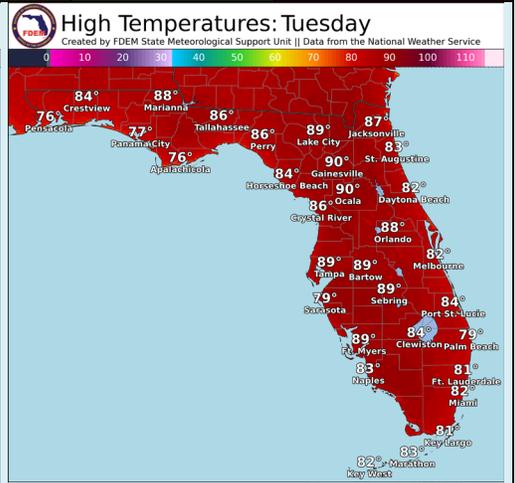
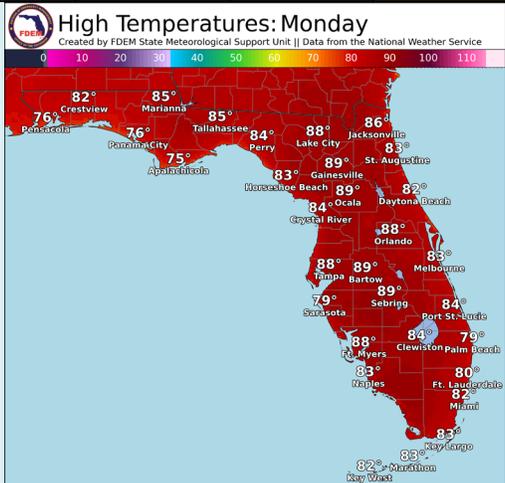
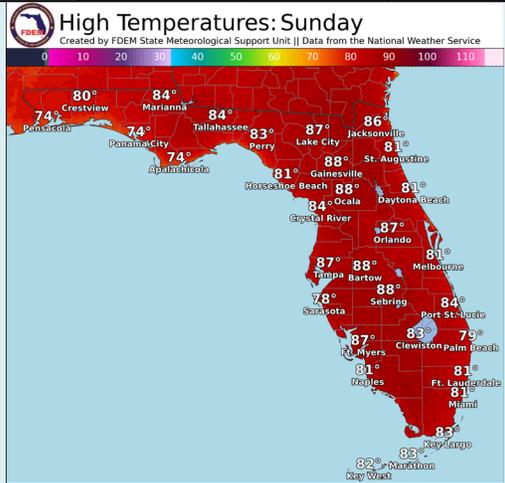


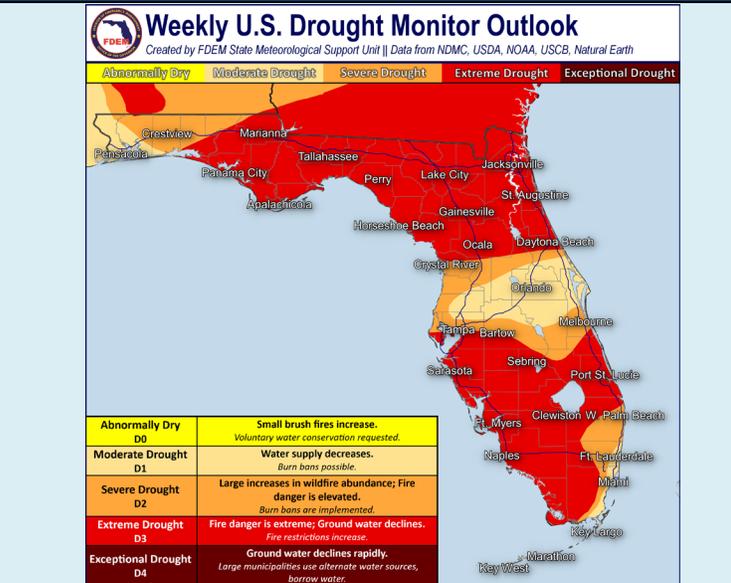
Friday, March 6, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

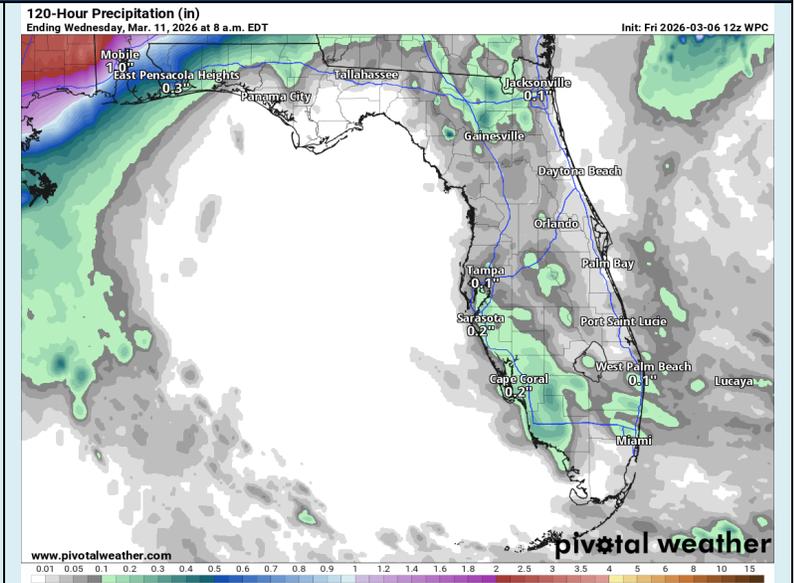
No Threat			Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Flash Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Iso. North & West-Central FL		Iso. North & West-Central FL	Iso. Northeast & West-Central FL		Locally Panhandle & Big Bend North &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



Forecast High Temperatures: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday



Drought Monitor: Valid 3/5

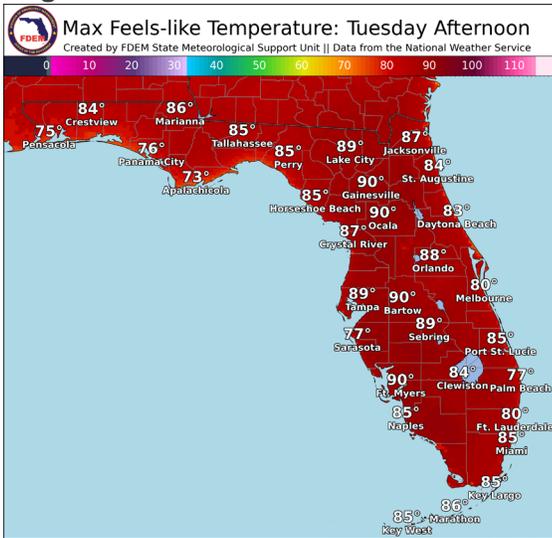


5 Day Forecast Rainfall Totals – Through Tuesday Evening





weekend. The greatest chance for **locally dense fog** is across the Panhandle and Big Bend and **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant.



Not many changes are anticipated to start next week with high pressure still holding strong over the Atlantic waters, nudging into the local region. This will keep at least a slight chance for isolated sea breeze showers and thunderstorms around each afternoon across the Peninsula (15-25% chance of rain). Warm temperatures into the **80s** and even **lower 90s** will continue to cure and dry out sensitive vegetation which will keep the **locally elevated wildfire risk** in place throughout the interior Peninsula. Additionally, breezy afternoon winds with gusts **upwards of 20 mph** will still spread across the state. Similar low temperatures in the 60s and lower 70s are expected, with **locally dense fog** remaining a concern each morning across much of North and Central Florida.

### Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next five (5) days. Isolated to widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms are expected to develop across portions of the Peninsula each afternoon this weekend associated with the sea breeze boundaries. Spatial coverage of this activity is not expected to be great, and many locations will see rainfall totals below 0.5-1". However, a few **locally heavy downpours** could produce a quick 1-3" of rainfall over a short period of time, which can lead to **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially in urban and low-lying areas. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine concerns at this time. Numerous waterways continue to see streamflows well below normal, especially across the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley where the region has seen less rainfall compared to other areas in recent weeks. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.27 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.23 feet below normal for this time of year.



### Drought & Fire Weather:

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

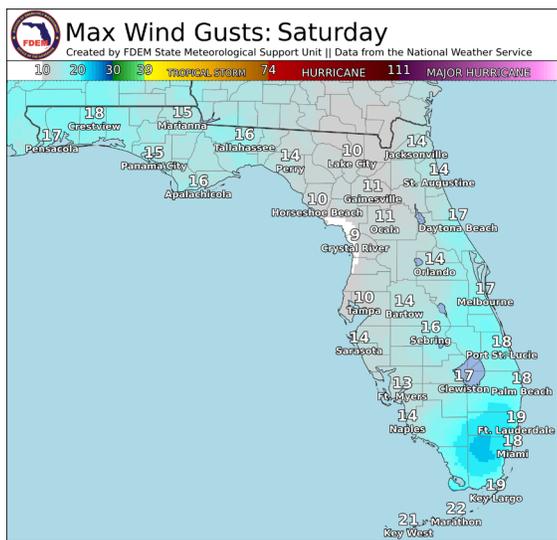


**severe (level 2 of 4) drought.** The largest rainfall departures in the past 3 months of 5-7” below normal is found across North Florida where streamflows remain well below normal, recreational and agricultural impacts have worsened, and brush wildfires continue to remain a concern. A **moderate drought (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)**. As a result of these very dry conditions depleting ground water levels, water management districts have begun issuing water warnings and restrictions nearly statewide.

The rainfall forecast through the next week does not look promising for any improvements to the drought. Isolated showers and embedded thunderstorms may develop throughout the Peninsula this weekend associated with the sea breezes, though widespread drenching rains are not expected. Warmer temperatures will also continue to cure and dry out sensitive vegetation, deplete ground water, and diminish the already low water levels in state rivers and streams. KBDI values also continue to climb well above 650 across much of South Florida. As a result, areas of **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** could be added to next week’s Drought Monitor update across interior South Florida. Some of these locations throughout the Everglades have little to no water. Additional expansion of the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** is possible across Central Florida on next week’s update as well.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **487** 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).

Relative humidity values are expected to remain above critical thresholds this weekend and early next week as moisture remains entrenched throughout the state. This moisture will also help to



promote a few showers or thunderstorms each day, especially across the Peninsula with the local sea breezes. Any thunderstorm that develops will be capable of producing occasional lightning and erratic winds, and lightning may spark wildfires with ongoing drought conditions. Generally, **sensitive wildfire conditions** can still be expected statewide as drought conditions continue and rainfall remains very light and brief. **Locally elevated wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out across the interior Peninsula where a few wind gusts may reach **upwards of 20-25 mph** during the days, especially along the eastern coastline. Each night, **instances of fog** will be possible with locally dense fog possible. Fog will reduce visibilities further where there is smoke from ongoing wildfires. According to the **Florida Forest Service**, there are currently 67 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,385 acres (as of 12:27 PM EST).

### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Little change can be expected in marine conditions this weekend and into early next week as easterly to southeasterly onshore flow along the Atlantic coast and Panhandle continue to create elevated surf and a **high risk for rip currents**. West Coast beaches can generally expect a low risk of rip currents through the forecast period. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

With little change expected in the marine conditions, Atlantic beaches can expect to see **wave heights of 3-5'** throughout the weekend and into early next week. These elevated surf conditions will even extend to the Atlantic-facing Key beaches with breakers reaching upwards of 6' at times. Gulf and



West Coast beaches can expect to see wave heights around 1' with Panhandle beaches seeing waves upwards of **3-4'** at times.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 67 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High bloom levels** have been observed along the south shoreline of Lake Okeechobee and Lake Thonotosassa. **Moderate levels** have been observed in the Peace River near Wachula, Lake Avalon, Twin Lake, the northern Lake Okeechobee shoreline, the Sebastian Canal in the Caloosahatchee River and Bull Creek within the St. Johns River.

[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:**

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[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](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

