



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, February 25, 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	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Bay	Gulf Coast Salute Air Show FPM
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	EM Day
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	FEMA Course Work
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Leon	EM Day
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	St. Lucie	FEMA Evaluated Emergency Worker Decontamination Drill
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Leon, Miami-Dade	EM Day / Return to Region 10 Travel



Region 5 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6
 Region 10 Coverage Provided By Response 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	Franklin / Leon	LMS Mtg / Training : NWS SkyWarn
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Union	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	NEMAA Prep
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Flagler	Leadership Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	LEPC Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Palm Beach	LMS Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Vehicle Maintenance

Region 1 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator Manager

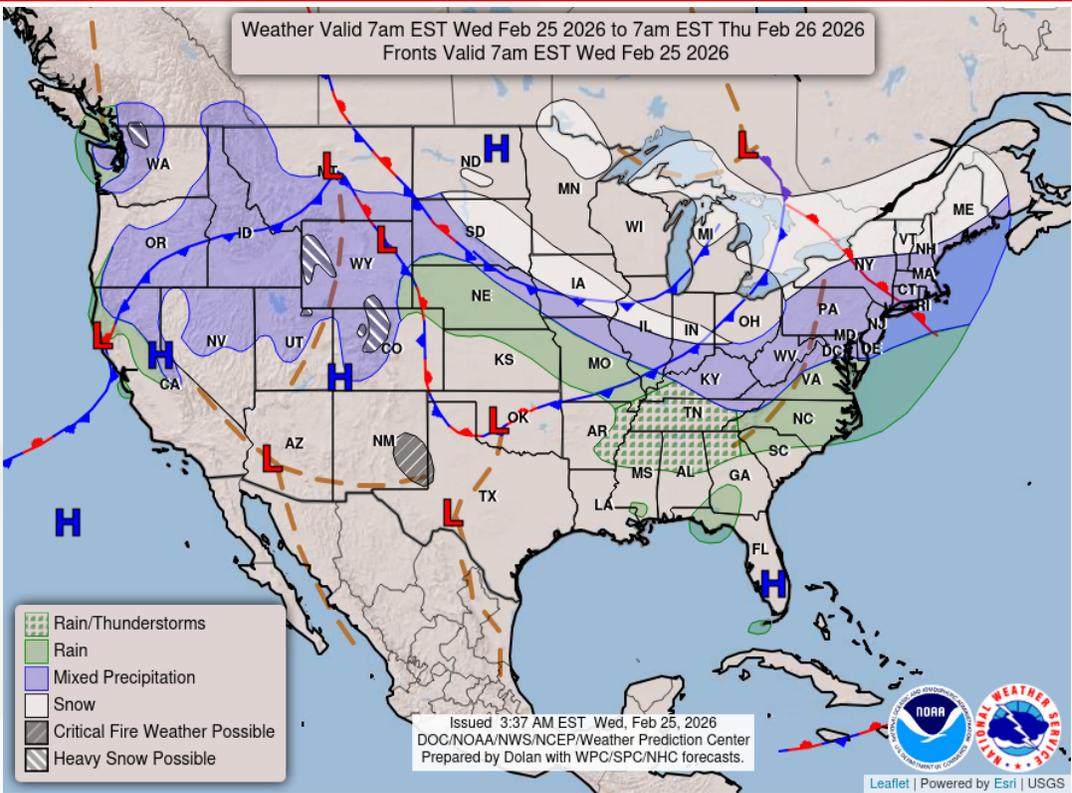
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

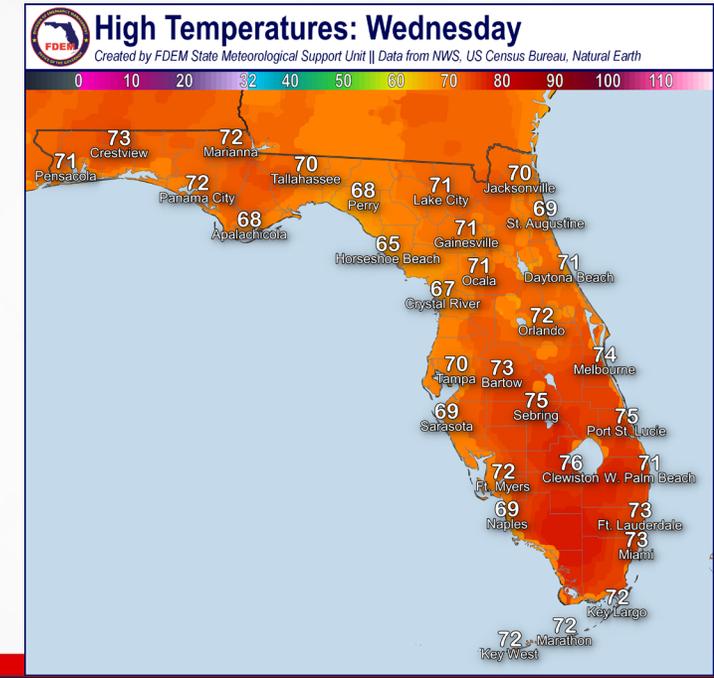
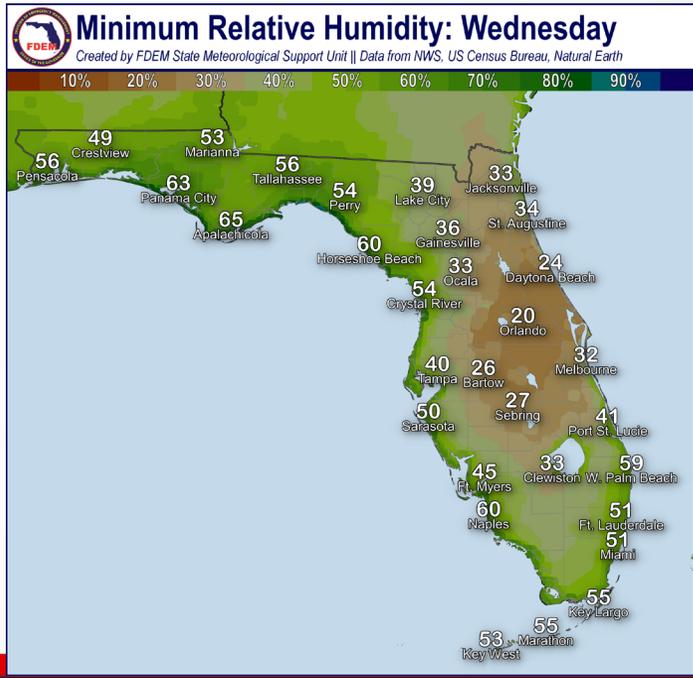


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L				L	L		L	
Wildfire	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	H	L		H	L	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)									





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Winds will shift out of the south to southwest today leading to a **high risk for rip currents** returning for much of the Panhandle. Lingering ocean swells off the East Coast will continue to create a **mostly high risk** for beaches. West Coast beaches have returned to a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: **Elevated surf of 2-4'** can be expected for nearly all beaches across the state, with most West Coast beaches seeing wave heights near 1'.

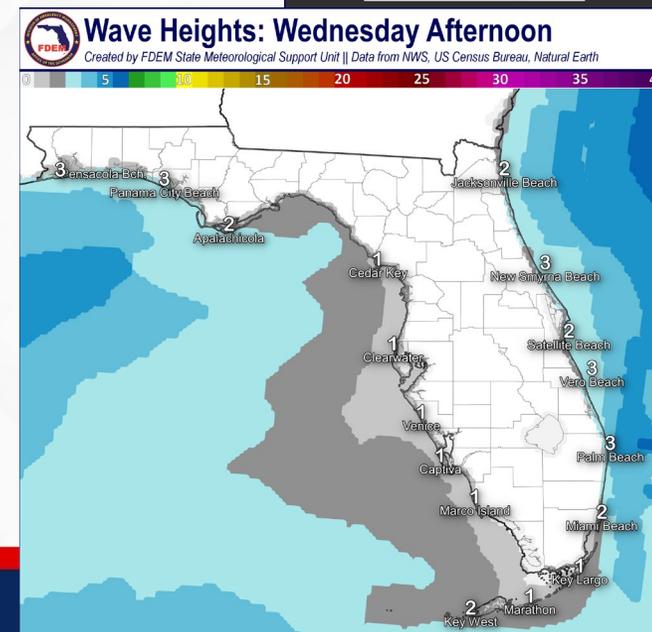
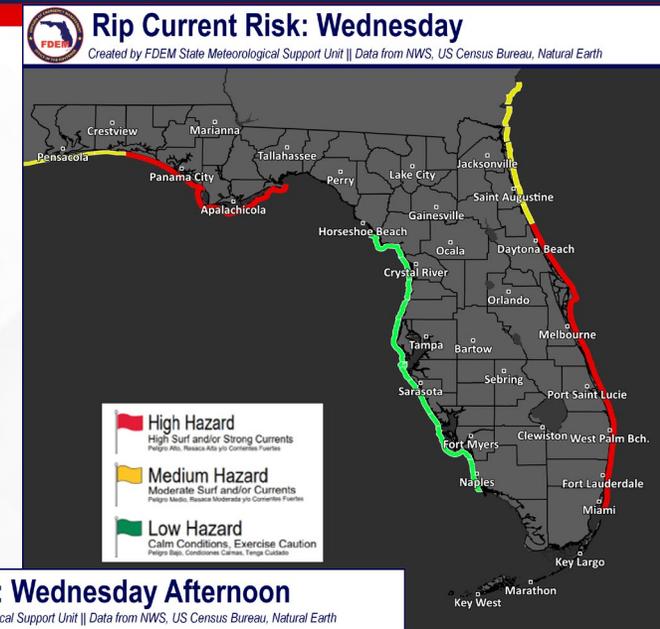
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe and Miami-Dade County, with very low concentrations collected along Bay County. (valid 2/13/2026).

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 12.29 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.25 feet below normal for this time of year.



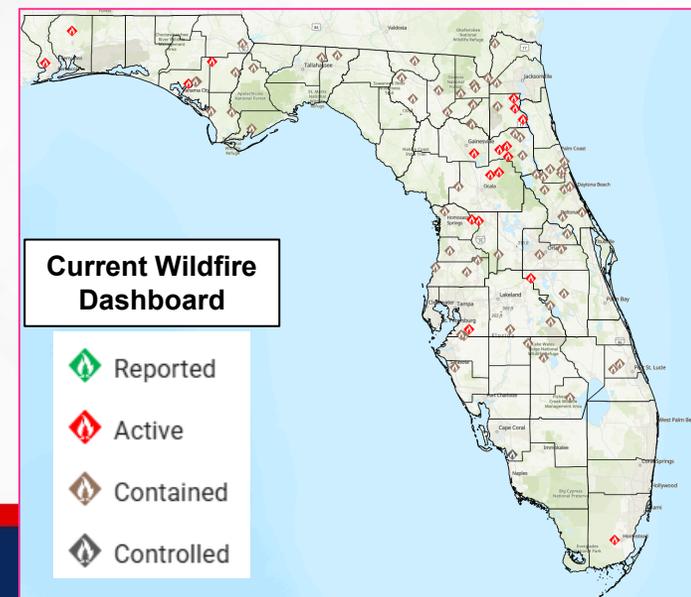
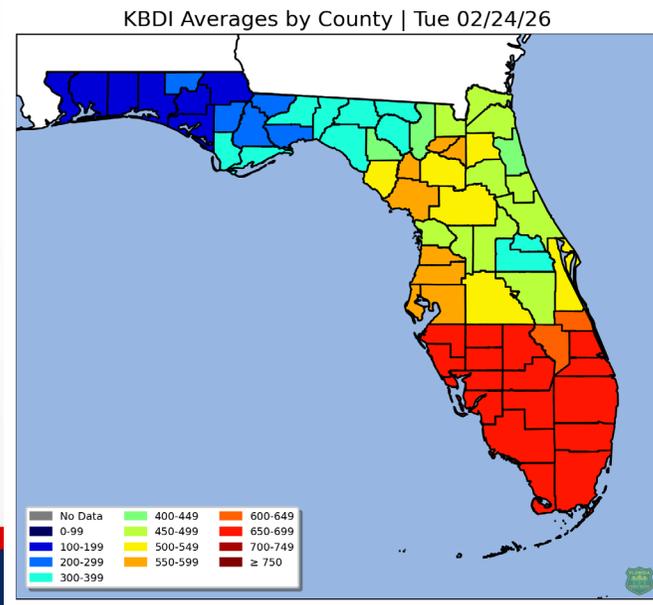
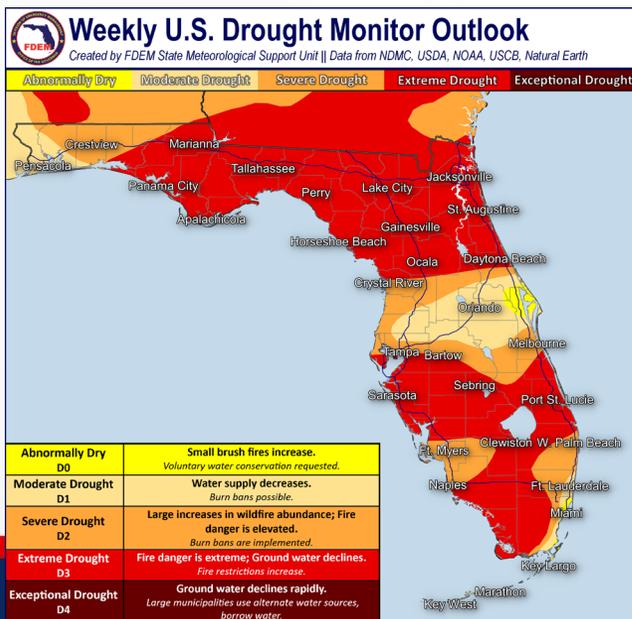


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: One last cool start to the mornings, but temperatures will warm up nicely into the 60s and 70s today. Mostly dry conditions can be expected to linger throughout the state as high pressure remains overhead. Relative humidity values will recover today; however, interior regions of the eastern Peninsula and South Florida will continue to see relative humidity values **near and below critical thresholds (15-35%)**. Southerly winds along the Panhandle and the West Coast will help to keep relative humidity levels above critical thresholds, and will help to bring isolated to widely scattered showers to the Panhandle today. Breezier wind gusts will return today across the Panhandle then spread into the rest of North Florida late this afternoon as another frontal boundary slowly approaches from the west. Wind gusts for North Florida will reach **upwards of 15-25 mph** this afternoon. **Dense smoke** will be possible at times across South Florida due to the ongoing National Wildfire in the Everglades. Some areas of **patchy fog** may develop along the Panhandle and West Florida early Thursday morning, but elevated winds could limit fog potential. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 82 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,624 acres.

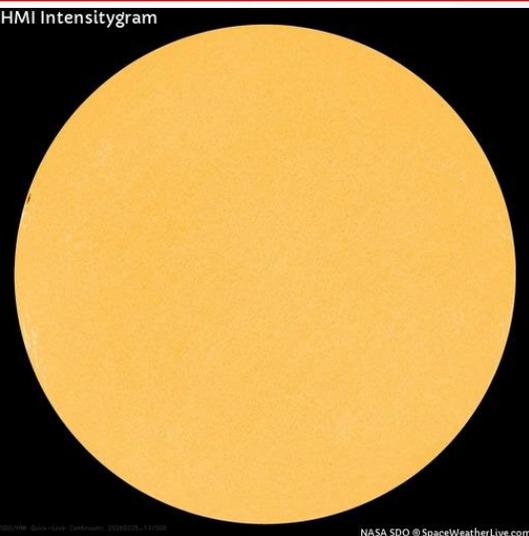
Drought (2/19/26): Yet another potent cold front passed through the state this past Sunday (2/15) bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to much of North and Central Florida. Rainfall totals, however, were simply not enough to alleviate much of the drought and further drought expansion 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 **491 (+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).

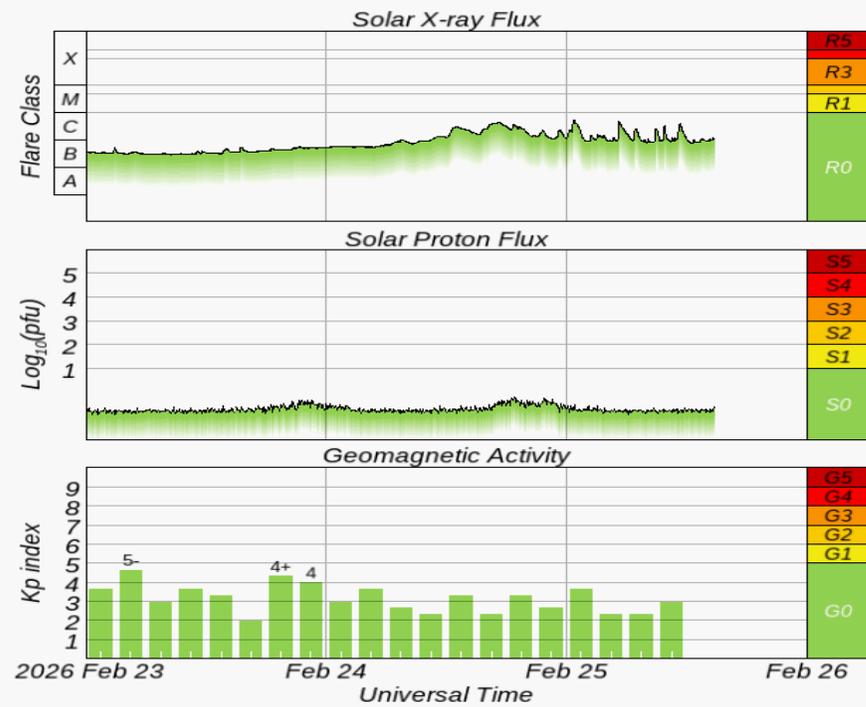
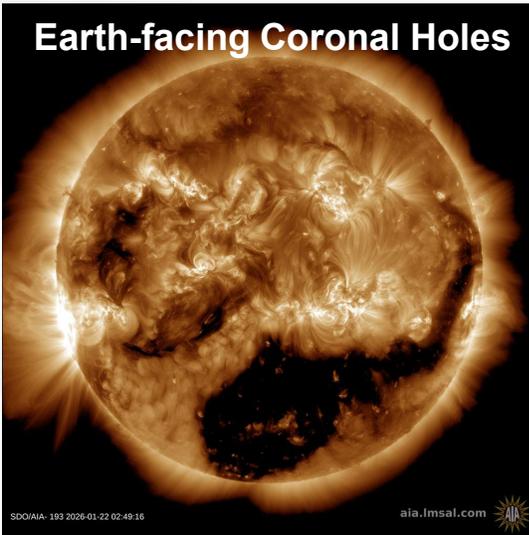




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/25	2/26
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity continues to be very low with a chance for moderate (C-class) solar flares and an isolated chance for strong (M-class) solar flares. There are currently no sunspots on the surface of the sun which will limit solar activity; however, brighter spots on the eastern limb will become Earth-facing soon. 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 quiet 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:	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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