



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, March 1, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@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	Jim Lawhon	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 8
 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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	R6 Response On-Call
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	R7 Response On-Call
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

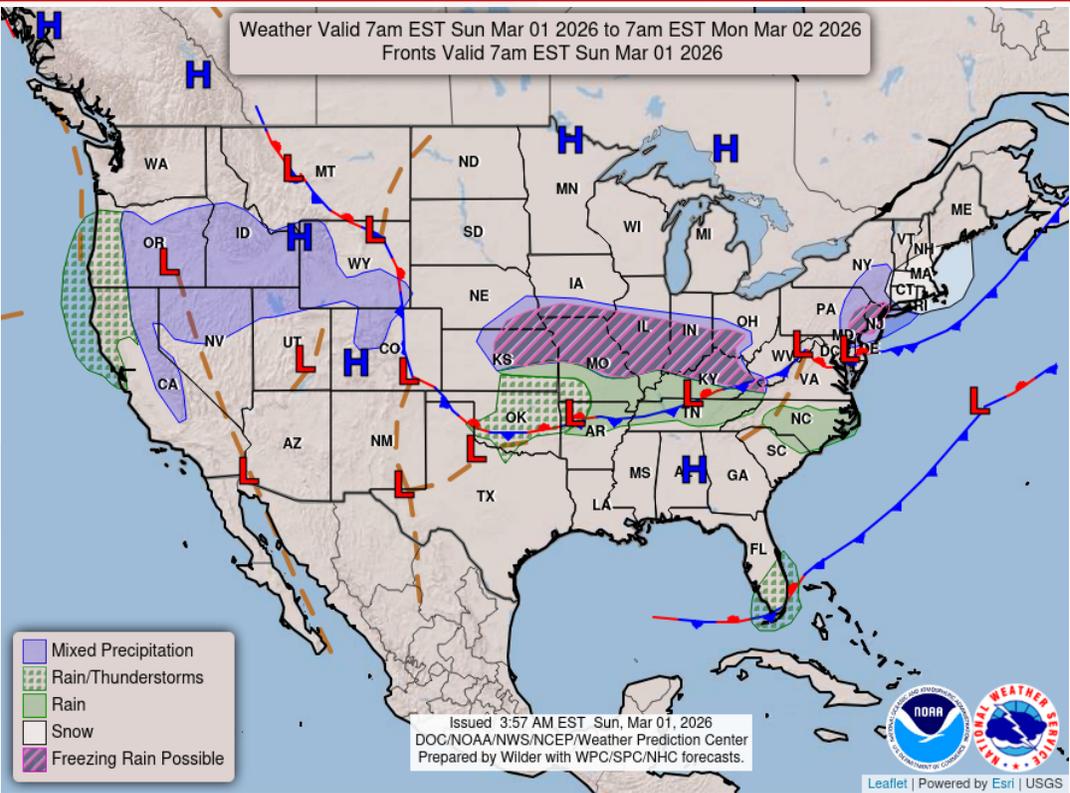
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

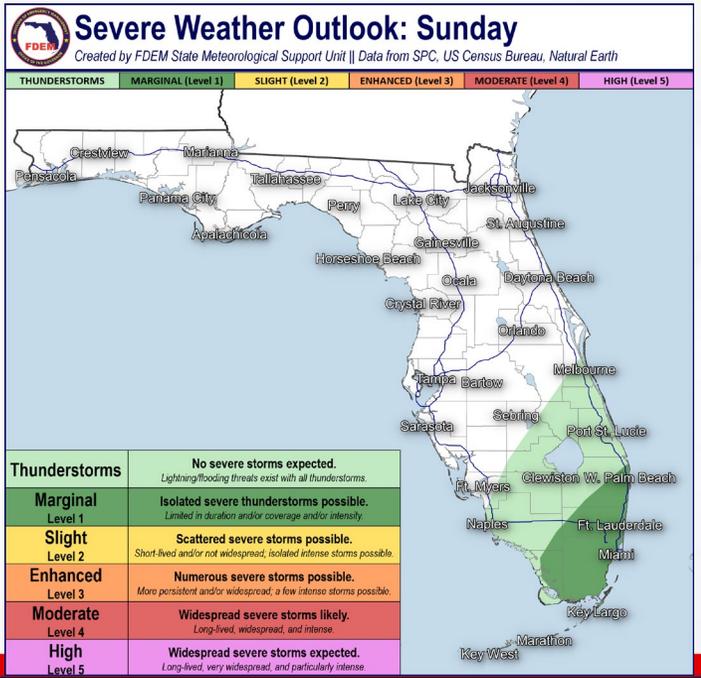
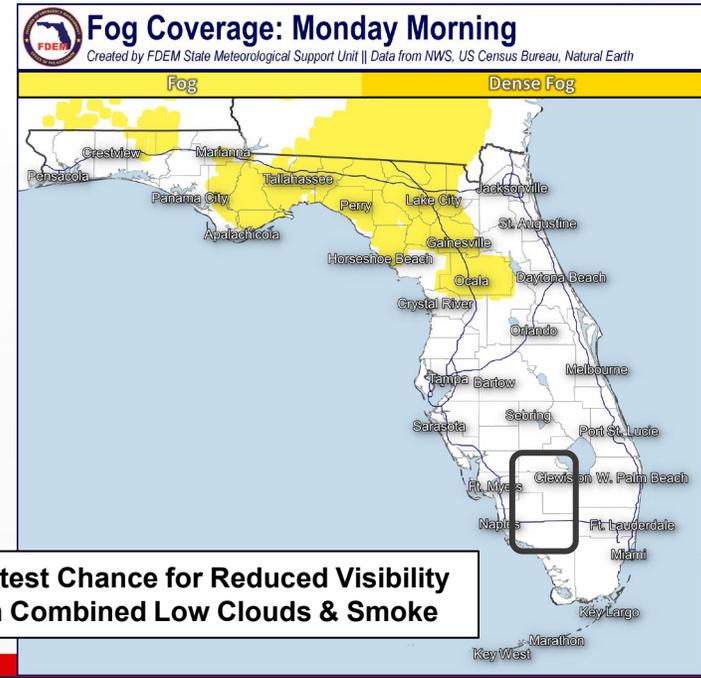


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning							L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind								L	L	L
Hail								L	L	L
Flash Flooding								L	L	L
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	H	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.27 ft. (2.25 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	469 (-32) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Greatest Chance for Reduced Visibility with Combined Low Clouds & Smoke

Thunderstorms	No severe storms expected. <i>Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms.</i>
Marginal Level 1	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible. <i>Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity.</i>
Slight Level 2	Scattered severe storms possible. <i>Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible.</i>
Enhanced Level 3	Numerous severe storms possible. <i>More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense storms possible.</i>
Moderate Level 4	Widespread severe storms likely. <i>Long-lived, widespread, and intense.</i>
High Level 5	Widespread severe storms expected. <i>Long-lived, very widespread, and particularly intense.</i>



Meteorology Summary

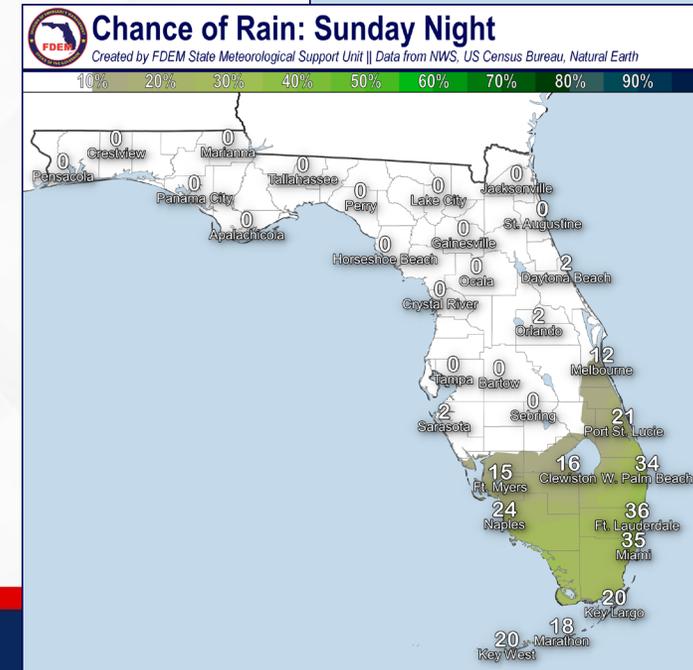
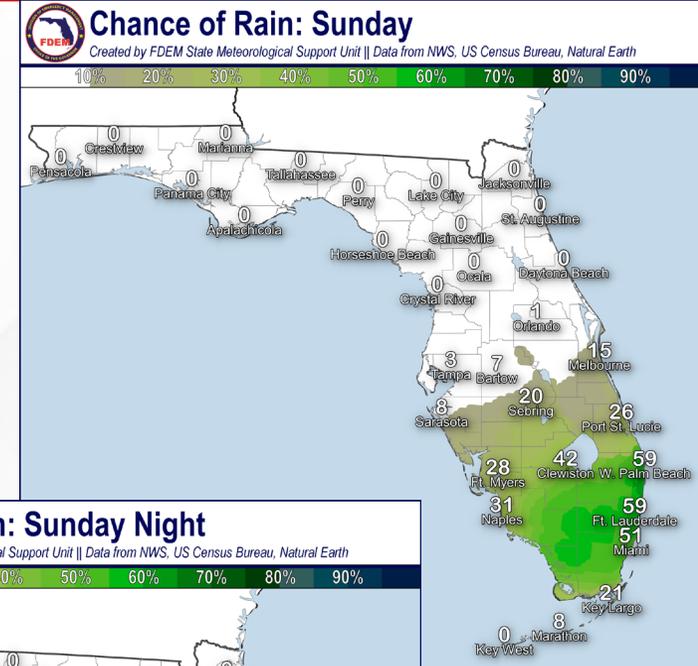
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Dense Fog conditions have developed this morning across much of North Florida, as well as portions of the Florida Keys, reducing visibilities. These **foggy conditions** and **low clouds** across the state will continue to lift and dissipate throughout the morning hours. Smoke from the **National Wildfire** in South Florida may create **hazardous driving conditions** along portions of I-75 (Alligator Alley) throughout the day, but especially this morning with any fog mixed in. Isolated showers ahead of a frontal boundary draped across the southern Peninsula will continue this morning. As the day progresses and conditions warm up, additional scattered shower and embedded thunderstorm activity will develop from the Treasure Coast and through South Florida (25-60% chance of rain). With the sea breeze developing and pushing inland, **stronger thunderstorm activity** may be possible this afternoon. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along Southeast Florida as thunderstorms developing during the peak heating times of the day may become **strong to severe**. These **thunderstorms** will be capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging winds (50-60 mph), large hail (upwards of 1") and locally heavy downpours. For the rest of the state, mostly dry and sunny conditions can be expected behind the frontal boundary. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will be possible for the interior Big Bend and Suwannee Valley where relative humidity values are expected to fall near critical thresholds this afternoon over existing drought conditions.

High temperatures will reach well into the 70s and lower 80s across the state today.

Shower and thunderstorm activity will continue into the evening hours as the front slowly makes its way over the Straits and begins to wash out. Most of the shower and thunderstorm activity can be expected to dissipate during the overnight hours; however, lingering isolated showers and an embedded thunderstorm or two may be possible closer towards the coastlines and coastal waters overnight across South Florida (15-35% chance of rain). Low-level moisture and calm winds will bring back the **chance for fog** to develop overnight and into Monday morning throughout the state, with **dense fog** possible across much of the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley. *Fog mixed in with wildfire smoke, especially across South Florida, will significantly reduce visibilities.*

Low temperatures will fall into the upper 40s to middle 50s across North Florida, upper 50s to lower 60s across Central Florida and 60s to lower 70s across South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Calm marine conditions will create a **moderate risk for rip currents** along numerous Panhandle and East Coast beaches, with portions of the First and Space Coasts seeing a **high risk**. A low risk can be expected elsewhere. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights across the state are expected to remain near 1-3' with locally elevated **surf of 4'** along portions of the First and Space Coasts.

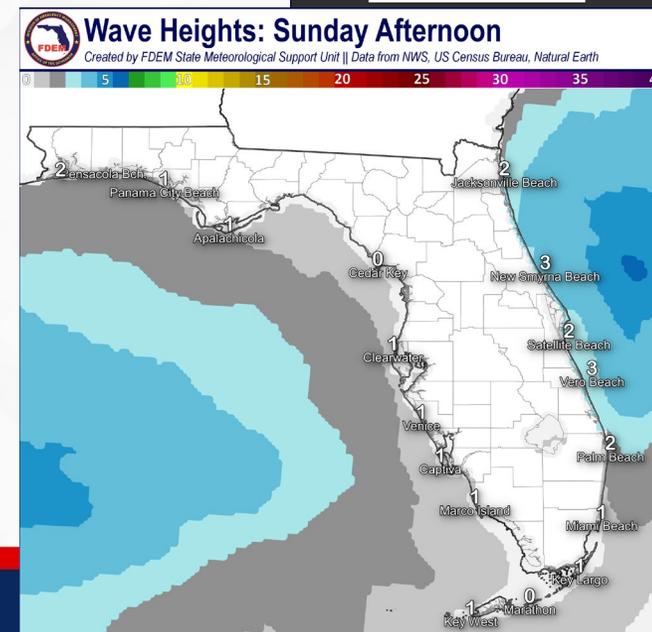
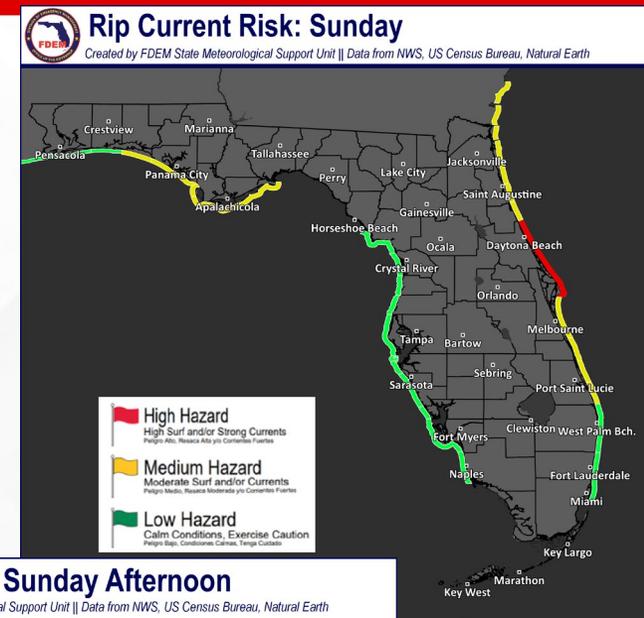
Red Tide was observed at background conditions in two samples from Bay County. It was not observed along the Florida East Coast or Southwest Florida (valid 2/27/2026).

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 will bring locally heavy downpours across portions of the Treasure Coast and South Florida today. Rainfall totals upwards of an inch are possible; however, locally heavier rainfall could produce totals of 2-3" this afternoon and evening. Nuisance ponding of water or localized flooding over urban areas cannot be ruled out.

Riverine Flooding: [Bruce Creek near Redbay](#) has reached Action State (*bank-full*) this weekend due to recent rainfall. There are no other riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.27 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.25 feet below normal for this time of year.



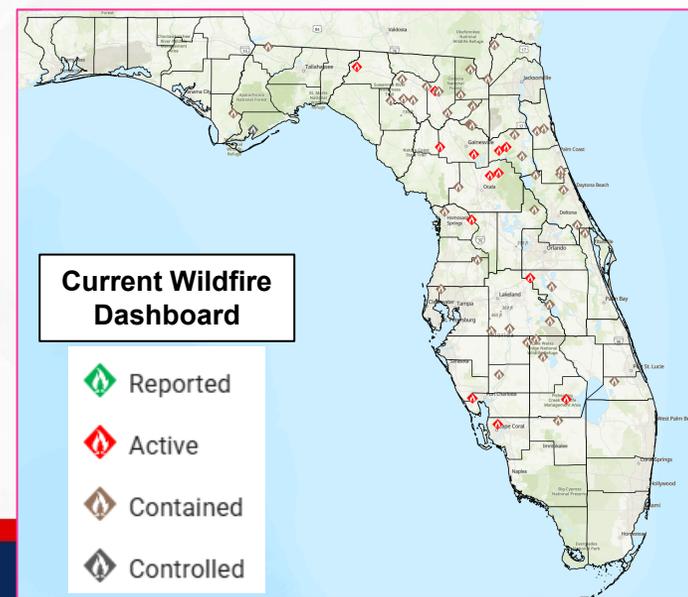
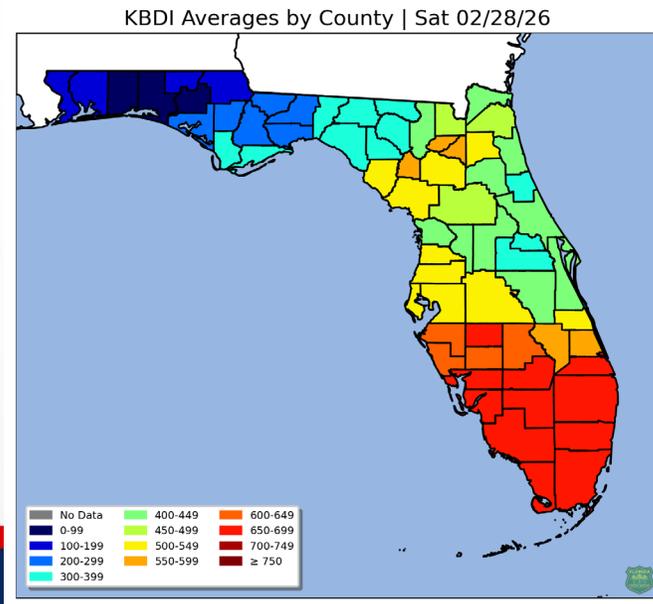
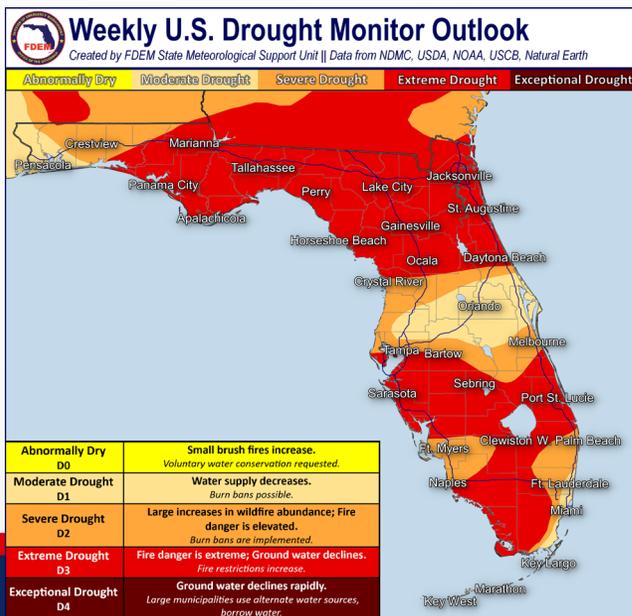


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dense Fog has developed this morning throughout North Florida, as well as portions of Monroe County, and will reduce visibilities until it lifts and dissipates. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected across the interior Panhandle and Big Bend where relative humidity values will fall near **critical thresholds late this afternoon**. Elsewhere across the state, relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds. Scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms can be expected to develop across South Florida, and portions of West-Central Florida, today as a frontal boundary stalls bringing much needed rainfall to the region. Thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds. Another round of **patchy fog** can be expected early Monday morning throughout the state, with **dense fog** conditions likely developing throughout the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 60 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,584 acres.

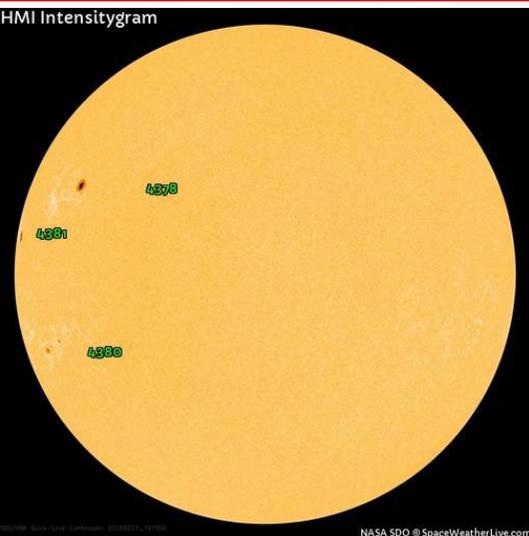
Drought (2/26/26): Showers bypassed many areas of the Southeast United States, leading to slowly worsening drought conditions on this week's Drought Monitor update. The recent uptick in wildfires across Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula are a result of increasing both near-term and long-term 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 **469 (-32)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

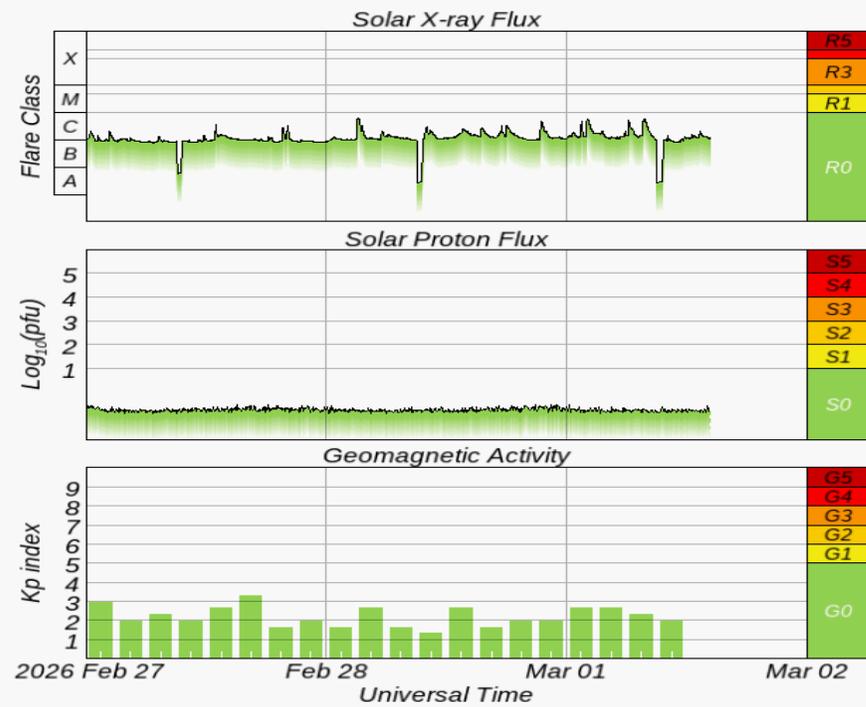
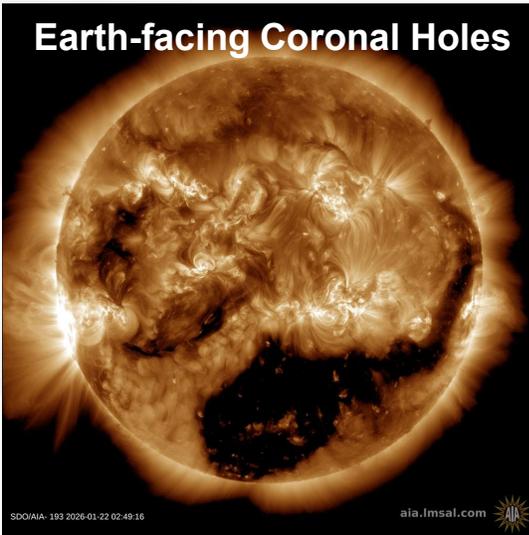




Space Weather



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	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/1	3/2
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with an isolated chance for strong (M-class) solar flares as sunspot #4380 poses a slight threat for such activity. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any M-class solar flares that develop. Solar wind conditions likely to remain enhanced due to the anticipated arrival of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun a week ago. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels through part of today before increasing to active conditions and a chance for minor (G1) geomagnetic storming. 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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