



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Friday, February 27, 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	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	<a href="mailto:Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com">Kellen.Griffin-Jay@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	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	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	Gadsden	Office Admin
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Wakulla	EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	End of Month Admin
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	MCI Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-141 Course Prep / Office Admin / DEMES
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin / Vehicle Dropoff (Repair)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	FCGU Active Assailant TTX
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



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	Bay / Holmes	Partners Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	End-of-Month Admin
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Union	End-of-Month Admin
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Flagler	RCT-R/M Supervisor Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Flagler	RCT-R/M Supervisor Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	End-of-Month Admin
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	End-of-Month Admin
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	End-of-Month Admin

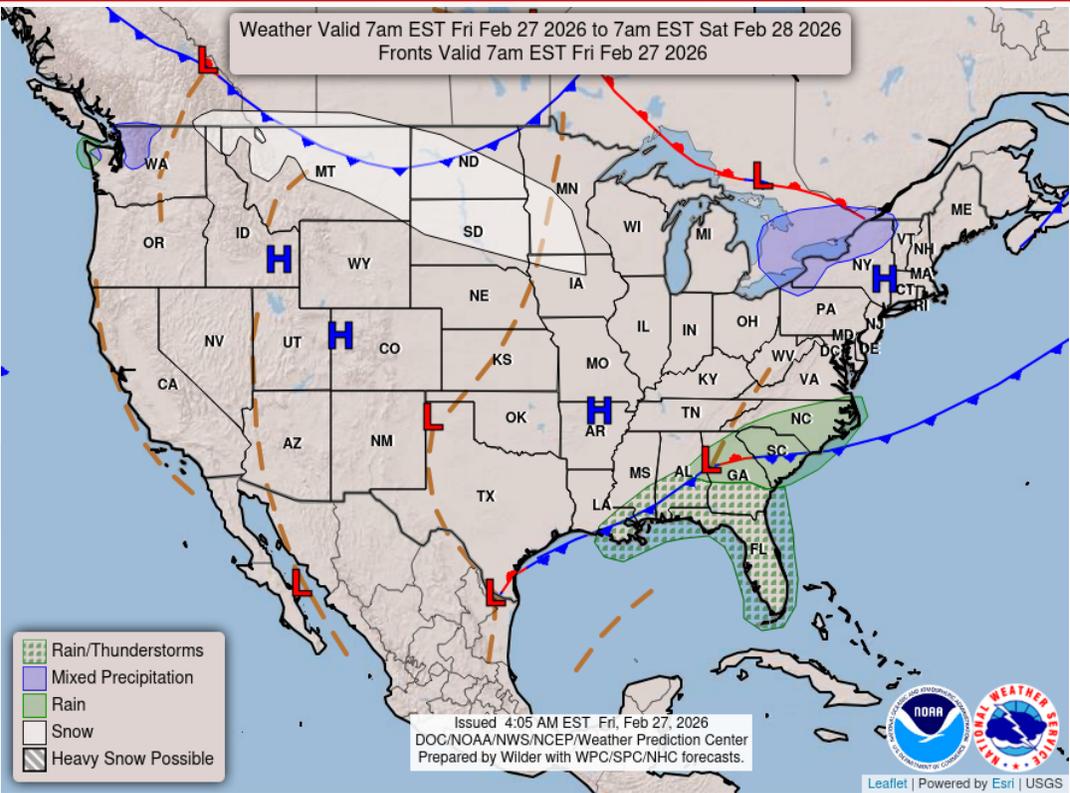
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

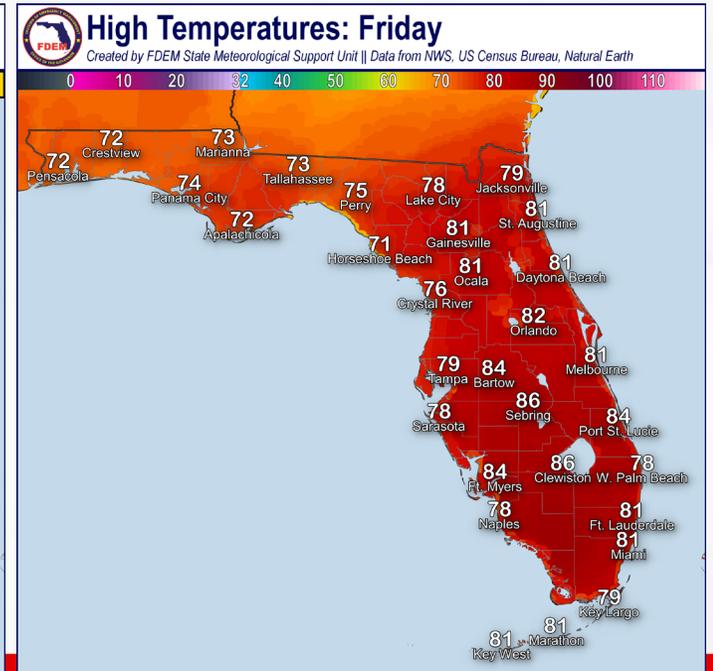
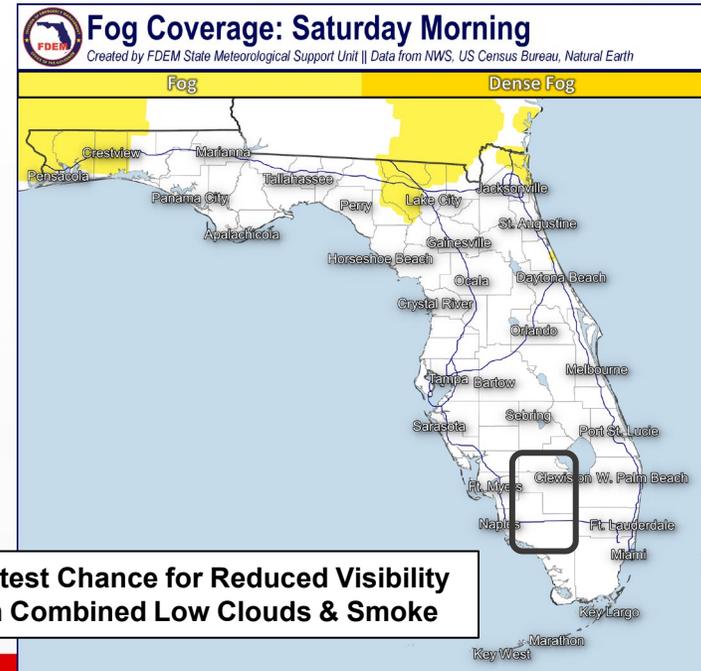


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind					L	L	L			
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M	H	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	H	H	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	M		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.26 ft. (2.27 ft. <u>Below Normal</u> )									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	496 (+3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





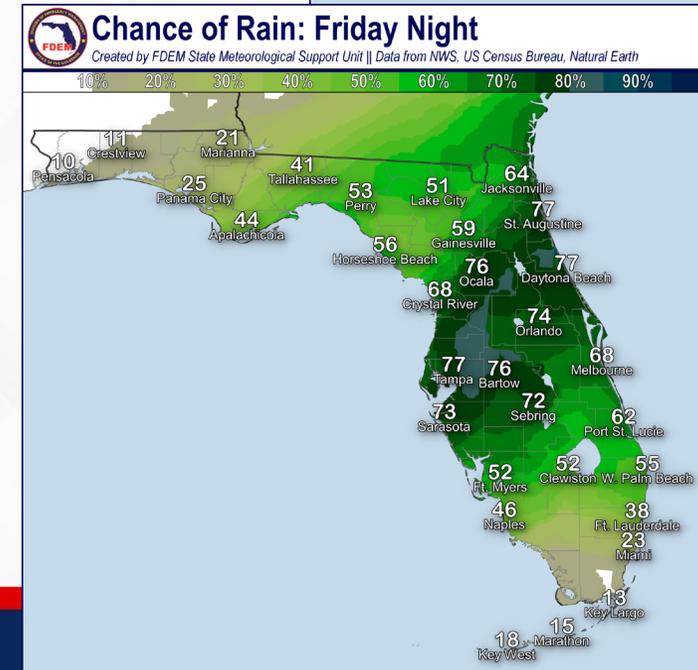
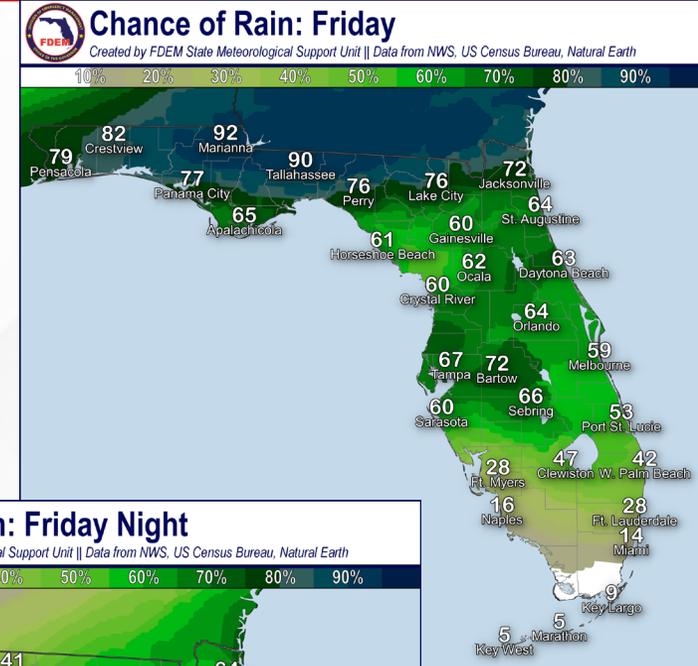
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy dense fog** across portions of the interior Peninsula will slowly lift and dissipate through the morning hours. *Areas of fog mixed with wildfire smoke may lead to near zero visibility this morning.* Some areas of **dense fog** may linger along the West-Central Florida coastline through the afternoon hours. Otherwise, a rather rainy start to the weekend is on tap for much of the Sunshine State as a few upper-level disturbances traverse a slow-moving frontal boundary over North Florida. Isolated to widely scattered showers across the Panhandle and Big Bend this morning will increase in coverage throughout the morning and afternoon hours, sliding eastward towards Northeast Florida (75-90% chance of rain). Additional showers and embedded thunderstorms will also begin to develop across Central Florida later this afternoon (50-75% chance of rain). Although there is no organized risk for severe weather, some of this activity could be **locally strong** and produce gusty winds (30-50mph), small hail, and **locally heavy downpours**. A few isolated showers cannot be ruled out south of Lake Okeechobee this afternoon as well (25-40% chance of rain). High temperatures will climb into the middle 70s to lower 80s throughout North Florida and lower to upper 80s throughout the Peninsula.

Wildfire conditions will be relatively mitigated across North and Central Florida today where relative humidities remain well above critical thresholds, winds generally light, and rounds of showers and thunderstorms bring beneficial wetting rains. However, isolated lightning strikes from any thunderstorms could lead to new ignition of wildfires. Additionally, pockets of **lower relative humidities** across interior South Florida may keep the **locally elevated wildfire conditions** in place where a few active wildfires continue to burn.

Tonight, shower and embedded thunderstorm activity will begin to slowly drift towards Central Florida as the frontal boundary is slow to sag southward (50-80% chance of rain). Areas of **low clouds and patchy fog** may develop across North Florida tonight where lingering low-level moisture and warmer temperatures overlap. Additional areas of **patchy fog** cannot be ruled out across interior South Florida tonight as well ahead of the main rain activity. Where **fog** and **smoke** combine, visibility reductions may become significant, creating hazardous nighttime driving conditions. Lows will fall into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida and lower to middle 60s throughout the Peninsula.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **high risk of rip currents** is expected across all Florida Panhandle beaches with elevated surf and breezy onshore winds. A **moderate risk** is expected for most East Coast and Nature Coast beaches, meanwhile a low risk remains for all Sun Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Elevated surf can be expected along the Florida Panhandle today, with breakers in the surf zone reaching **3-4'** this afternoon. Elsewhere, wave heights of 1-2' can be expected.

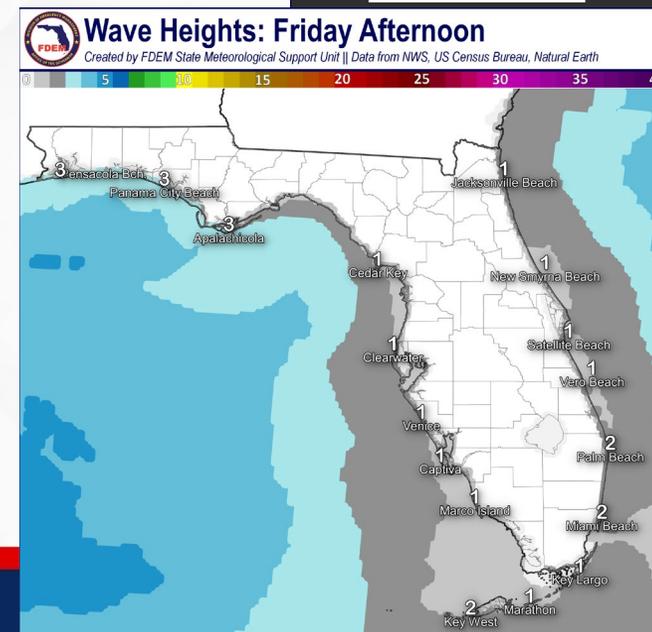
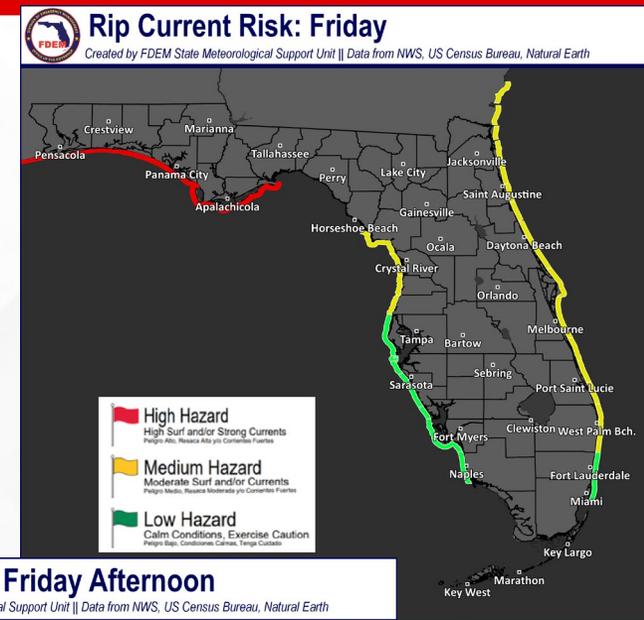
**Red Tide** was observed at background conditions offshore of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, with very low concentrations sampled along Bay County (valid 2/20/2026).

**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 may bring a few **locally heavy downpours** across portions of North and Central Florida through tonight. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1", though **localized totals** upwards of 3" cannot be ruled out in areas that receive repeated rounds of heavy downpours.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.26 feet, which is within the operational band and is **2.27 feet below** normal for this time of year.



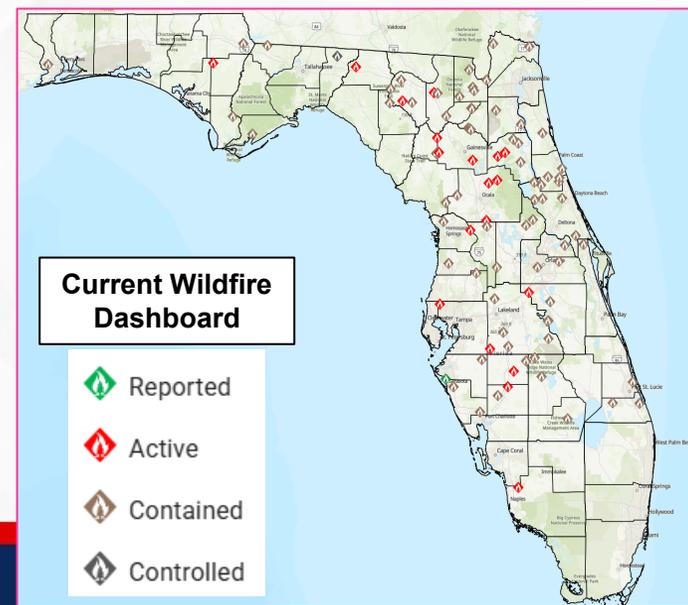
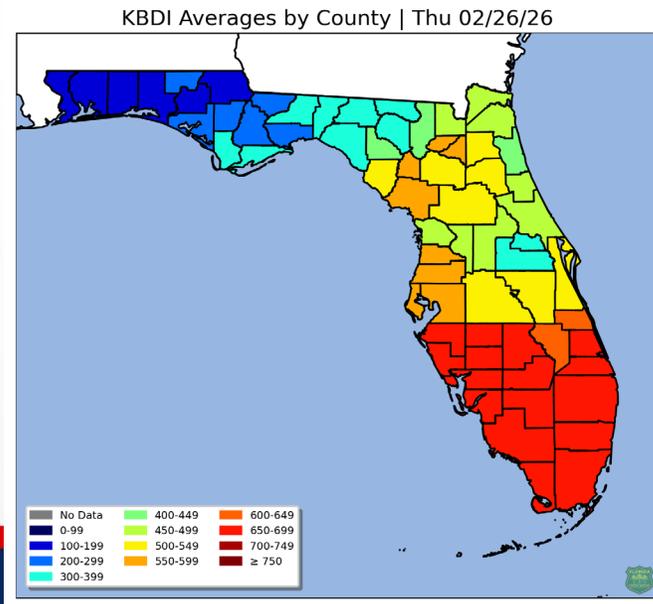
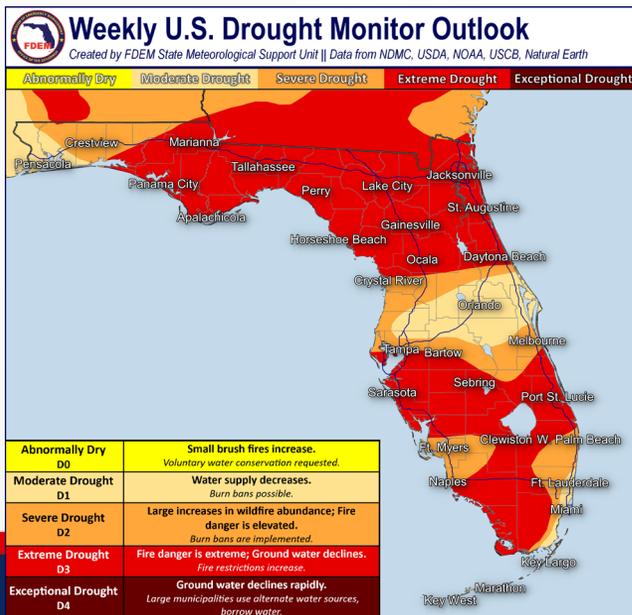


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** **Sensitive wildfire conditions** are expected throughout much of the state where ongoing long-term drought persists. However, scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms will spread across much of North and Central Florida today which will bring beneficial wetting rainfall. Relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds throughout the state, though pockets of **lower relative humidities** will remain across interior South Florida in the vicinity of the **National Wildfire** in the Big Cypress National Preserve which may promote additional wildfire ignition and spread. Areas of **dense wildfire smoke** will pool near and around active wildfires with light south winds this afternoon which may lead to reduced visibilities along Alligator Alley (I-75) in Collier and Broward counties. *Lightning strikes can lead to additional wildfire ignitions in areas experiencing severe drought from isolated thunderstorms.* Tonight, areas of **fog and low clouds** cannot be ruled out across South Florida ahead of the main rain activity; where fog and smoke combine, visibility reductions may become significant, creating hazardous nighttime driving conditions. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 92 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5,379 acres.

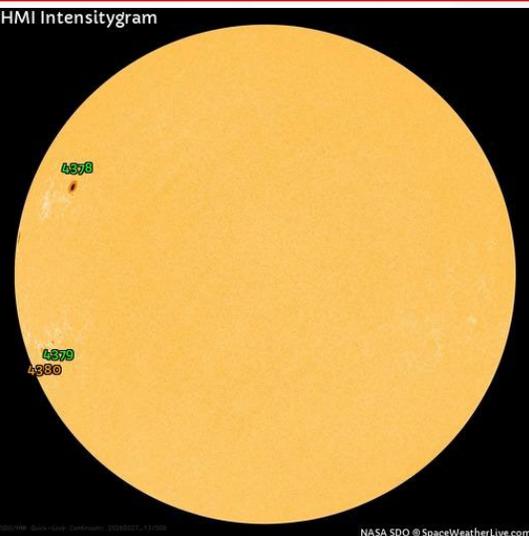
**Drought (2/26/26):** Showers bypassed many areas of the Southeast United States, leading to slowly worsening drought conditions on this week's Drought Monitor update. The recent uptick in wildfires across Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula are a result of increasing both near-term and long-term rainfall deficits throughout the Sunshine State, and are truly indicative of how dry Florida's soil and fuel/vegetation is nearly statewide. 90-day rainfall totals have now trended **5-7" below normal** for this time of year across North and Southeast Florida, with rainfall deficits of **2-4" below normal** noted elsewhere across the state. **Extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** areas have expanded across North Florida and into the Florida Panhandle, now stretching from coastal Walton County to Volusia County; **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** persists south of the I-4 corridor across the southern Florida Peninsula. Other changes to note include the upgrade of all remaining areas of Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions into **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**, this now brings 100% of land area across Florida within a category of drought. Rainfall forecast over the next 7 days will certainly be beneficial for North and Central Florida; however, any observed rainfall has quite an uphill battle against the long-term drought. Unfortunately, rainfall totals remain sparse to widely isolated throughout the southern Florida Peninsula as frontal systems will not be able to remain intact as it advances through the state.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **496 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **34** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

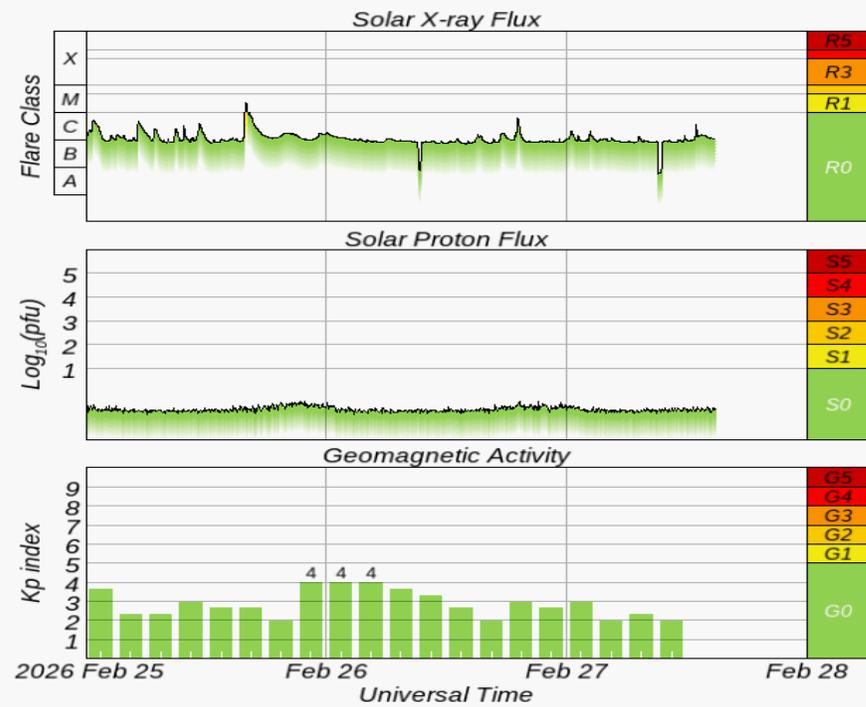
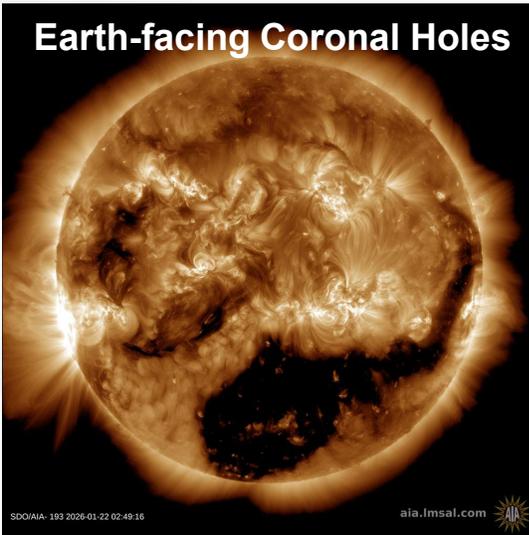




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/27	2/28
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at low levels through the end of the week, with a higher chance for isolated M-class (strong) activity associated with active sunspot region #4380. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany the stronger or more organized flare activity. Solar wind parameters will remain slightly enhanced today due to lingering coronal hole influences. New elevations within the solar wind will be possible this weekend due to a potential early arrival of the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that occurred on 2/25. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to reach unsettled to active levels with the arrival of the CME this weekend, with minor (G1) storming possible. 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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