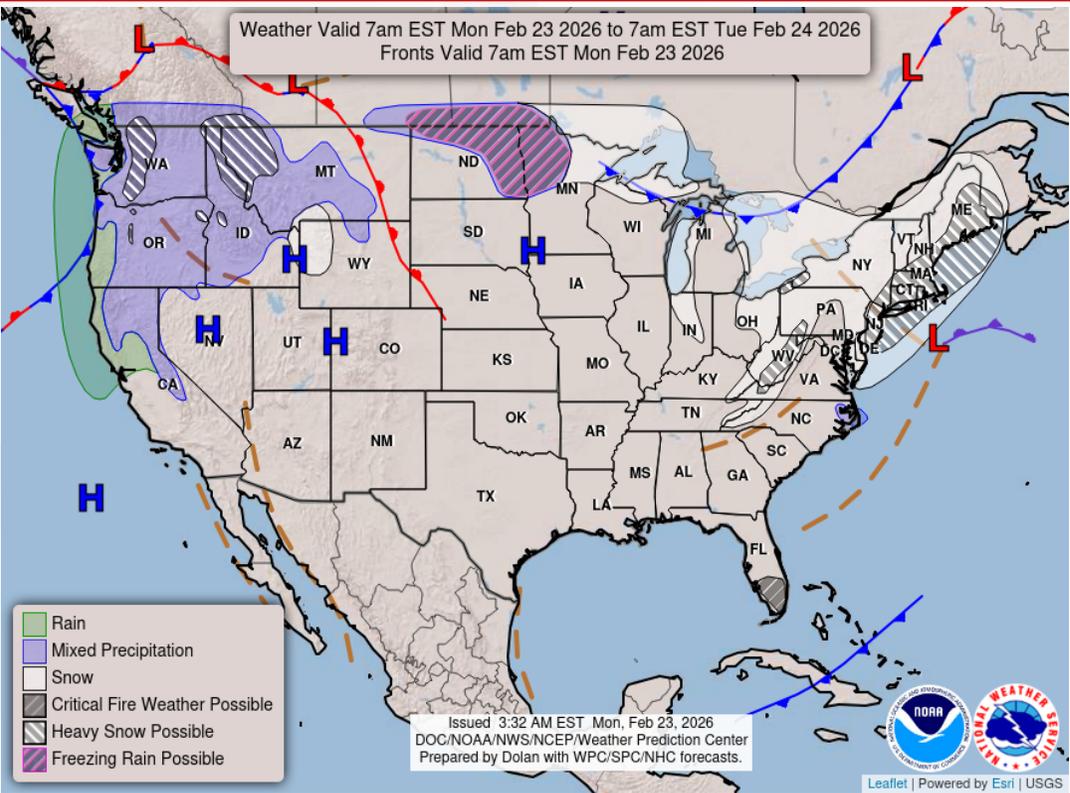
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

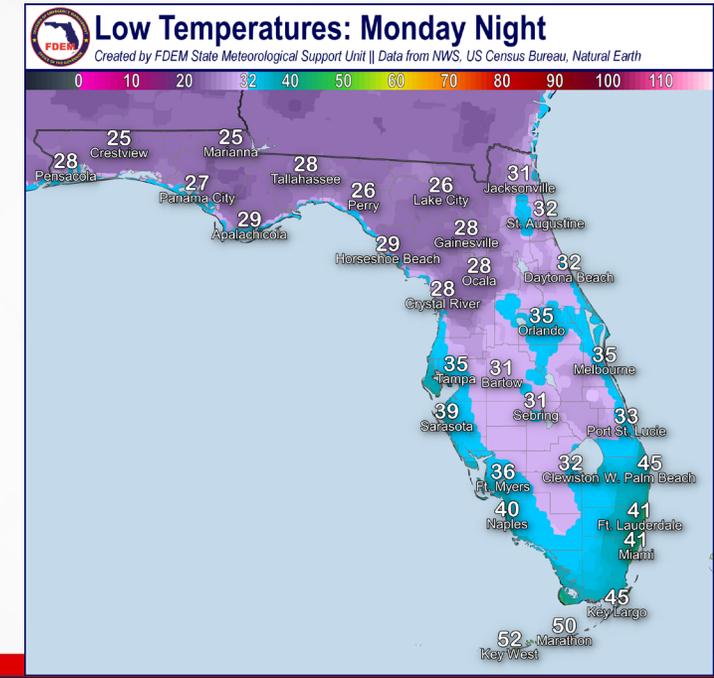
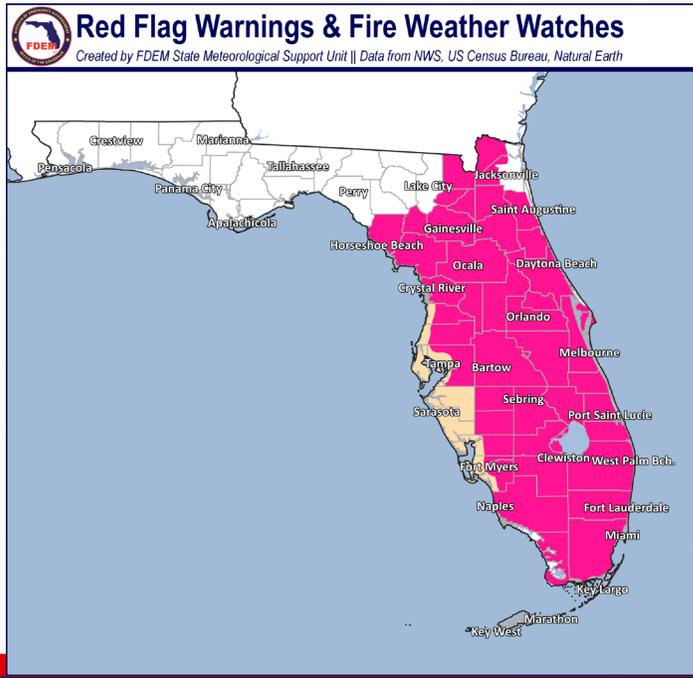


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wind Chill (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	H		H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.41 ft. (2.14 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	489 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



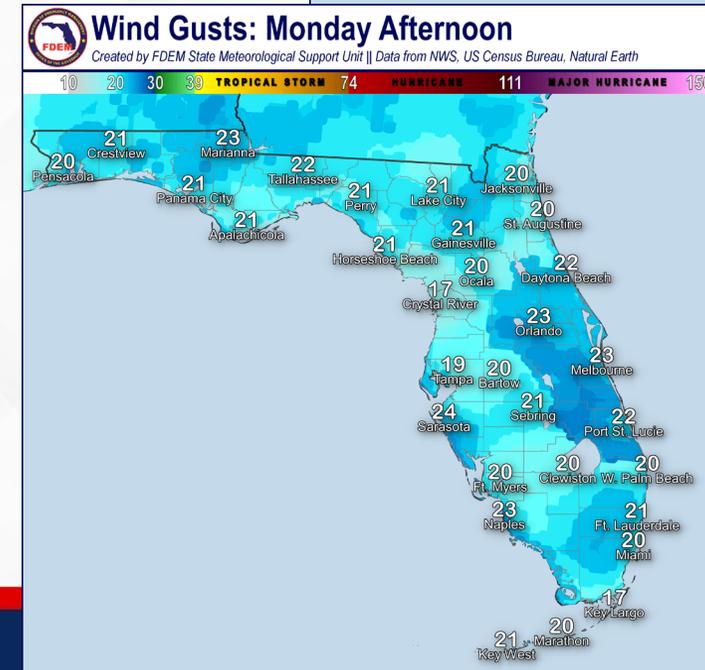
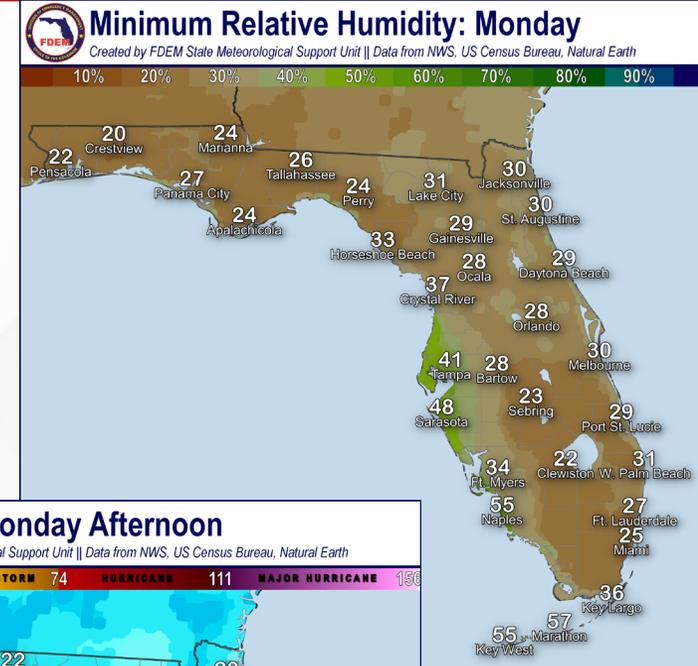


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

It's a breezy and cold start across the Sunshine State this morning courtesy of the cold front that pushed through over the weekend. **Cold Weather Advisories** should be allowed to expire by the mid-morning hours as temperatures begin to gradually warm up. Breezy northwesterly winds will persist throughout the day with **gusts reaching 20-30 mph** keeping things a little cooler than normal. These breezy winds will also help to usher very dry air throughout the state dropping relative humidity values to **critical thresholds nearly statewide (20-30%)**. With elevated winds and very dry air, **Red Flag Warnings** will be in effect throughout the Big Bend and the entire Florida Peninsula today due to **critical wildfire conditions**, especially with the extreme drought conditions. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is also outlooking an **Elevated to Critical (level 1-2 of 3) Wildfire Concerns** for these areas through today. While Red Flag Warnings have not been issued across the Panhandle and the western Big Bend, **elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected. High temperatures will keep the 50s and lower 60s across the state this afternoon.

Winds should slowly ease up this evening and overnight, but will remain breezy at times. More shady areas could see **instances of patchy frost** by early Tuesday morning, but the dry air may limit its formation. Temperatures will plunge tonight bringing some of the coldest temperatures we have seen since early February across the state. Low temperatures will fall into the **middle 20s to lower 30s** across North and North-Central Florida, **middle 30s** across Central Florida and **middle 30s to lower 40s** across South Florida. **Freeze Warnings** will go into effect tonight nearly statewide for **sub-freezing to freezing temperatures** by the early morning hours, with **hard freeze conditions** possible for the Panhandle and Big Bend. Despite the lighter winds compared to Sunday night, temperatures will still feel cooler than the temperatures near sunrise Tuesday morning. **Feels-like temperatures** will be in the **20s and 30s** statewide near sunrise Tuesday morning. **Cold Weather Advisories** will go into effect nearly statewide overnight and early Tuesday 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: Large ocean swells across the Peninsula will lead to **wave heights of 4-8'** with larger breaking **waves of 8-11'** off the Southeast Florida beaches. Panhandle beaches will see **wave heights near 3-4'**.

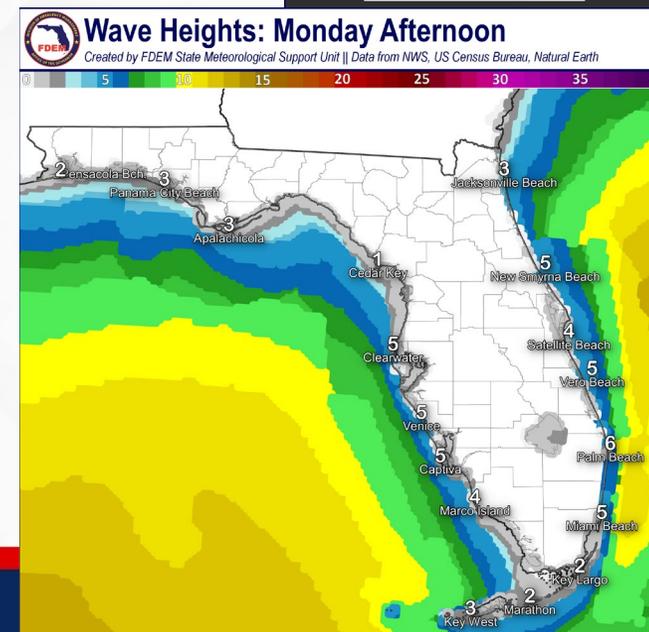
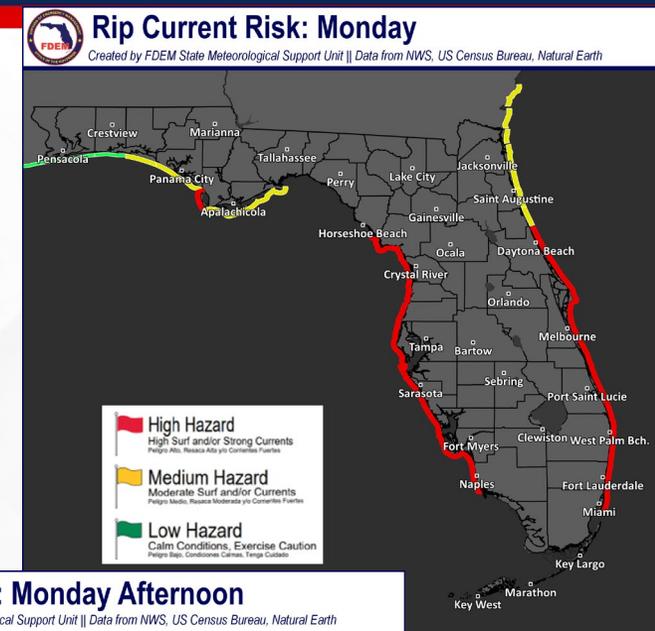
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe and Miami-Dade County, with very low concentrations collected along Bay County. (valid 2/13/2026).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today.

Riverine Flooding: There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](http://www.riverforecastcenter.com).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.41 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.14 feet below normal for this time of year.



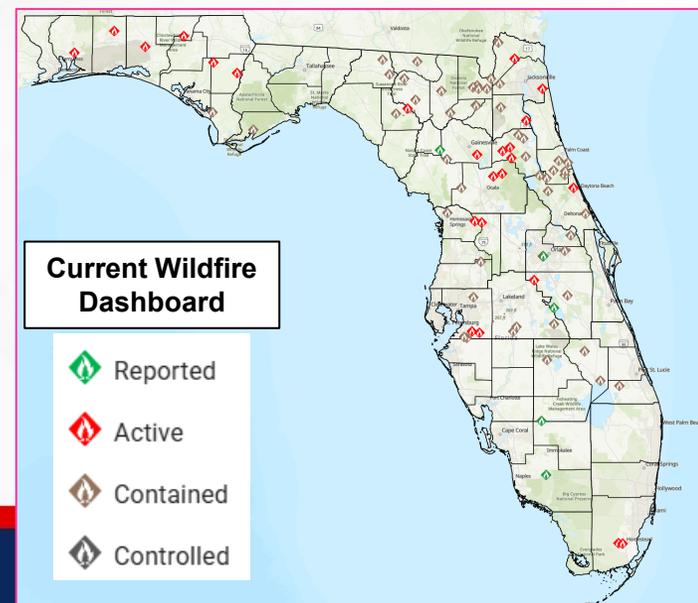
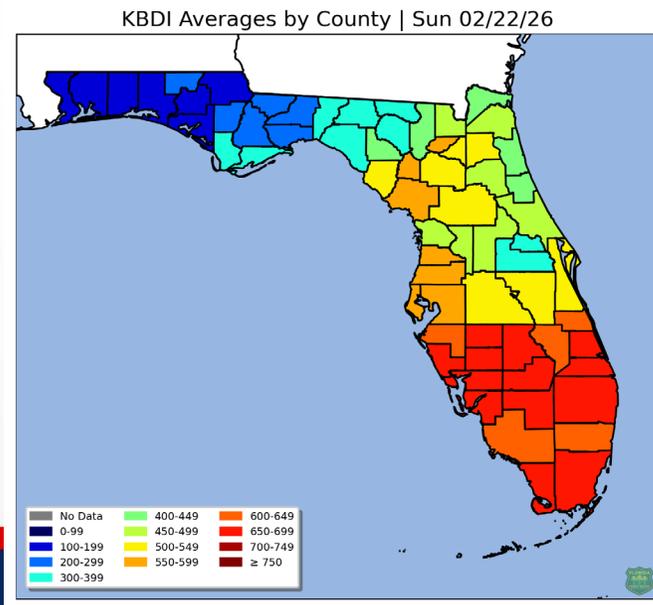
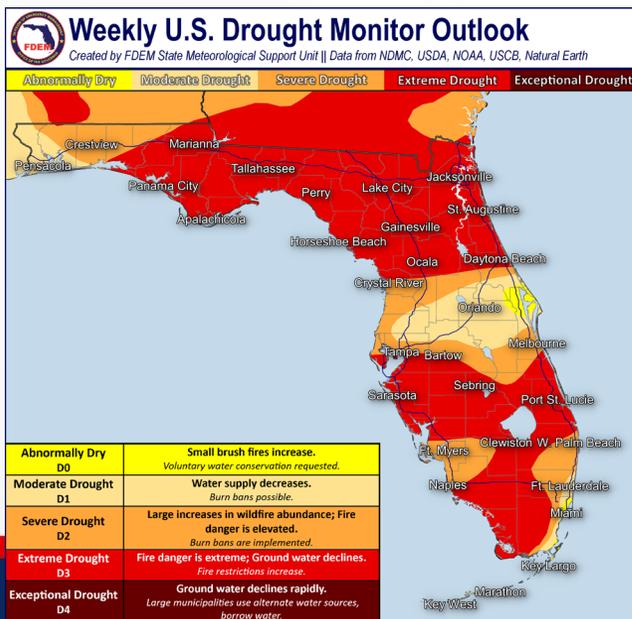


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Very dry air and breezy winds across the state will lead to critical wildfire conditions developing today. Relative humidity values nearly statewide will fall into **critical thresholds**, except for coastal West-Central Florida, throughout the day (**20-30%**). Wind gusts will reach **upwards of 20-30 mph** throughout the day. All of these conditions on top of expanding extreme drought conditions will create **critical wildfire conditions** throughout the Big Bend and the Peninsula. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Elevated to Critical (level 1-2 of 3) Wildfire Conditions** throughout the Big Bend and the Peninsula. **Red Flag Warnings** have also been issued and will go into effect this morning for those areas as well. **Elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected for the Panhandle. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 80 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,732 acres.

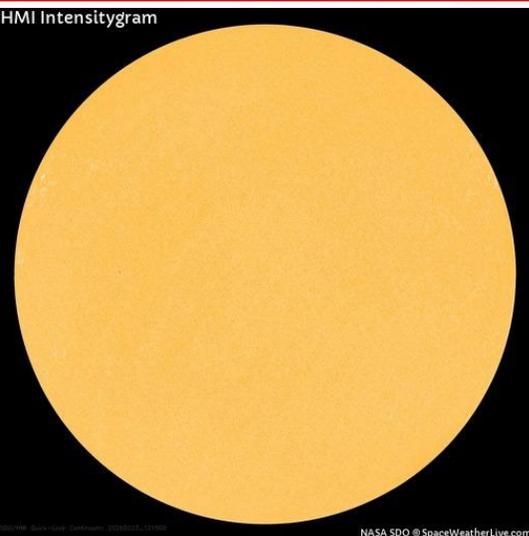
Drought (2/19/26): Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **489 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **33** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

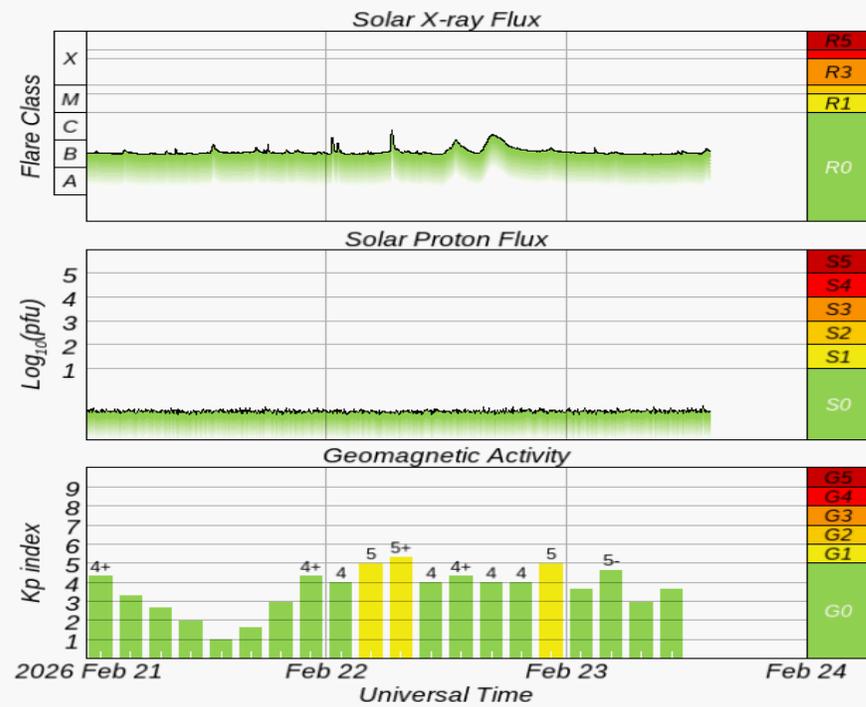




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/23	2/24
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be very low with a very low chance for moderate (C-class) solar flares as there are no sunspots on the surface of the sun. Enhanced solar wind conditions can be expected to continue through the middle of the week due to Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. The Earth's geomagnetic field will see active levels of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming conditions through today, followed by additional activity. 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	

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