



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, March 4, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Caleb Pitts	(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	Evan Newman	(850) 567-6368	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@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	Brandon Gore	(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	Gulf, Franklin	County EM Visits
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Suwanee	County EM Transition Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Polk	G-141 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Palm Beach	SRT Assessment (Delray Beach FR)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	OVS UC Meeting



Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6  
 Region 7 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	Okloosa	Traffic Control Class
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Gulf/Franklin	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Suwanee	EM Transition Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	Leadership Training
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Administration
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	F-ROC TA
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	FIU and FDEM Meet & Greet

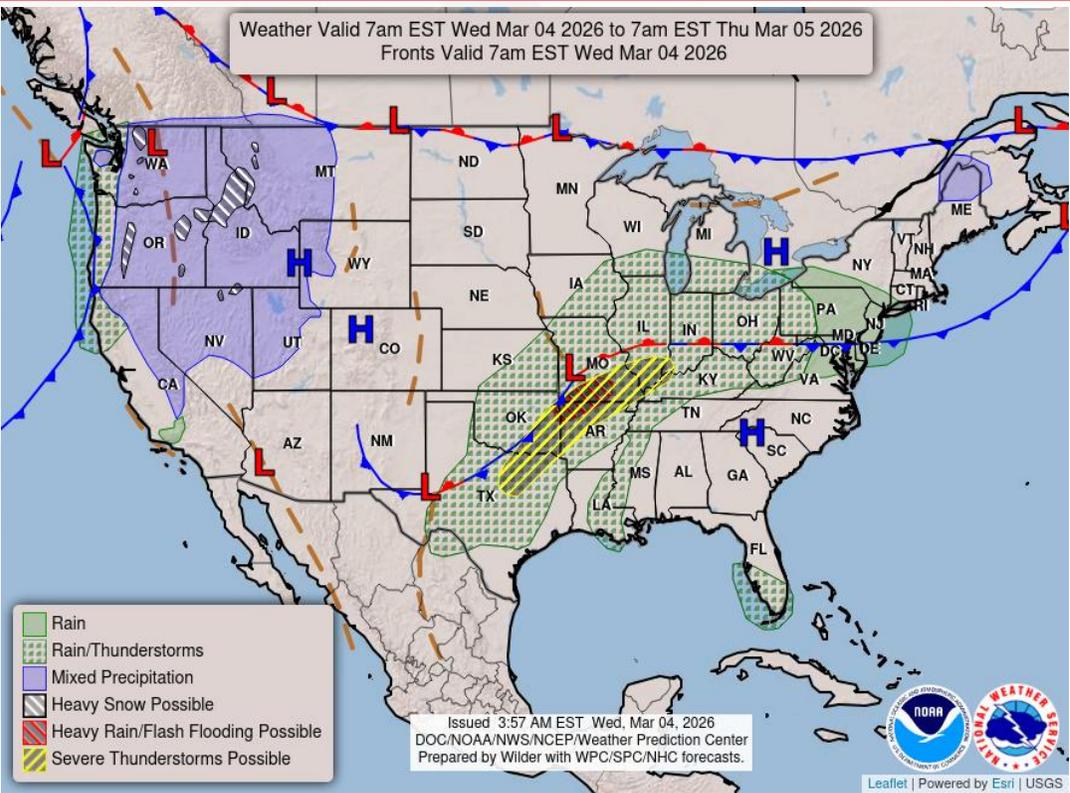
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

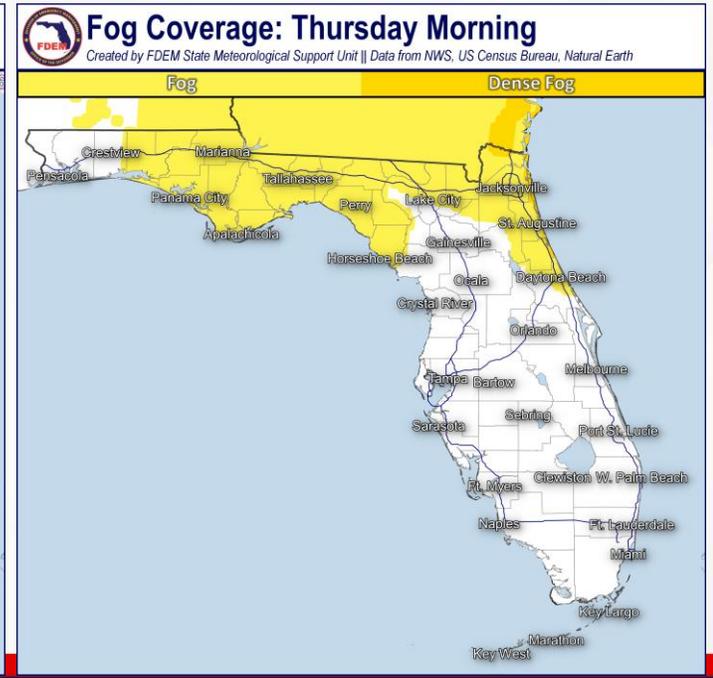
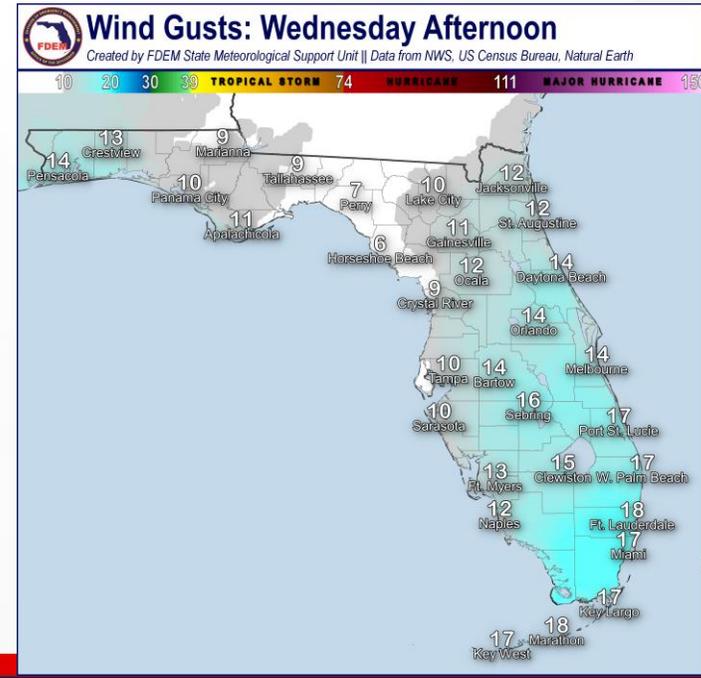


# Meteorology Summary



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)	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.28 ft. (2.23 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	475 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





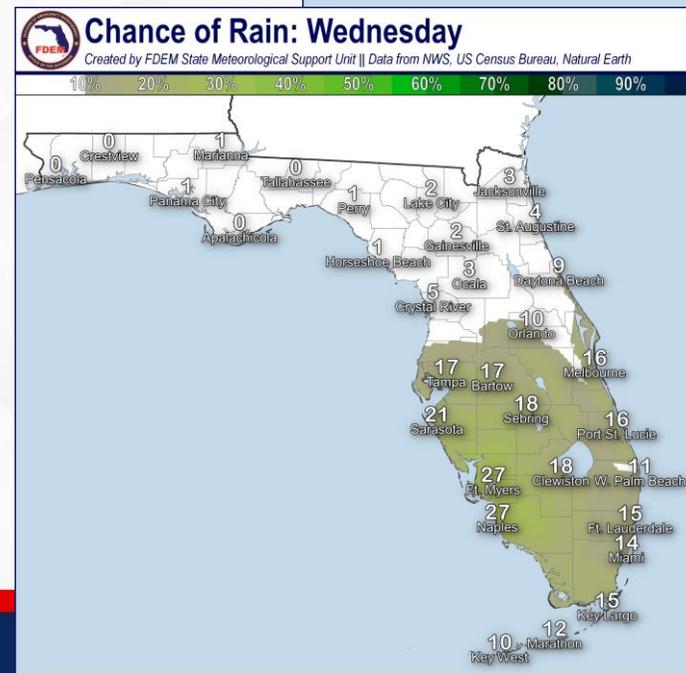
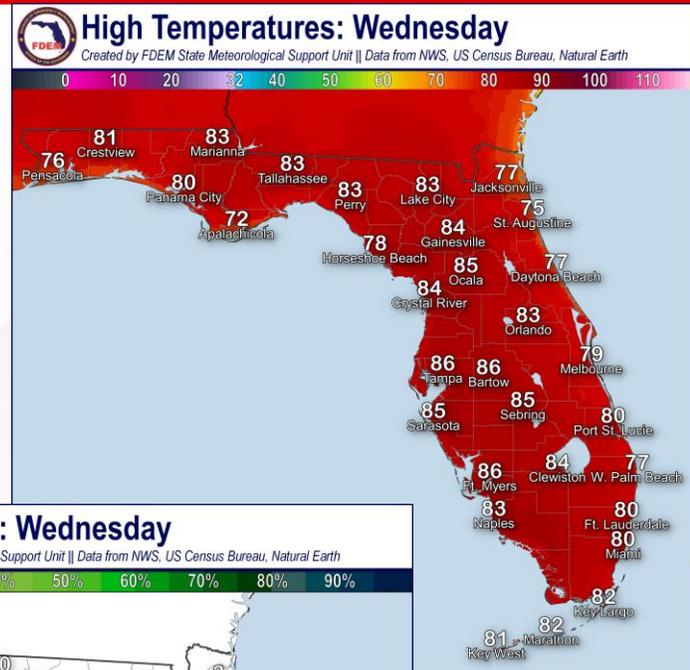
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Fog and low clouds throughout Northeast and East-Central Florida, some of which is **locally dense**, will be slow to lift and dissipate through the morning hours with the rising sun. *Areas of sea fog along the Gulf-facing shores may linger into the afternoon.* Otherwise, a near repeat of yesterday is expected as high pressure centered over the local Atlantic waters keeps mostly dry conditions in place. Easterly onshore flow is expected around this area of high pressure along the East Coast, with a few breezy wind gusts **upwards of 20 mph** expected this afternoon. This onshore flow will also help to keep some low-level moisture around throughout South Florida where an isolated shower or two is possible (15-30% chance of rain). These showers will likely be light and brief in nature, however an **embedded thunderstorm and rumble of thunder** cannot be ruled out along the Southeast Florida coastline. Relative humidity values are expected to remain well above critical thresholds this afternoon given low-level moisture, though pockets of drier conditions may develop across interior North Florida. High temperatures will reach the lower to middle 80s throughout much of the state, with cooler conditions along the Northeast Florida coastline.

Any shower activity that does manage to develop this afternoon should quickly dissipate this evening or shift offshore towards the Atlantic waters. As onshore winds continue, a few brief showers may also continue near the Southeast coastline overnight (15-30% chance of rain). Low-level moisture and calm winds throughout North and Central Florida will lead to **widespread fog developing** by early Thursday morning, with instances of **locally dense fog possible**. *Foggy conditions and low clouds can further reduce visibilities where there are ongoing wildfires.*

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





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Breezy onshore winds along the Florida East Coast will create a **high risk for rip currents** for nearly all beaches. Most Panhandle beaches can expect a **moderate risk**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Onshore winds will push ocean **swells of 3-4'** towards the Florida East Coast today, and through the Atlantic-facing Key beaches. Majority of the Gulf and West Coast can expect wave heights near 1' with the Panhandle reaching upwards of 2-3' later this afternoon.

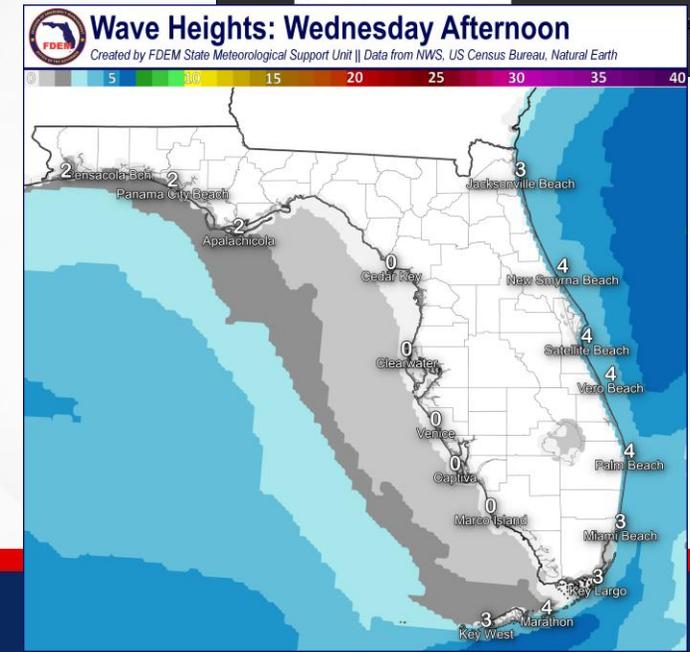
**Red Tide** was observed at background conditions in two samples from Bay County. It was not observed along the Florida East Coast or Southwest Florida (valid 2/27/2026).

**Coastal Flooding:** There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Afternoon showers along portions of the eastern coastline will be relatively light and brief, keeping rainfall totals minimal. Should any thunderstorm develop and move onshore, they may produce a quick 1".

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.28 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.23 feet below normal for this time of year.



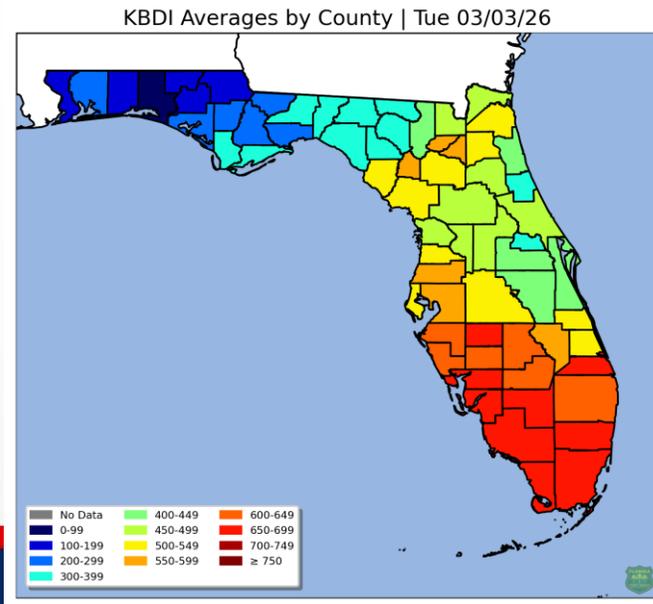
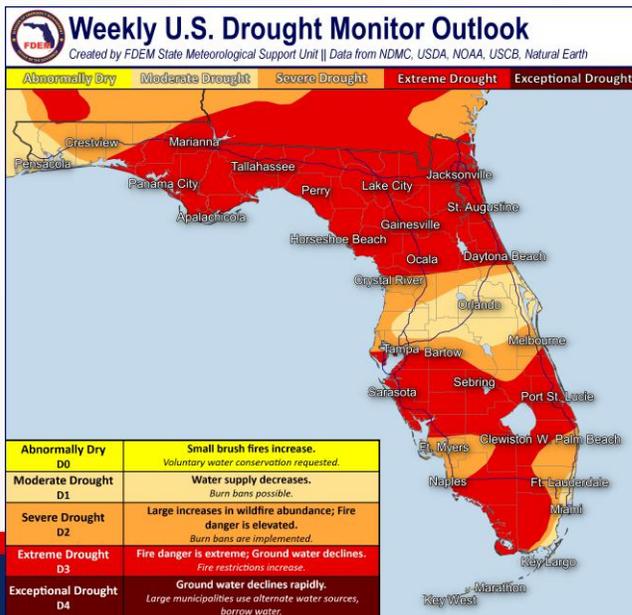


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Foggy conditions and low clouds, some of which is locally dense, have developed throughout the state this morning, but should continue to lift and dissipate throughout the morning hours. Some areas of Sea Fog near the coastlines will linger longer. Low-level moisture and onshore winds will help to keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds across the state today, with the driest conditions across interior North Florida. Winds will generally remain light today near 5-10 mph, with stronger winds upwards of 15 mph along the immediate Florida East Coast. Wind gusts will be very similar reaching near 15-20 mph across the state with the strongest gusts along the eastern half of the Peninsula. Another round of patchy to widespread fog will be possible throughout North and Central Florida early Thursday morning, with instances of locally dense fog possible. Foggy conditions and low clouds will further reduce visibilities where there are ongoing wildfires. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are 59 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,778 acres.

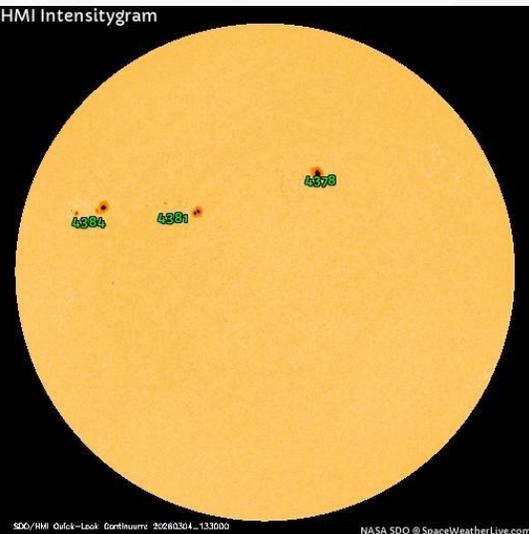
**Drought (2/26/26):** Showers bypassed many areas of the Southeast United States, leading to slowly worsening drought conditions on this week's Drought Monitor update. The recent uptick in wildfires across Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula are a result of increasing both near-term and long-term 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 475 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are 31 Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

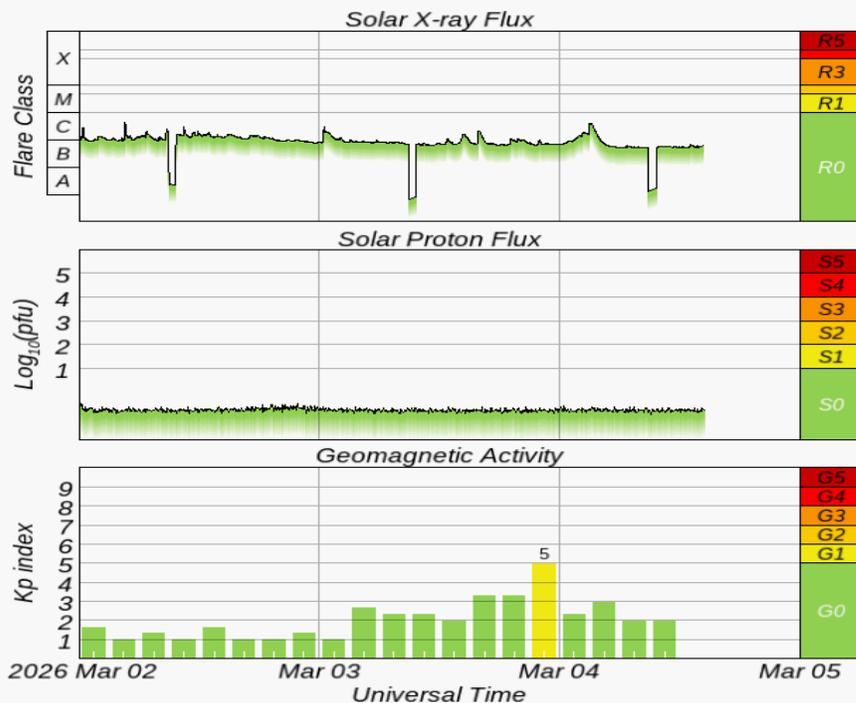
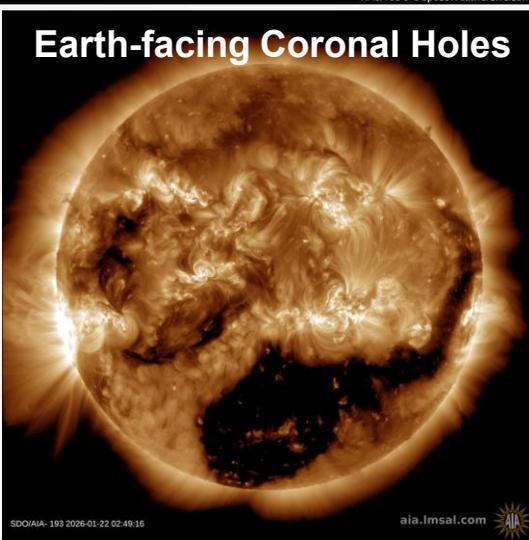




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/4	3/5
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for an isolated strong (M-class) solar flare. Despite several Earth-facing sunspots, all of them currently possess stable or decaying magnetic fields posing little threat for strong solar flares. Should any M-class flares develop, they will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions are expected through the end of the week due to ongoing Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) conditions. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to remain near unsettled levels due to these CH HSS effects, with a chance for isolated active periods and minor (G1) storming. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
<b>Phone:</b>	800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)	Operational	
<b>Backup Landline:</b>	850-487-3234, 850-487-3228	Operational	
<b>Fax:</b>	850-815-4979	Operational	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
<b>SWO Tracker:</b>	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	Operational	
<b>SLERS:</b>	DEM Statewide	Operational	
<b>FNARS:</b>	WGY974	Operational	
<b>Federal NAWAS:</b>	State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>EMnet Message:</b>	FL.000- State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>EMnet Voice:</b>	FL SWP- State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>IPAWS:</b>	LP.1 Stations via Emnet	Operational	
<b>FIN:</b>	SOFEOC	Operational	
<b>Satellite Phones:</b>	MSAT 888-890-5178 or Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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