



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Tuesday, February 24, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@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	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	<a href="mailto:Kennedy.Tartt@em.myflorida.com">Kennedy.Tartt@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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson, Leon	County EM Meeting / SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	HSEEP Course Instructions Prep
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	End of Month Admin / County EOC Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	HURREX IPM / RSW Airport EM Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting



Region 5 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6  
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6  
 Region 10 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Medical Leave
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In State	Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	SEOC Ribbon Cutting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	FEPA Meetings
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Lake	Training: Scheduling Mgmt
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	WBT w/810 / Admin Duties
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	WBT w/810 / Admin Duties

Region 1 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator Manager

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4

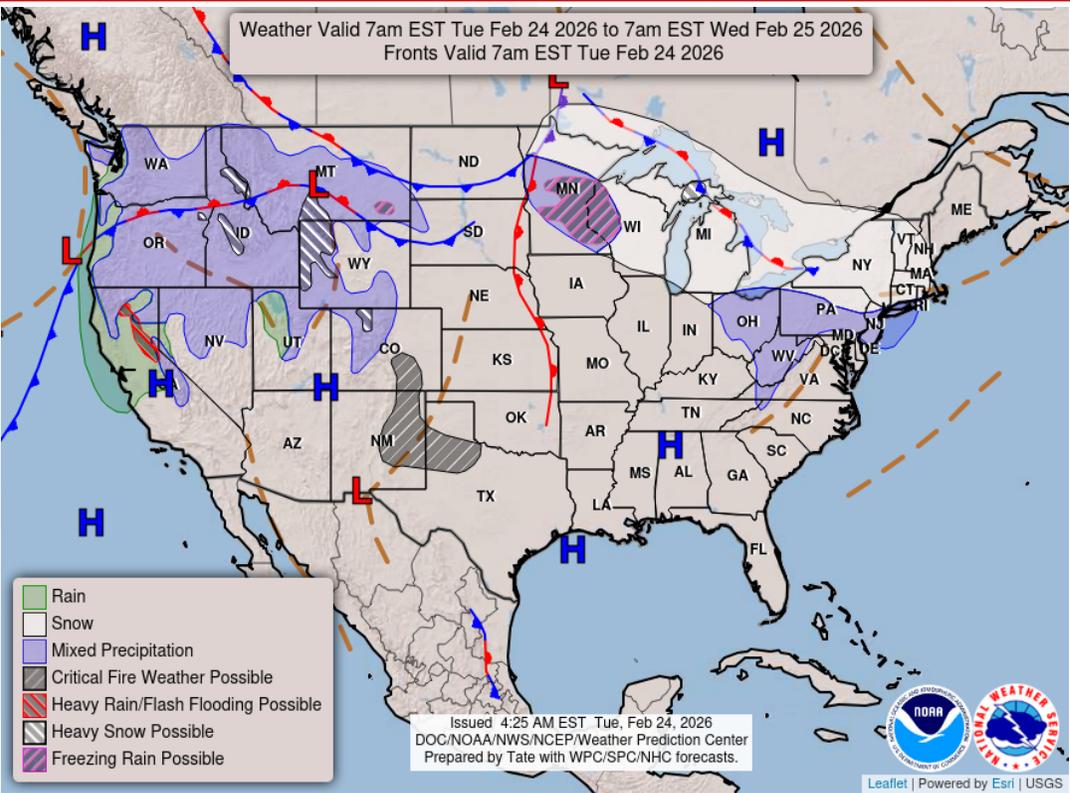
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

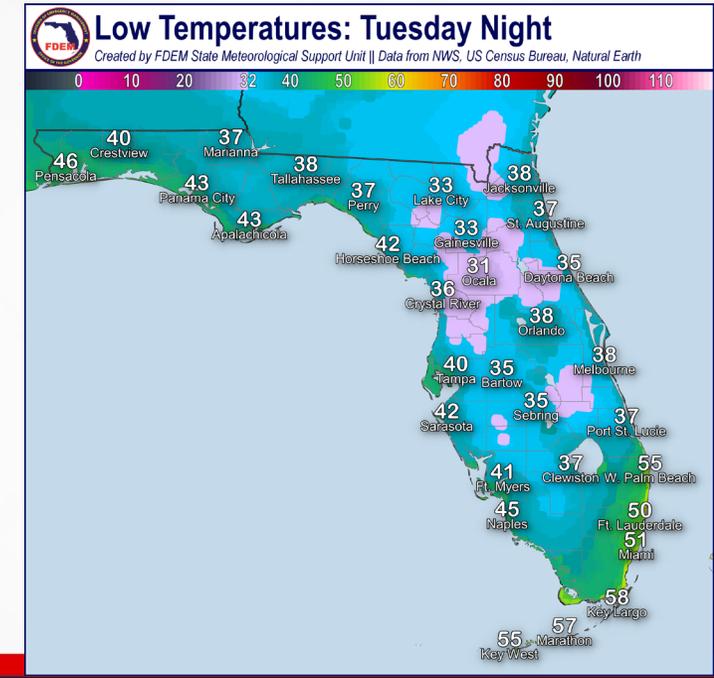
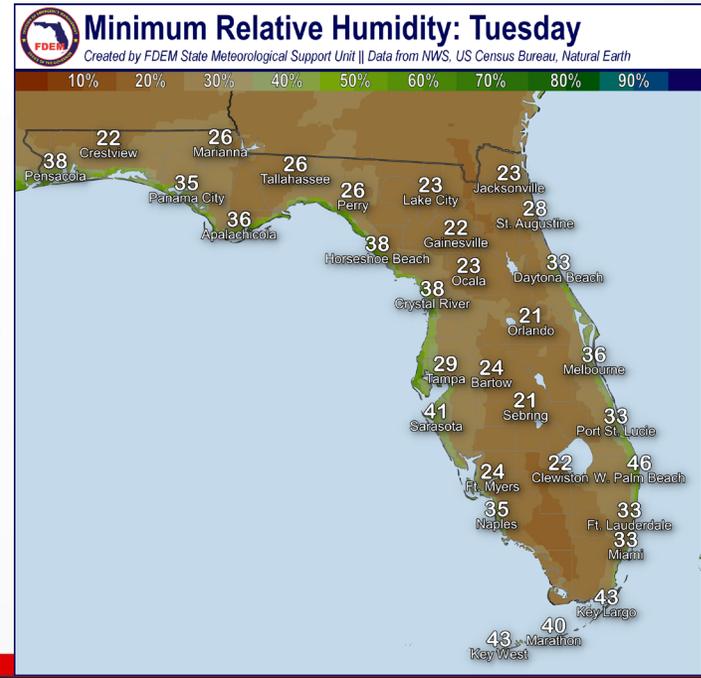


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Wind Chill (Overnight)			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H	H	H
Rip Currents	M	M	L	L	H	H		H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.33 ft. (2.22 ft. <u>Below Normal</u> )									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	489 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



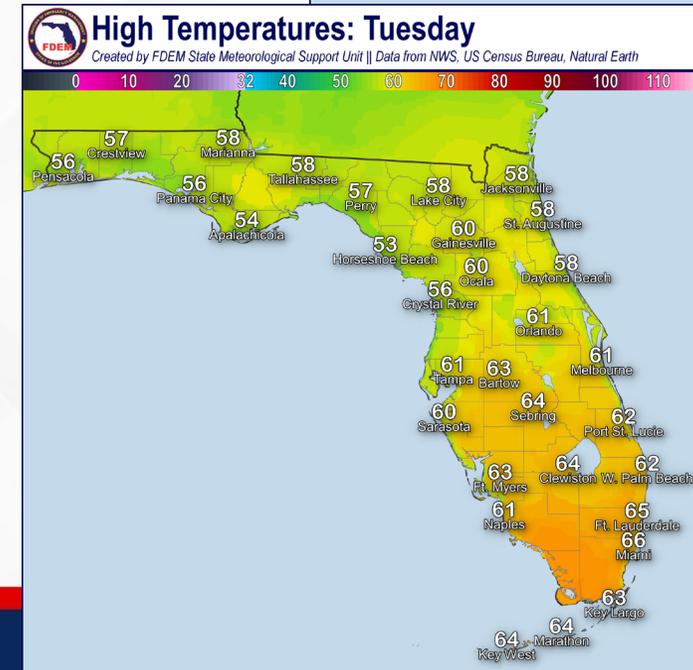
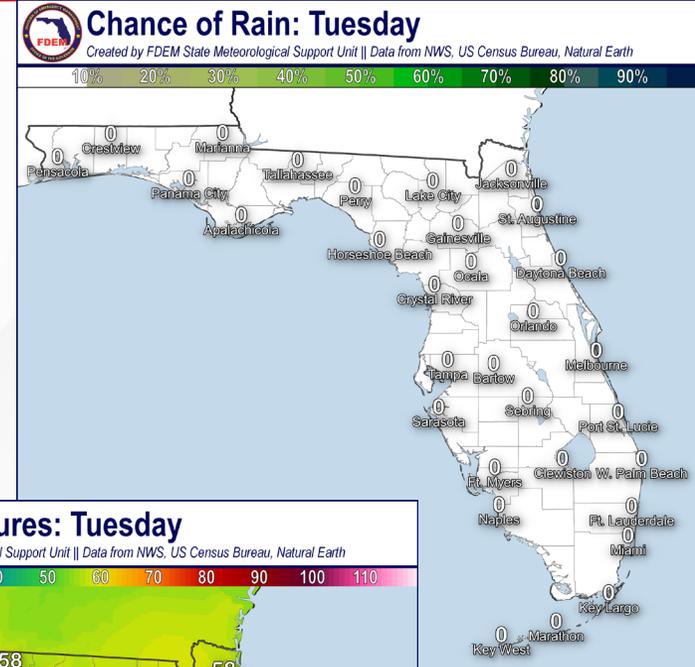


# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

**Freeze Warnings** and **Cold Weather Advisories** across the state will expire mid-morning as temperatures gradually warm up following last night's cold and freeze. High pressure will continue to bring a near-zero chance of rain across the state throughout the day, and also keep very dry air in place. Relative humidity values nearly statewide will remain **near or below critical thresholds (20-35%)** later this morning and throughout the day as dry air settles in. Luckily, winds have eased up from the last two days which will prevent Red Flag Conditions today; however, lingering wind gusts of 10-15 mph can still be expected this morning and through the early afternoon hours across South Florida. **Elevated wildfire conditions** will persist statewide, with **locally critical wildfire conditions** possible with the expanding extreme drought conditions. High temperatures will reach the middle 50s to middle 60s across the state this afternoon, leading to a pleasant day filled with sunshine.

Cool and calm conditions can be expected to return across the state overnight, with winds calming down even further. Clear skies and moisture beginning to slowly return to the state will allow for **patchy to widespread frost** to develop for portions of interior Northeast Florida and the interior Peninsula late overnight and into Wednesday morning. **Frost Advisories** will go into effect late tonight for these areas. The coldest temperatures have already occurred during this cool down, so temperatures tonight will be a few degrees warmer. Low temperatures tonight will remain in the **30s** to middle 40s for most of the state, with Southeast Florida keeping to the upper 40s to lower 50s.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Ocean swells will linger through the day along with northerly to northwesterly winds allowing the **moderate to high risk for rip currents**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Wave heights will slowly decline along the East Coast keeping near **3-5'** through the afternoon. Locally elevated **surf of 6'** will be possible within the surf zones along Southeast Florida beaches. Panhandle and Gulf Coast beaches will see wave heights return to 1-2'.

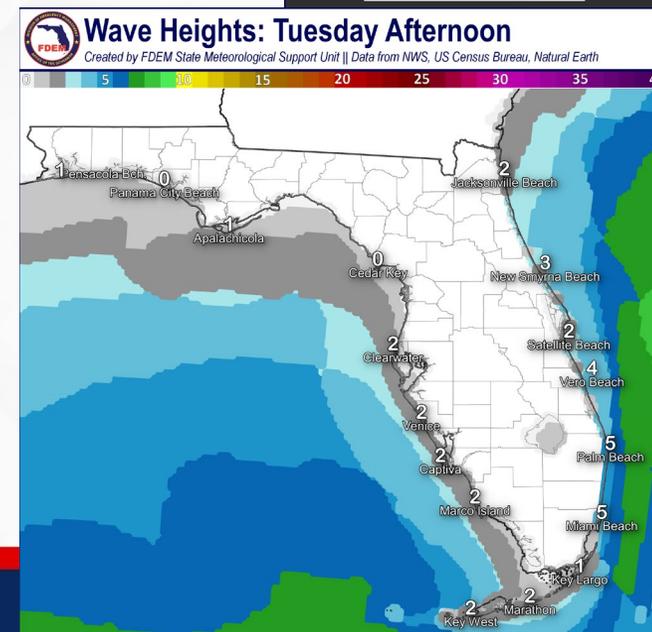
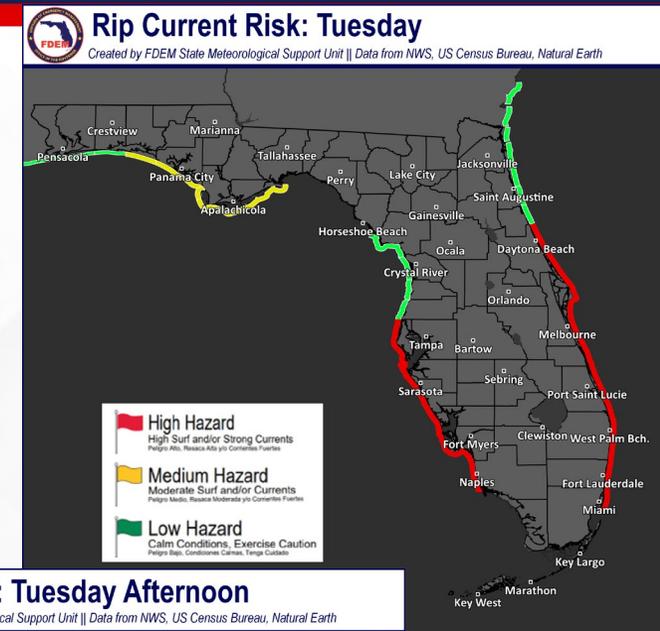
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe and Miami-Dade County, with very low concentrations collected along Bay County. (valid 2/13/2026).

**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](#).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.33 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.22 feet below normal for this time of year.



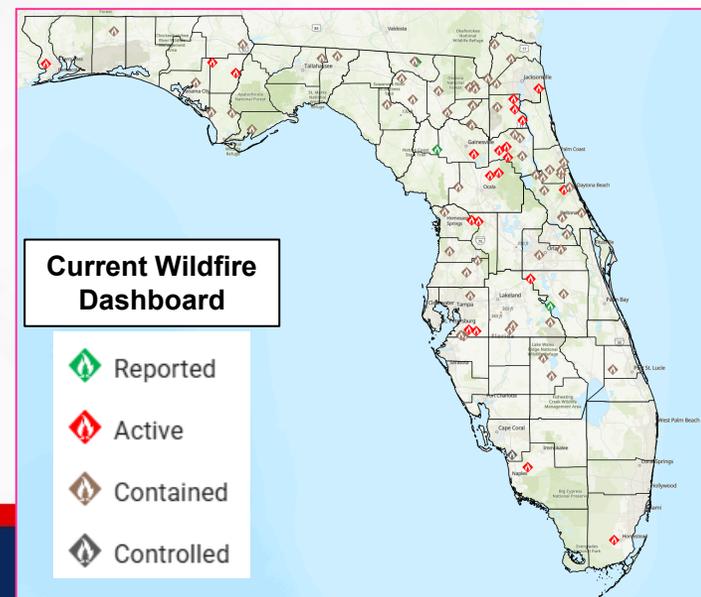
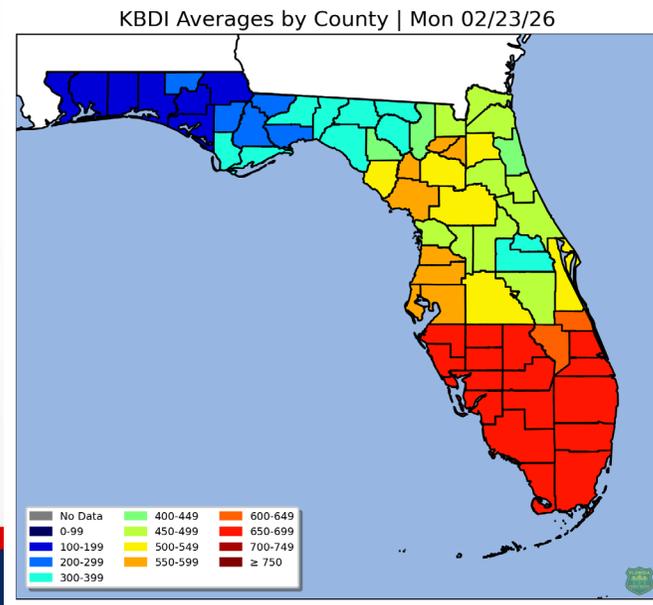
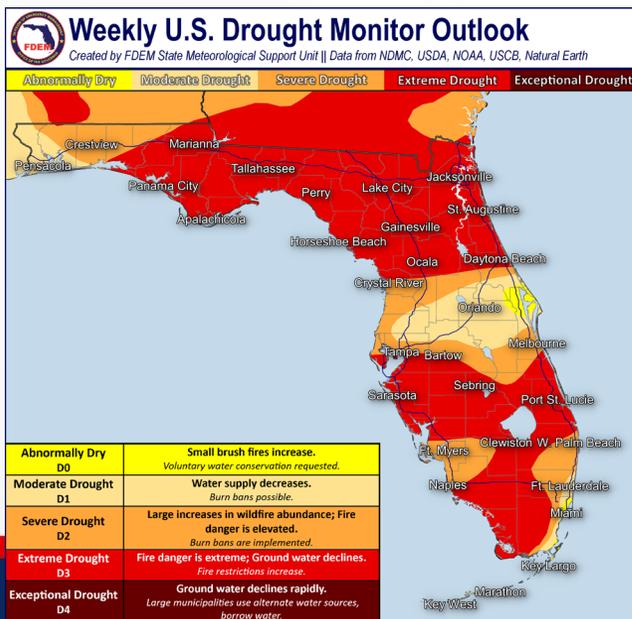


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Cold conditions can be expected this morning, but temperatures will gradually warm up throughout the day. Very dry air remains settled within the state leading to relative humidity values falling **near and below critical thresholds (20-35%)** late this morning and throughout the afternoon. Winds have eased up and will not be as gusty as they were on Sunday and Monday; however, wind gusts of 10-15 mph will linger through the early afternoon hours across South Florida. **Elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected statewide, with **locally critical wildfire conditions** possible due to the extreme drought conditions and very dry soil moisture. Areas of **patchy to widespread frost** will develop across Northeast Florida and most of the interior Peninsula early Wednesday morning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 83 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,688 acres.

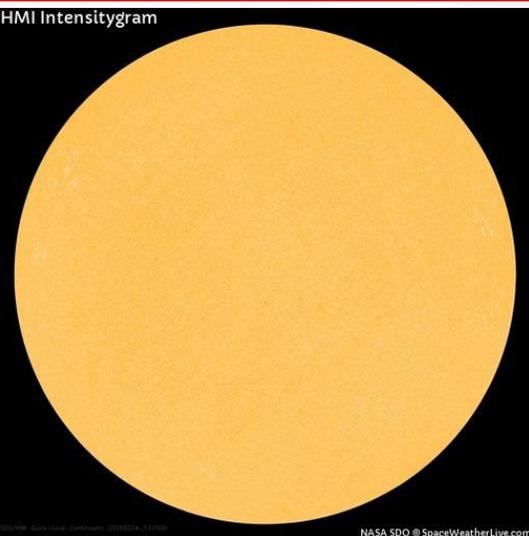
**Drought (2/19/26):** Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **490 (+1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **32** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

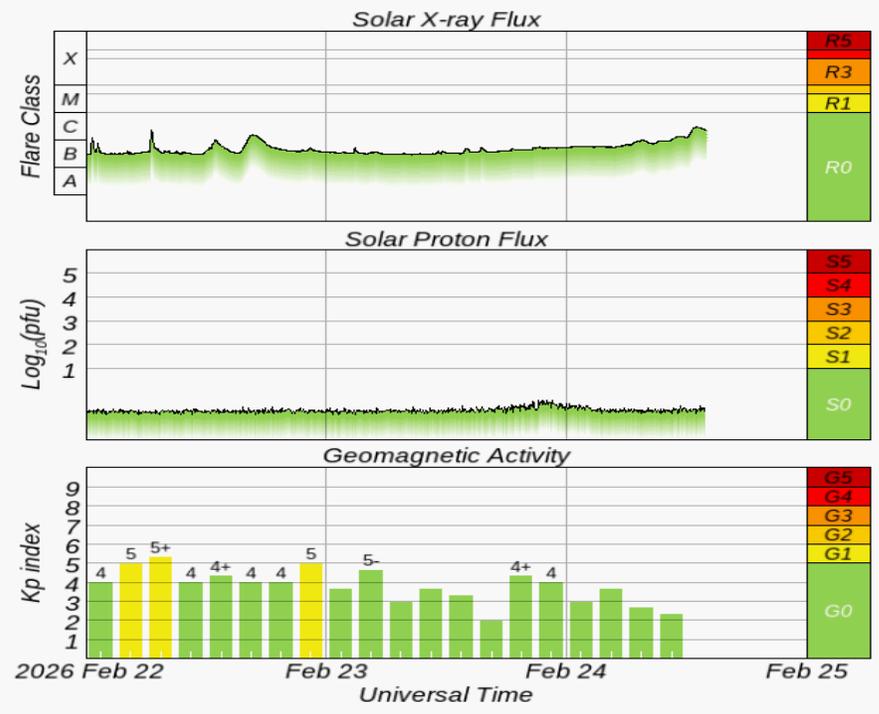




# Space Weather

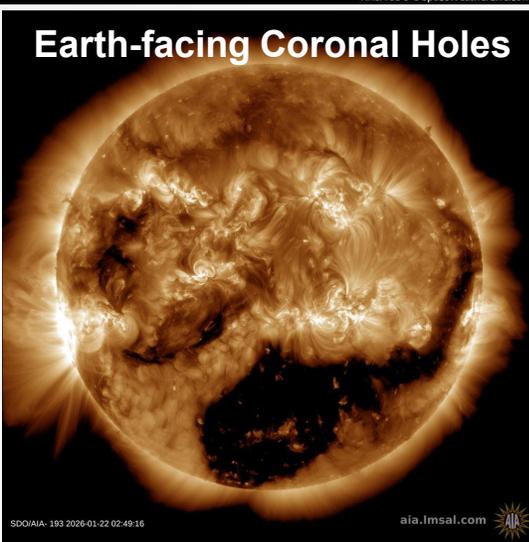


Current Sunspots



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	
2/24	2/25
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%



**Space Weather:** Solar activity continues to be very low with a chance for moderate (C-class) solar flares and a very isolated chance for strong (M-class) solar flares. There are currently no sunspots on the surface of the sun which will limit solar activity. Solar wind conditions will remain slightly enhanced due to ongoing Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be unsettled to active with the ongoing 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:	<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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