



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 5, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	Evan.Newman@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	Brandon Gore	(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	Leon, Gadsden	Equipment Pickup / County Partners Mtg / NWS Mtg/ RC Mtg
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	RDSTF Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon	RDSTF Meeting / Response Coordinators 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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	SRT Assessment (FL-TF6)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Broward	Turkey Point NPP TF Meeting / Airport Exercise (Overnight)



Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 8
 Region 8 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	RDSTF Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Gilchrist	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	Volunteer Florida Convening
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hardee	MCI Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Hardee	MCI Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	Triennial Full-Scale Exercise

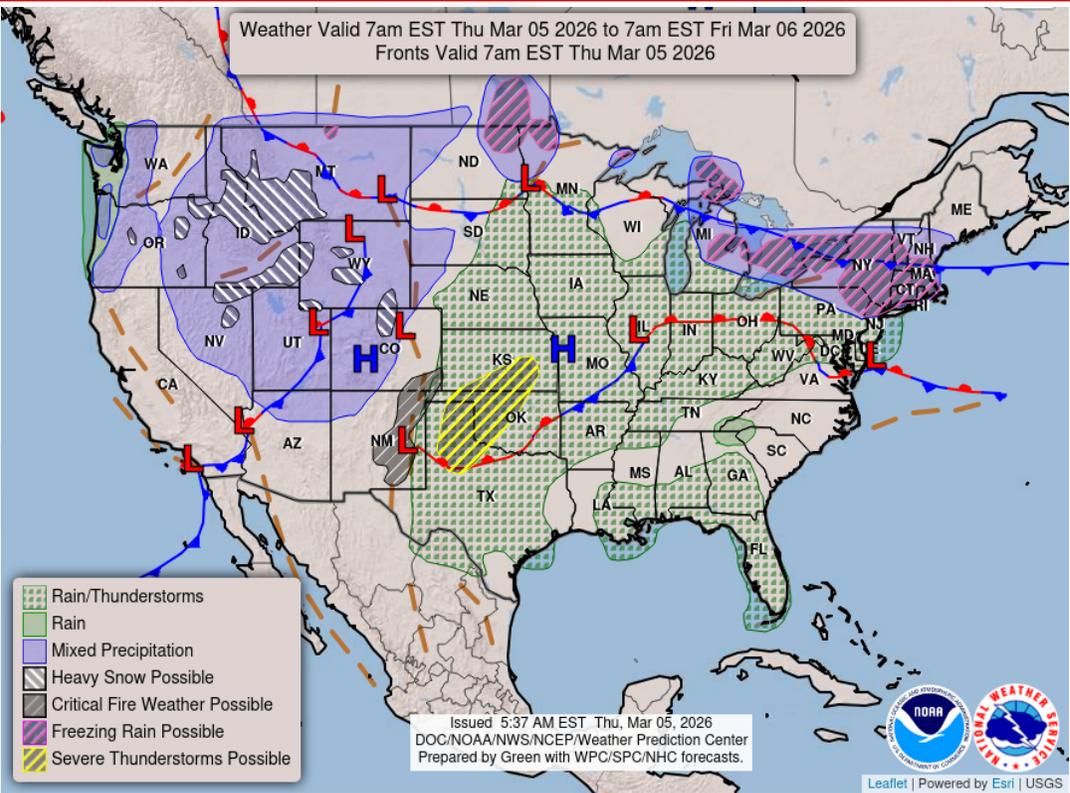
Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

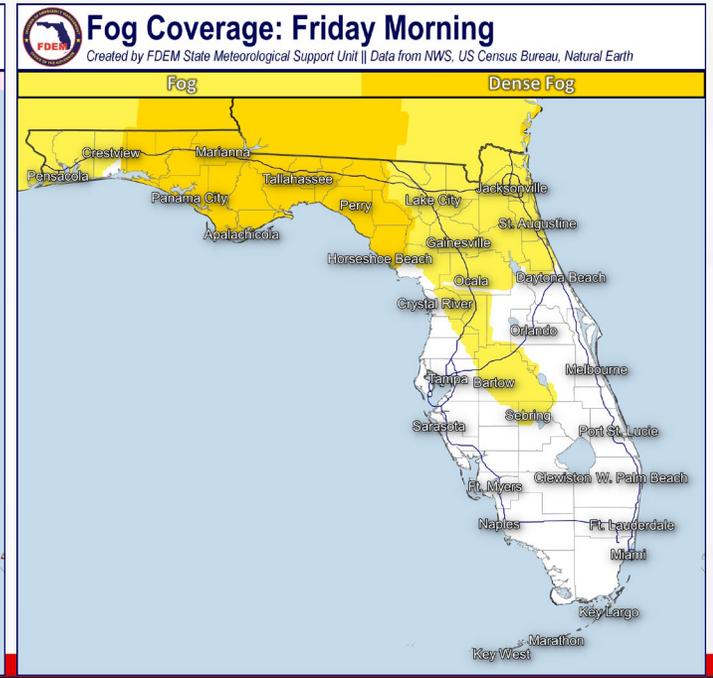
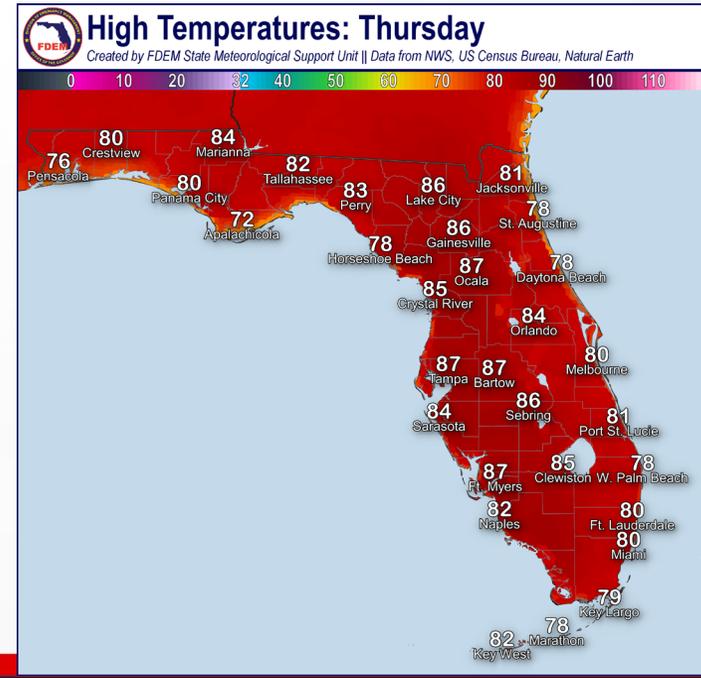


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind						L	L		L	
Hail										
Flash Flooding						L	L		L	
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.28 ft. (2.22 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	480 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





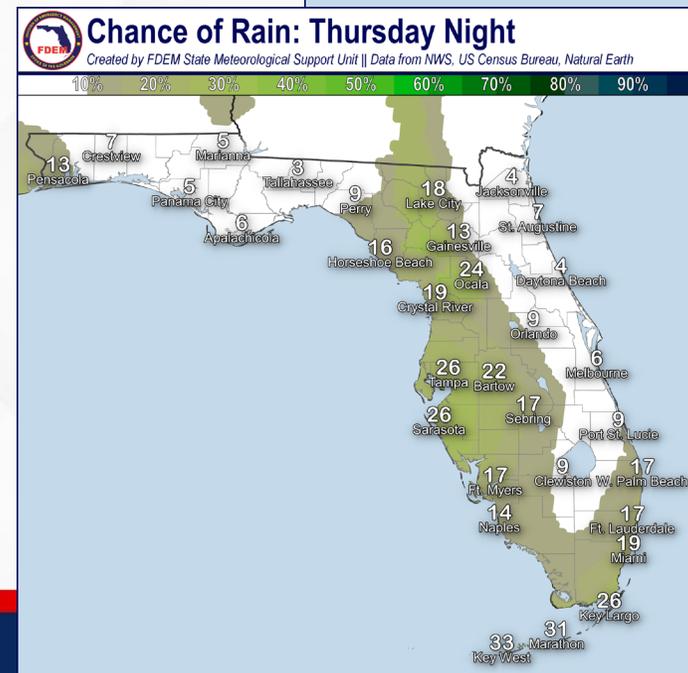
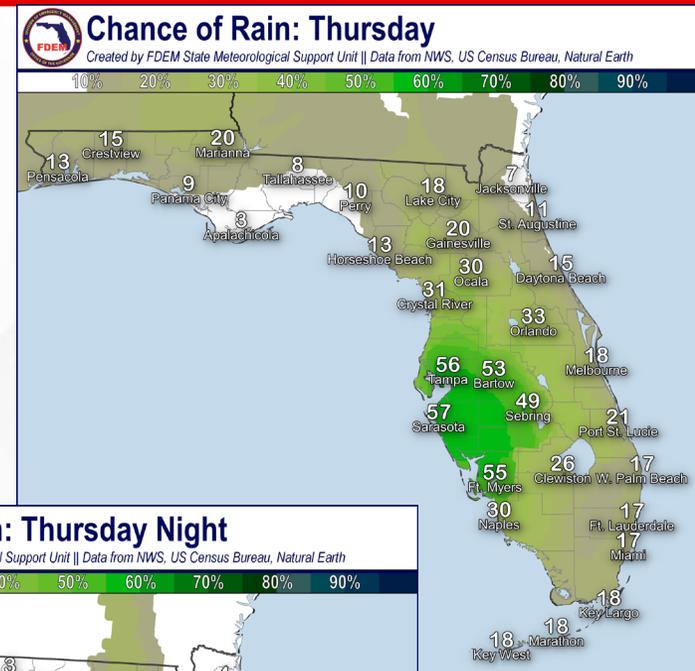
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy dense fog** throughout portions of Northeast Florida and the Panhandle will gradually lift and dissipate as the sun continues to rise. Very little change is once again expected today as an area of high pressure just off the local Atlantic waters keeps easterly flow and warm temperatures around. An increase in low-level moisture today and the local sea breezes will promote a few isolated to widely scattered showers throughout the state this afternoon (15-30% chance of rain), with the greatest chance of rain along the Gulf sea-breeze pinned across West-Central Florida (35-60% chance of rain). Drier air aloft will limit greater thunderstorm development, though a few **isolated thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out mainly along the I-75 corridor. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 0.5-1" across West-Central Florida, though localized pockets **upwards of 2-3"** cannot be ruled out. This easterly flow will be accompanied by a few breezy wind gusts **upwards of 20 mph** throughout Southeast Florida and along the I-95 corridor.

Temperatures will continue a warming trend today, reaching the 80s throughout much of the state. Onshore winds will keep temperatures in the 70s along the coastlines. Feels-like temperatures may approach the **lower 90s** throughout portions of interior West-Central Florida.

Shower activity from the daytime will begin to dissipate across the Peninsula through the evening and early overnight hours (15-25% chance of rain). Another night of **low clouds and fog** is expected throughout much of North and interior Central Florida, some of which could become **locally dense**. Low temperatures will only fall into the lower to middle 60s for North and Central Florida, with upper 60s to lower 70s in South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds will persist along the Florida East Coast keeping a **high risk for rip currents** in place for nearly all beaches. Most Panhandle beaches can expect a **moderate risk**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Onshore winds will continue to push ocean **swells of 3-4'** towards the Florida East Coast and through the Atlantic-facing Key beaches today. Majority of the Gulf and West Coast can expect wave heights near 1' with the Panhandle reaching upwards of 2' 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. Isolated to widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms are expected throughout much of the Peninsula this afternoon. The greatest chance of rain will exist along the Gulf sea-breeze pinned across West-Central Florida where isolated rainfall totals **upwards of 2-3"** cannot be ruled out in areas that see slow-moving or 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 12.28 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.22 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



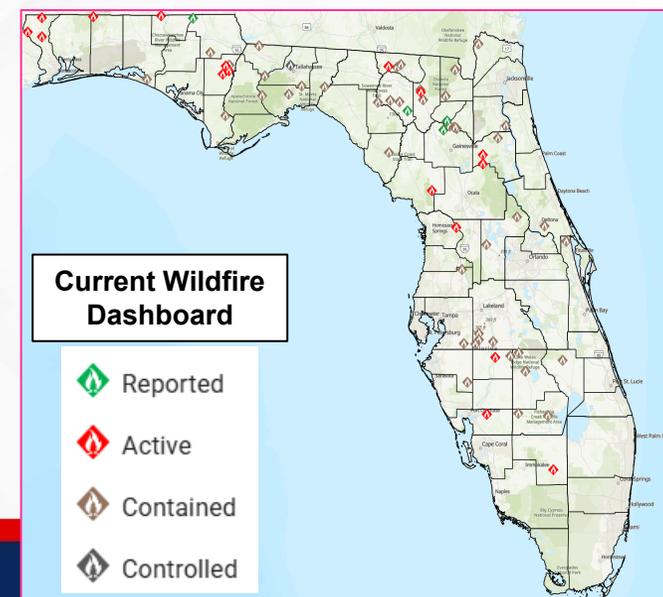
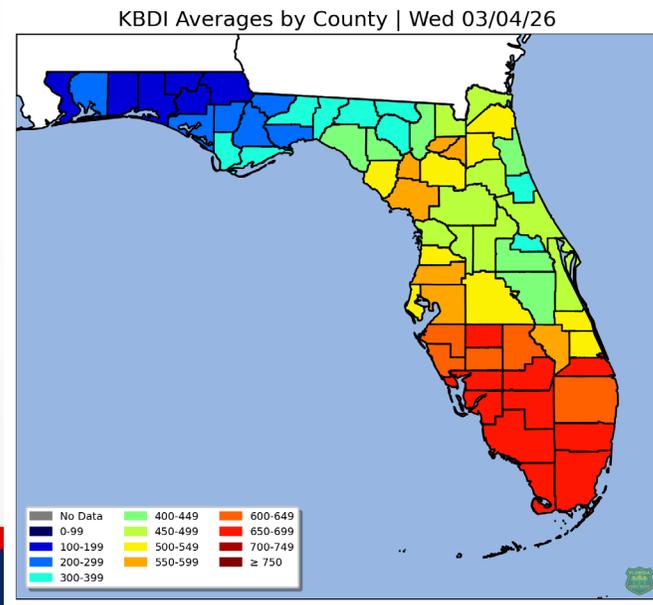
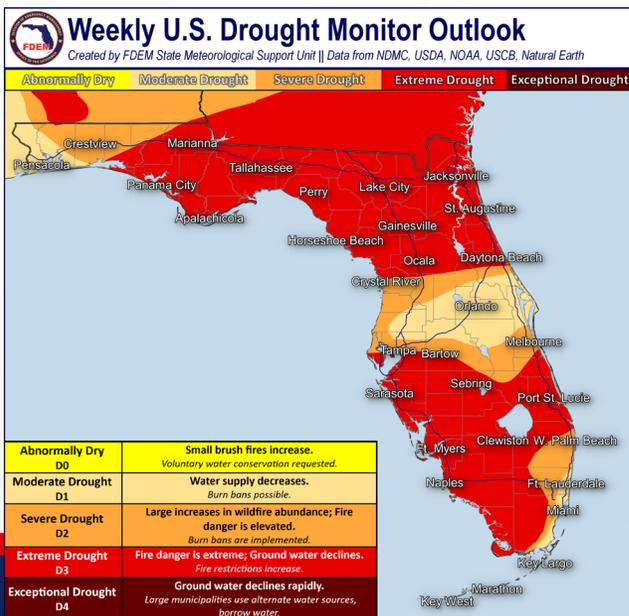


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Foggy conditions and low clouds, some of which has become locally dense, has developed throughout portions of Northeast Florida and the Panhandle this morning. This fog will begin to slowly lift and dissipate through the morning hours. 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 throughout Southeast Florida. Scattered showers and a few isolated thunderstorms may develop this afternoon across the Peninsula, some of which could be accompanied by lightning and gusty winds. *Lightning strikes can spark new fires or reignite existing fires.* Another round of patchy to widespread fog will be possible throughout North and Central Florida early Friday 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 67 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,291 acres.

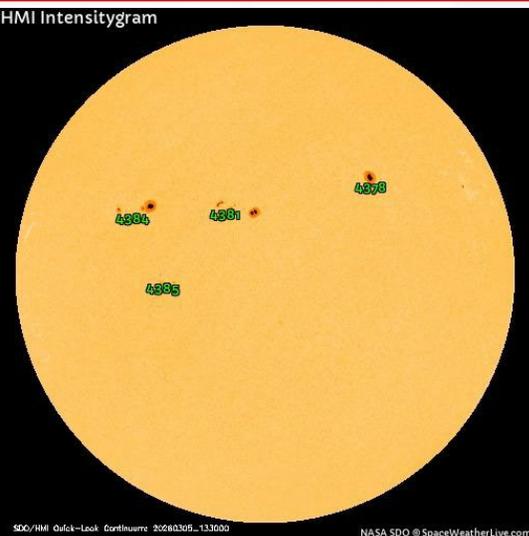
Drought (3/5/26): The cold front that swept through the state last weekend (2/27-2/28) brought some "beneficial" rains to portions of the state, yet totals were still not enough to provide any real relief or alleviation to the ongoing long-term drought that has stricken Florida. The heaviest totals were found across the Panhandle and in pockets throughout Central Florida, generally upwards of 2-2.5" or so. However, other portions of the state, such as interior South Florida, saw negligible rainfall. This was reflected in the latest Drought Monitor update this week where the previous severe drought has been upgraded to an extreme drought (level 3 of 4) across the remainder of Collier, Lee, and Hendry counties. As such, all Southwest Florida is now under the extreme drought category as 90-day rainfall departures remain at 3-5" below normal. Elsewhere, no significant changes were made to the Drought Monitor this week. An extreme drought (level 3 of 4) persists across nearly all North Florida, outside of the western Panhandle that remains under a moderate (level 1 of 4) to severe (level 2 of 4) drought. The largest rainfall departures in the past 3 months of 5-7" below normal is found across North Florida where streamflows remain well below normal, recreational and agricultural impacts have worsened, and brush wildfires continue to remain a concern. A moderate drought (level 1 of 4) remains across much of the I-4 corridor where locally heavier rains have fallen in the past few months. The extreme drought conditions have brought increasing wildfire conditions as well, especially throughout South Florida where a few large wildfires have broken out (i.e. the National Wildfire burning nearly 35,000 acres). As of this update, 100% of the land across Florida remains within a category of drought and 70% of the state under an extreme drought (level 3 of 4). The rainfall forecast through the next week does not look promising for any improvements to the drought. A few isolated showers or embedded thunderstorms could bring pockets of heavier rainfall to portions of the Peninsula as the local sea breezes begin to wake up amidst warmer temperatures, though widespread drenching rains are not expected.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 480 (+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).

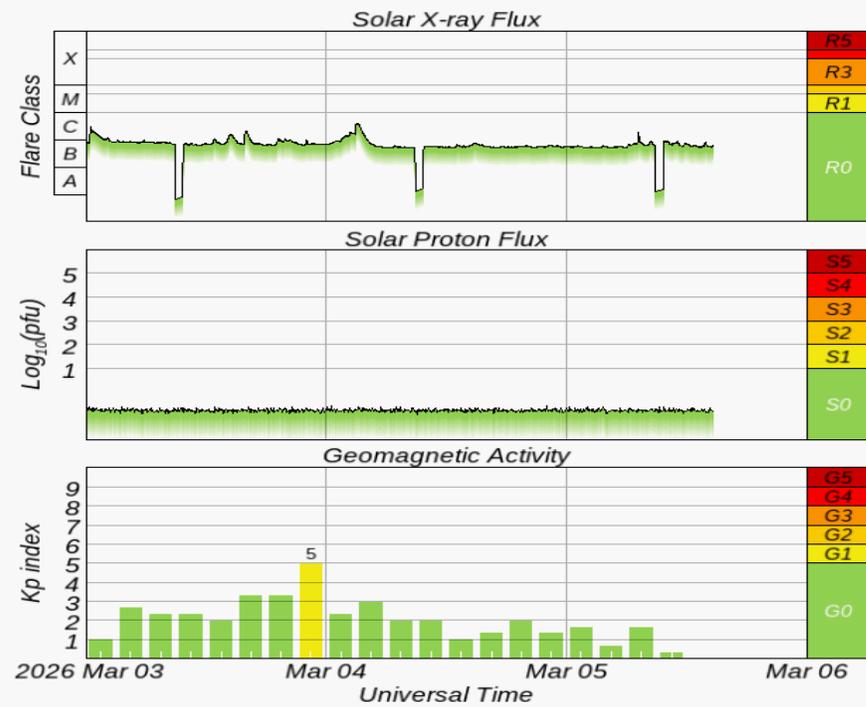




Space Weather

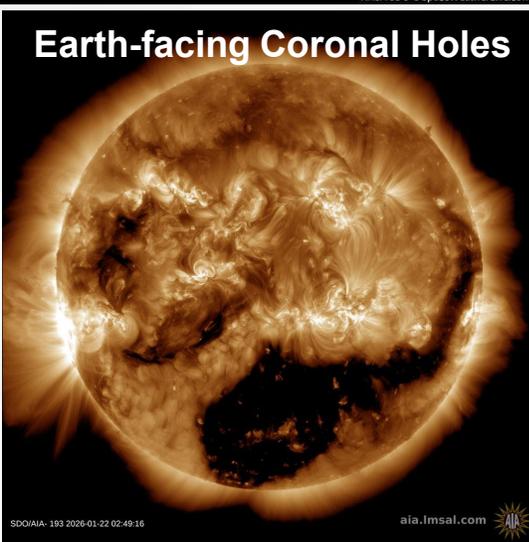


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/5	3/6
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels 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. Solar wind conditions are expected to return to nominal background conditions today before significant enhancements on Friday and Saturday ahead of a very effective Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) event. The Earth's geomagnetic field is also expected to respond to the coronal hole influences on Friday with Minor (G1) storming likely. Active conditions will persist into the weekend. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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