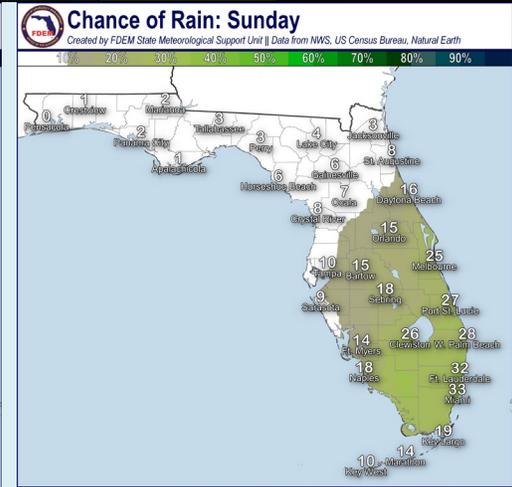
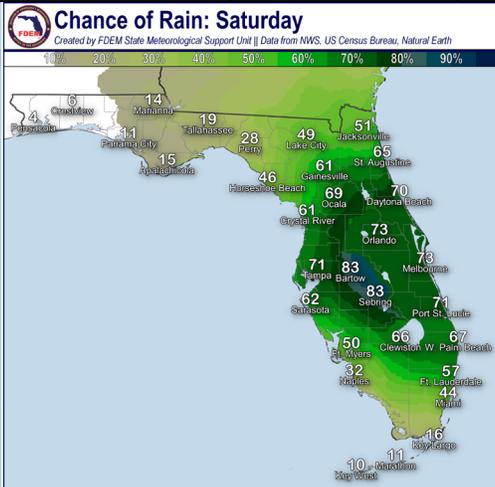
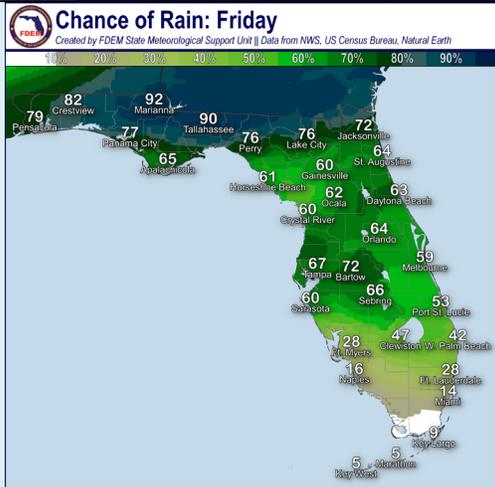


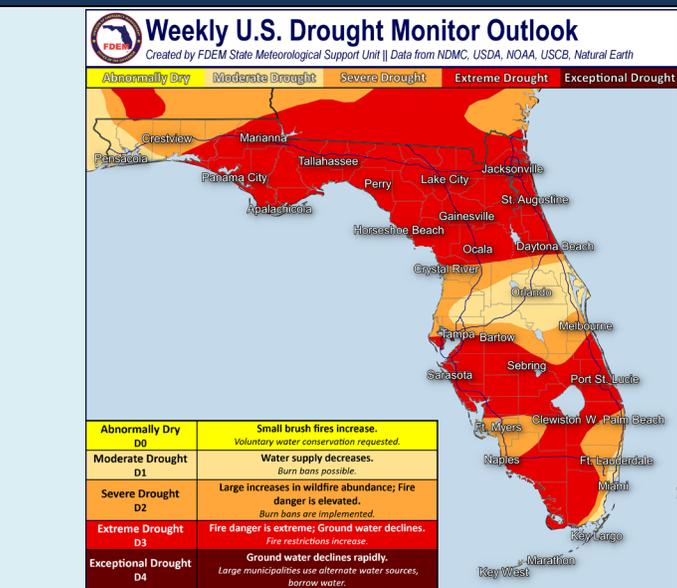
Friday, February 27, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

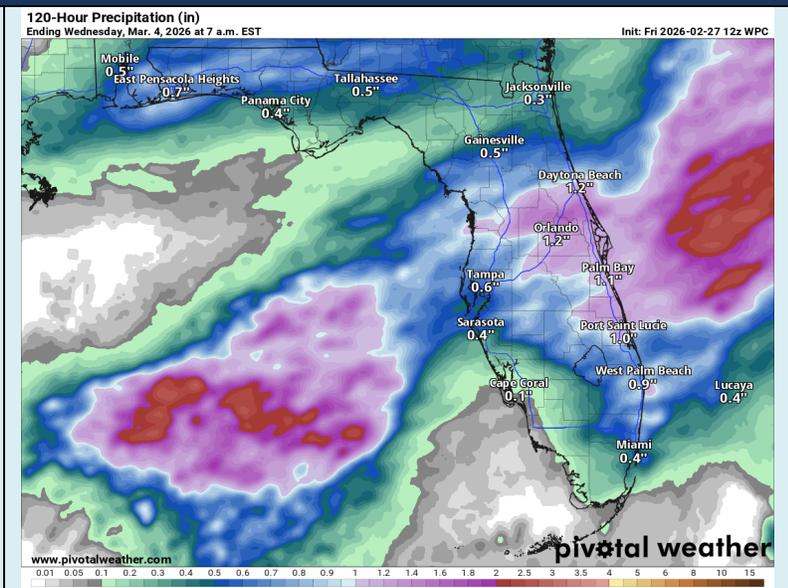
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Fog (Overnight)	Flash Flooding	Wind Chill (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Locally Northeast & Central FL Statewide		Iso. Statewide	Locally North & Interior South FL	Iso. North & Central FL		Locally Interior South FL Statewide	Panhandle East Coast West Coast
Sat	Locally Central & South FL Peninsula		Iso. Peninsula	Locally Peninsula	Iso. Central FL		Locally Central & South FL Statewide	Panhandle East Coast West Coast
Sun	South FL			Locally Nature Coast & Northeast FL			Locally North & Interior South FL Statewide	Panhandle & East Coast West Coast
Mon	Iso. South FL						Locally North & Interior South FL Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Tue	Iso. I-95 corridor						Locally Peninsula Statewide	Panhandle & East Coast West Coast



Forecast Rain Chances: Friday, Saturday and Sunday



Drought Monitor: Valid 2/26



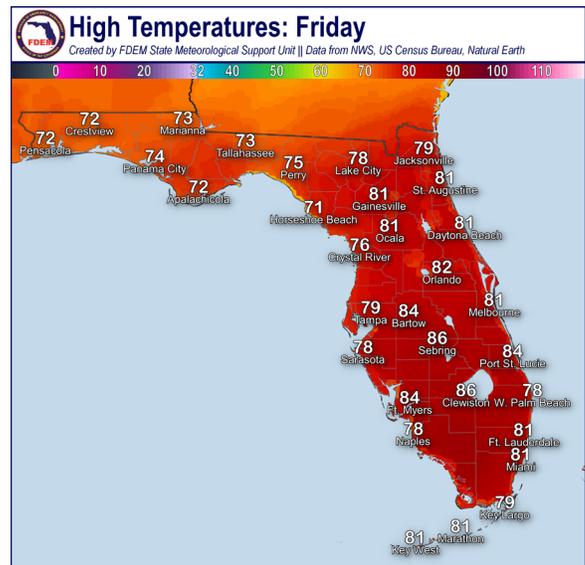
5 Day Forecast Rainfall Totals – Through Tuesday Evening



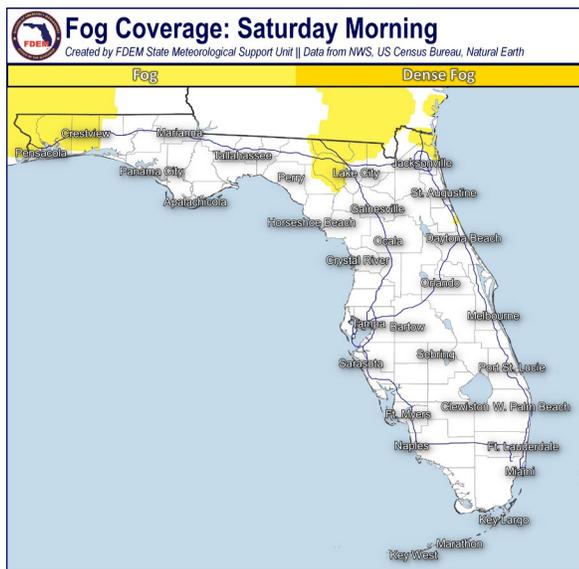
...Slow-Moving Frontal System to Bring Rounds of Scattered Showers and Thunderstorms to the State Beginning Today... Locally Strong Thunderstorm Activity Cannot be Ruled Out Across the Peninsula Today and Saturday... Beneficial Rainfall to Mitigate Larger Wildfire Risk, though Pockets of Locally Elevated Conditions Persist Through Forecast Period... Mostly Dry Conditions Return to the State Monday and Tuesday... Warm Temperatures to Remain a Theme Through Early Next Week... No Changes in Latest Drought Monitor this Week; Severe to Extreme Drought Persist...

Friday – Sunday:

A rather wet and rainy day is expected across much of the state today as a nearly stationary frontal boundary slowly sags into North Florida. A few upper-level disturbances will traverse along this front helping to spark rounds of showers and thunderstorms throughout the day and overnight tonight. Scattered showers with embedded thunderstorms have already spread across the Panhandle and Big Bend this morning (70-90% chance of rain) and additional activity will develop as it slides eastward towards Northeast and North-Central Florida this afternoon and evening (50-75% chance of rain). Additionally, showers and thunderstorms developing offshore the West Coast will begin to spread inland later this afternoon and evening across Central and interior South Florida (35-70% chance of rain). Although there is no organized risk for severe weather or flash flooding today with this activity, a few **locally strong** thunderstorms cannot be ruled out throughout the Peninsula. The greatest risks with any of this stronger activity will be a few gusty winds (30-50 mph), small hail, and locally heavy downpours capable of producing **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water** in urban and poor-drainage locations. High temperatures this afternoon will climb into the middle to upper 70s throughout North Florida and lower to upper 80s across the Peninsula.



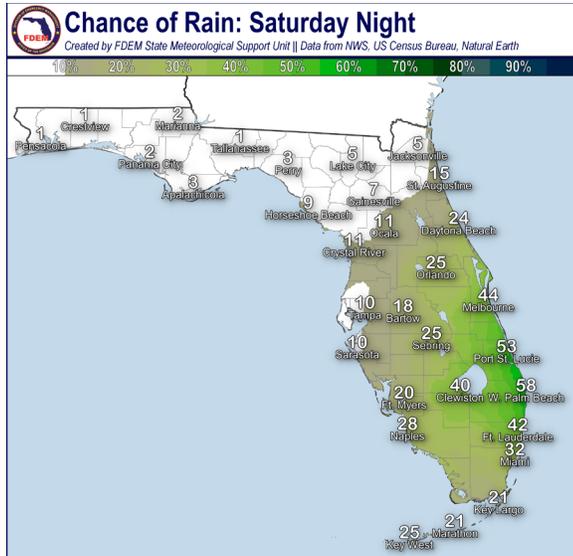
The frontal boundary will begin to slide southward into North-Central Florida tonight with just a



few lingering showers expected across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida in the wake of the front (35-50% chance of rain). However, ahead of and along this front, shower and embedded thunderstorm activity will persist through the overnight hours along the I-4 corridor (60-80% chance of rain). A few isolated showers cannot be ruled out across South Florida as well (25-40% chance of rain). Lows overnight will reach the middle to upper 50s across the Panhandle and Big Bend and 60s throughout the Peninsula. Areas of **low clouds** and fog may develop across North Florida and interior South Florida, some of which could be **locally dense**. *Where locally dense fog develops with ongoing wildfire smoke, visibilities can drop significantly low.*



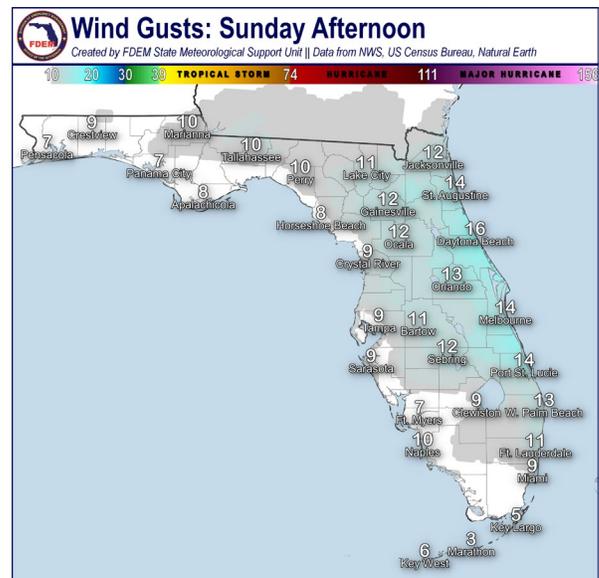
On Saturday, shower and thunderstorm activity will not be as widespread as Friday, though scattered showers and storms are still expected throughout the Peninsula as the front drifts into Central Florida (60-85% chance of rain). Some of this activity could again be **locally strong to severe** with gusty winds, small hail, and locally heavy downpours the main threat. Most activity will remain north of Alligator Alley and the I-75 corridor, though a few isolated showers are possible across the southern tip of the Peninsula (15-40% chance of rain). Across the Panhandle and Big Bend, a mostly dry day is



expected behind the front with mostly sunny skies developing during the afternoon, though an isolated sprinkle cannot be ruled out for the Big Bend (15-20% chance of rain). Highs will reach the 70s throughout North and Central Florida with lower to middle 80s in South Florida.

Most activity will begin to push offshore Saturday night as the front increases in speed across Central and South Florida, though a few isolated showers will linger into the evening and early overnight hours (25-50% chance of rain). Lows will only fall into the lower to middle 50s across North Florida and upper 50s to middle 60s in Central and South Florida. A few areas of **low clouds and fog** may develop across the Peninsula Saturday night. *Where locally dense fog develops with ongoing wildfire smoke, visibilities can drop significantly low.*

By Sunday and Sunday night, only a few isolated showers and embedded thunderstorms will linger across South Florida as the front makes its way offshore (15-40% chance of rain). Sunny skies will return to much of the state as drier air filters back into the state, especially across the Panhandle and Big Bend where relative humidities will dip to **near critical thresholds (40-45% RH values)**. Highs on Sunday will reach the upper 70s to lower 80s for most, with coastal Northeast Florida remaining in the upper 60s to lower 70s with onshore winds. These breezy onshore winds may bring a few gusts **upwards of 25 mph** along the immediate East Coast. Lows Sunday night will fall into the lower to middle 50s across North Florida, upper 50s to lower 60s in Central Florida, and middle to upper 60s in South Florida.



One of the bigger weather headlines earlier this week was the locally critical wildfire conditions that developed, especially across Central and South Florida. With the passage of this frontal system this weekend, as well as a return of mostly light winds, the larger wildfire risk will be mitigated with beneficial wetting rains expected. However, pockets of locally lower relative humidities are still expected, especially across interior South Florida where **locally elevated wildfire conditions** may persist with the ongoing long-term drought and active wildfire activity. On Saturday, gusty winds and lightning may accompany a few isolated thunderstorms which could lead to additional wildfire ignition or spread. Drier air filtering into the Panhandle and Big Bend may bring a return of at least **sensitive wildfire conditions** on Sunday, though wet soils and vegetation will keep the larger wildfire threat reduced.



Monday – Tuesday:

High pressure building over the local Southwest Atlantic waters will keep onshore easterly flow locked in place across the state Monday and Tuesday. A few isolated coastal showers cannot be ruled out along the East Coast both Monday and Tuesday afternoons, though activity will be largely brief and light in nature (15-30% chance of rain). Winds will begin to increase across the Peninsula on Tuesday, with breezy wind gusts **upwards of 25 mph** possible. Mostly sunny and dry conditions will prevail otherwise across the state. Relative humidities may dip to **near critical thresholds** across North and interior South Florida, which may bring **locally elevated wildfire conditions**. High temperatures will reach the upper 70s to middle 80s throughout the state both afternoons. Lows will fall into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida and lower to middle 60s throughout Central and interior South Florida. Coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys will see lows in the upper 60s to lower 70s.

Hydrology & Flooding:

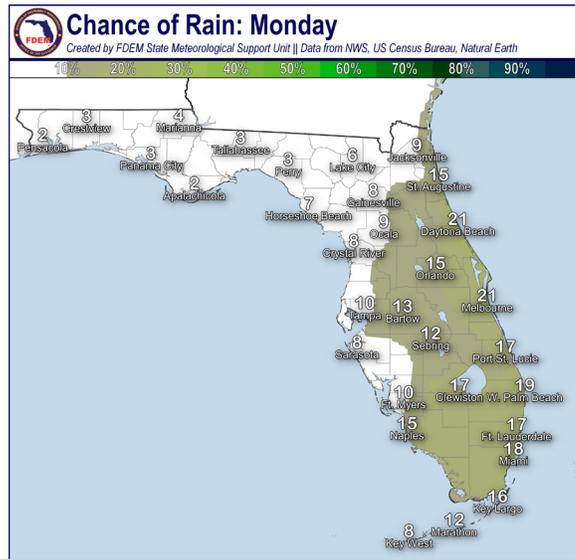
There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next five (5) days. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout the state today and tomorrow which may be accompanied by a few **locally heavy downpours** capable of producing **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially in urban and low-lying/poor drainage locations. However, given the ongoing drought, most rainfall will be largely beneficial. Still, this system does not appear to be a huge rainmaker and enough to put much of a dent into the ongoing drought conditions. Rainfall totals are expected to remain below 1" for most of North and Central Florida, though locally higher totals **upwards of 3"** cannot be ruled out in areas that receive repeated rounds of heavy downpours, most likely along or near the I-4 corridor. Rainfall totals are expected to be the lowest across interior Southwest Florida, generally below 0.5" through the weekend. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine concerns at this time. Numerous North and West-Central Florida rivers are running well-below normal streamflows given the ongoing drought conditions and lack of rainfall. Some of the rainfall this weekend may have help to fill some of the small creeks and streams, but overall streamflow remains will below normal. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

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

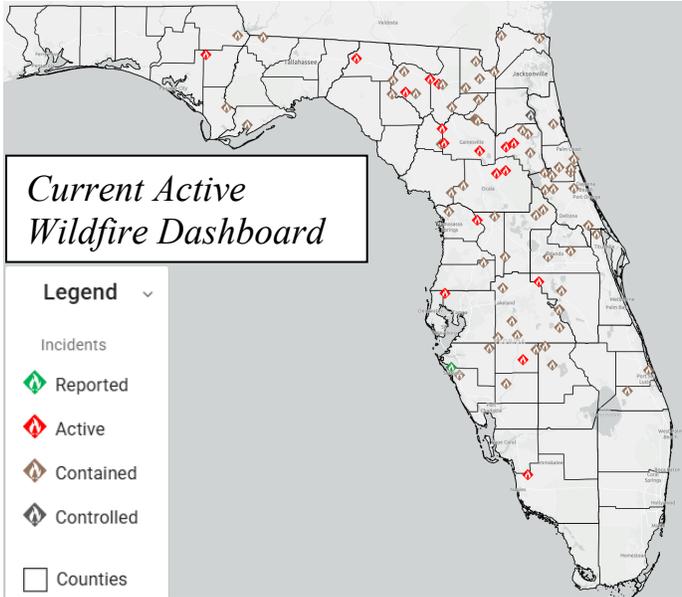
Drought & Fire Weather:

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 forecasted over the next 7 days (mainly this weekend) 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 look to remain sparse to widely isolated throughout the interior southern Peninsula as the frontal systems will struggle to remain intact as it advances through the state. KBDI values remain well into the 600s and 700s from near the I-4 corridor through South Florida and now portions of the Nature Coast are beginning to approach above the 500 threshold. Some slight improvements in drought are possible north of the I-4 corridor on next week's Drought Monitor, though persistence or worsening of drought is expected throughout South Florida.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **496** 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).



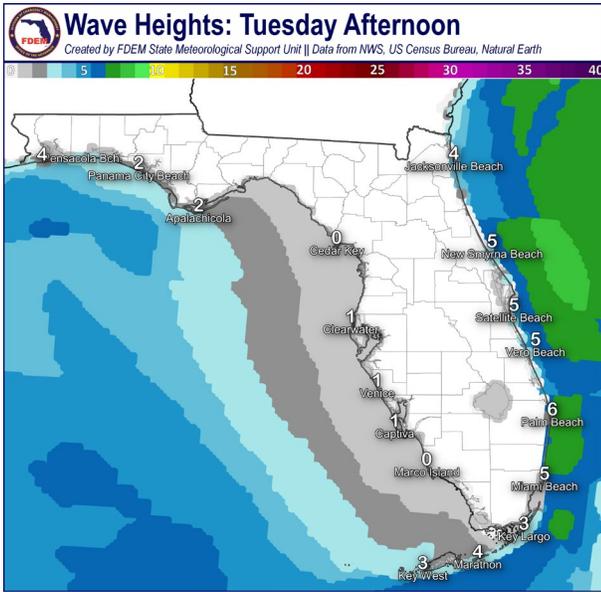
One of the bigger weather headlines earlier this week was the locally critical wildfire conditions that developed, especially across Central and South Florida. With the passage of this frontal system this weekend, as well as a return of mostly light winds, the larger wildfire risk will be mitigated with beneficial wetting rains expected. However, pockets of locally lower relative humidities are still expected, especially across interior South Florida where **locally elevated wildfire conditions** may persist with the ongoing long-term drought and active wildfire activity. On Saturday, gusty winds and lightning may accompany a few isolated thunderstorms which could lead to additional wildfire ignition or spread. Drier air filtering into the Panhandle and Big Bend may bring a return of at least **sensitive wildfire conditions** on Sunday and Monday, though wet soils and

vegetation will keep the larger wildfire threat reduced. Winds will begin to increase on Tuesday throughout the Peninsula, with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** expected. Instances of **patchy fog** may also develop across the state Friday and Saturday nights, which could lead to reduced visibilities within areas experiencing active wildfires and wildfire smoke. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 82 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5,244 acres.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **high risk for rip currents** is expected to persist along all Panhandle beaches today and Saturday with continued breezy winds and elevated surf lingering. Rip current conditions will return to a **moderate risk** on Sunday through Tuesday as winds turn offshore. Along the East Coast, a **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected through the weekend before building high pressure offshore brings a return of onshore flow and a **high risk for rip currents**. A low risk for rip currents is expected for all West Coast beaches through early next week.





Surf near **3-4'** is expected to linger along Panhandle beaches this afternoon before diminishing back down to 1-2' Saturday and through Monday afternoon. Waves will begin to increase again to **3-4'** on Tuesday as southerly winds return ahead of an approaching frontal system. Along the East Coast, waves near 1-2' will increase to **2-3'** on Sunday and Monday afternoon with breezy onshore flow. Waves will significantly increase on Tuesday afternoon to **4-6'** for all East Coast beaches. Surf near 1' is expected for all West Coast beaches through the forecast period.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows **high levels** of algal bloom along the eastern shoreline of Lake Okeechobee, Peace River off Lake Branch Road, and Lake Killarney within the upper St Johns River basin. **Moderate levels** have been observed throughout the south and western shoreline of Lake Okeechobee, within the Caloosahatchee

River, Lake Avalon in Collier County, the Peace River near Wauchula, Lake Thonotosassa, Lake Jesup, and Harbor Lake.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

