



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, March 8, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Austin Johnson	(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	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	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	Hillsborough, Polk	Executive Director Support / On-Call Status
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	In Region	On-Call Status

Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



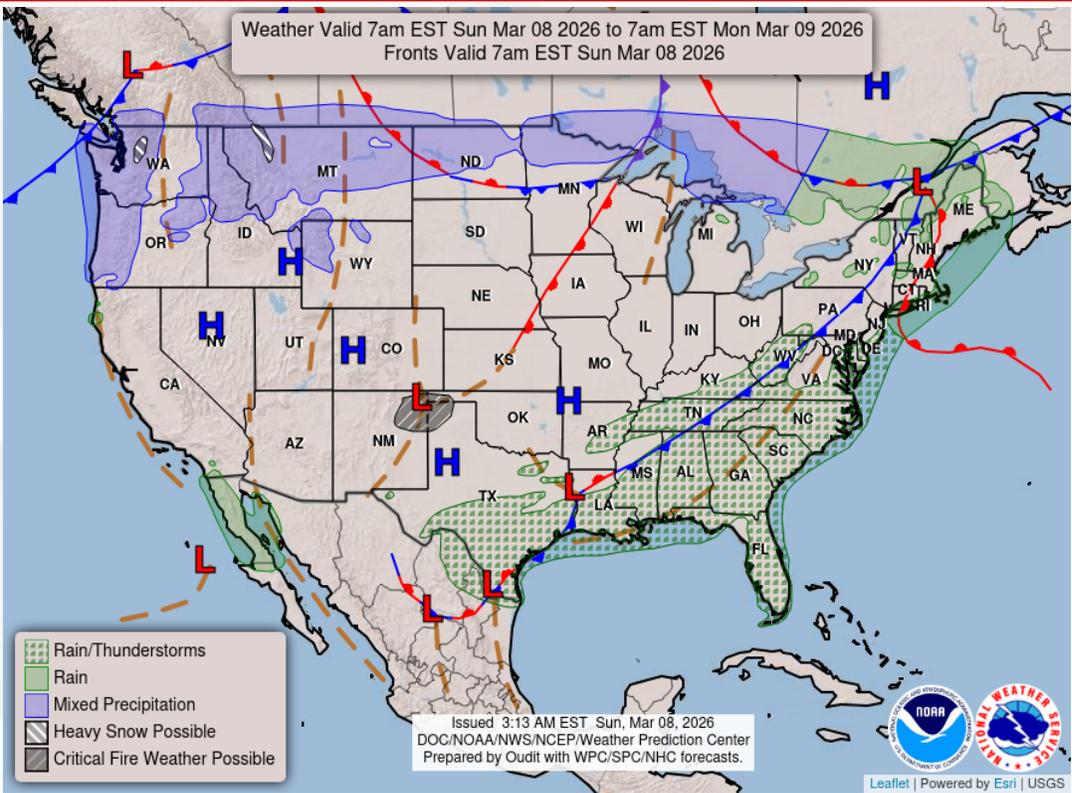
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

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

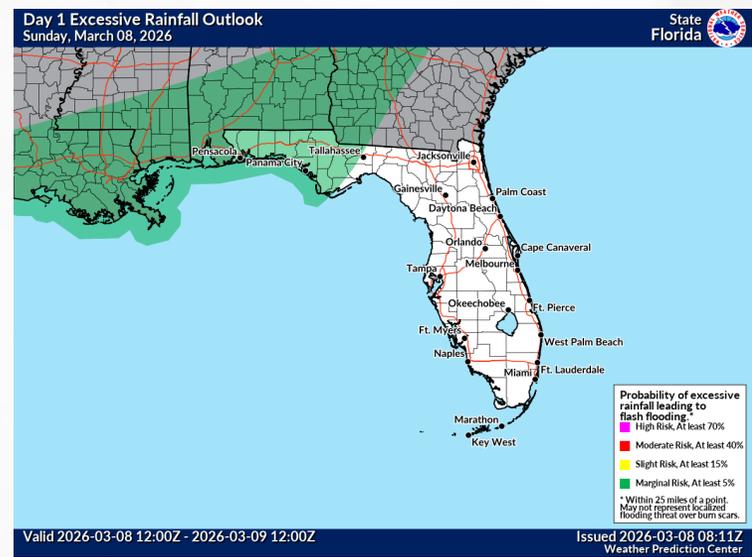
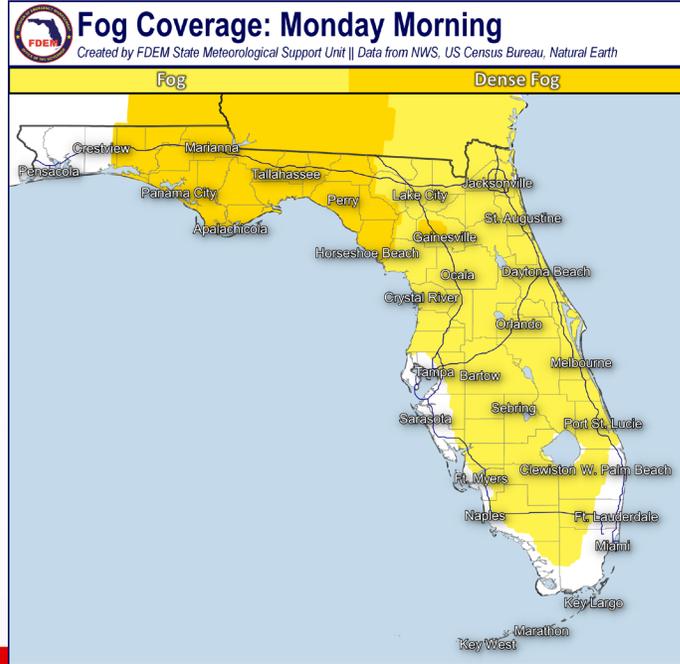


Meteorology Summary



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
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L		L	L		L	L	L	L
Hail				L	L		L	L	L	L
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.25 ft. (2.24 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	491 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

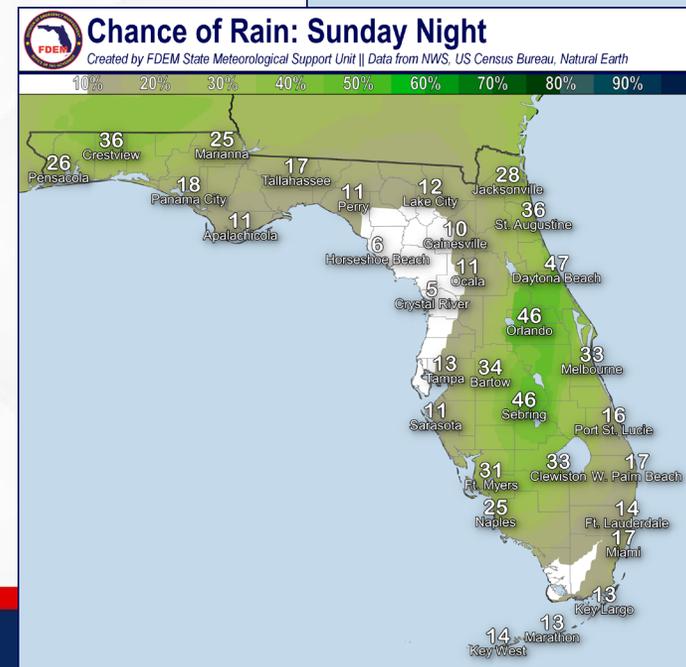
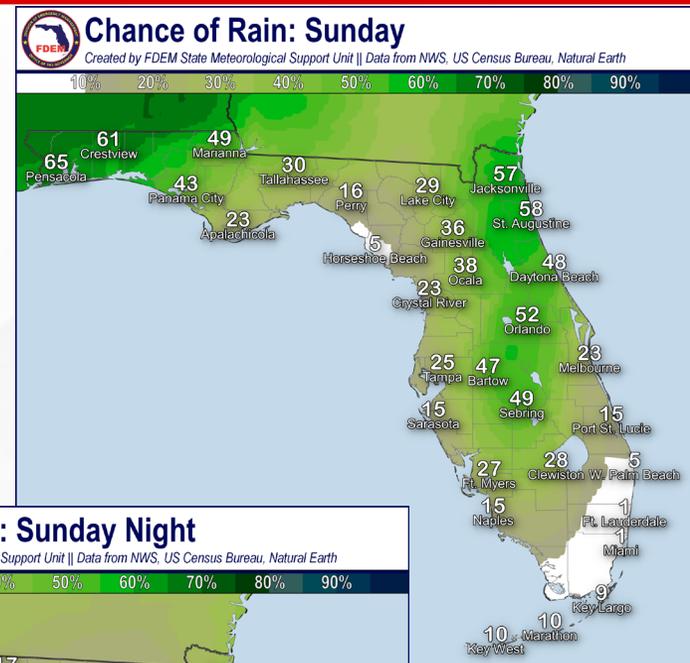
Widespread fog has developed this morning across the state, with areas of dense fog across the Big Bend and the northeastern Peninsula. **Foggy conditions** and **low clouds** should continue to gradually lift and mix out across the state this morning. A cold front is gradually making its way eastward today, allowing for scattered to numerous showers and embedded thunderstorms to develop this morning across the Panhandle. These showers and thunderstorms will continue to move eastward across the Panhandle and into the Big Bend throughout the day before lifting northward away from the state and dissipating (30-65% chance of rain). There is no organized risk for severe weather as the better conditions remain to the north, but any thunderstorm may become **locally strong to severe** and produce frequent lightning, erratic winds, small hail and heavy downpours. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Panhandle where there is the greatest chance for locally heavy downpours and repeated thunderstorm activity that could bring localized flash flooding.

Across the Peninsula, dry conditions can be expected to start off the day. Moving into the afternoon and evening hours the sea breeze gets going, and enough low-level moisture will help to create scattered showers and thunderstorms across the interior regions (30-55% chance of rain). Just like the Panhandle, any thunderstorm may become **locally strong to severe**.

Cloud cover and elevated rain chances will keep high temperatures in the 70s across the Panhandle. High temperatures will continue to surge into the middle to upper 80s for the rest of the state with the interior peninsula possibly **reaching 90-degrees**.

Shower and thunderstorm activity this evening and overnight will largely dissipate after midnight, with a few showers lingering near the eastern coastline and the I-95 corridor (10-15% chance of rain). **Widespread fog** development can be expected statewide overnight and into Monday morning given increased low-level moisture and calm winds. Instances of **dense fog** will be possible throughout the Big Bend and Nature Coast early Monday morning.

Low temperatures will remain in the 60s to lower 70s throughout the state overnight.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds will persist along the Florida East Coast and the Panhandle keeping a **high risk for rip currents** in place for numerous beaches. A low risk is expected for all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Swells of 1-3' can be expected across the state today, with larger wave action along the First Coast and Atlantic beaches **reaching 4'**.

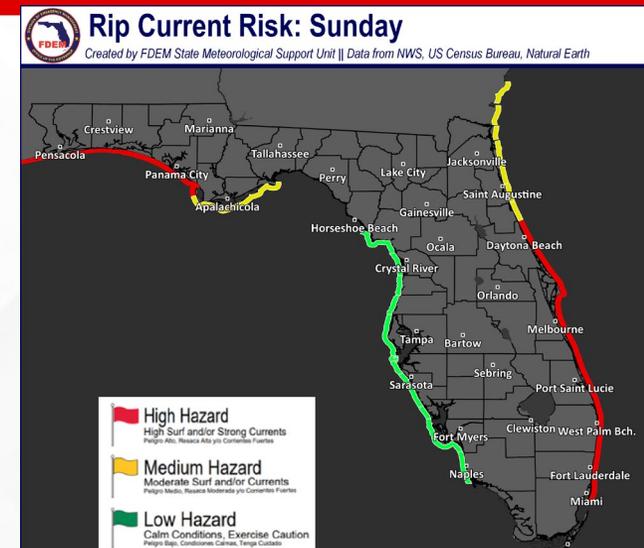
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Walton and Bay counties in Northwest Florida. It was also observed at background concentrations from Flagler County and low concentrations in Brevard County along the East Coast. It was not observed in Southwest Florida (valid 3/6/26).

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

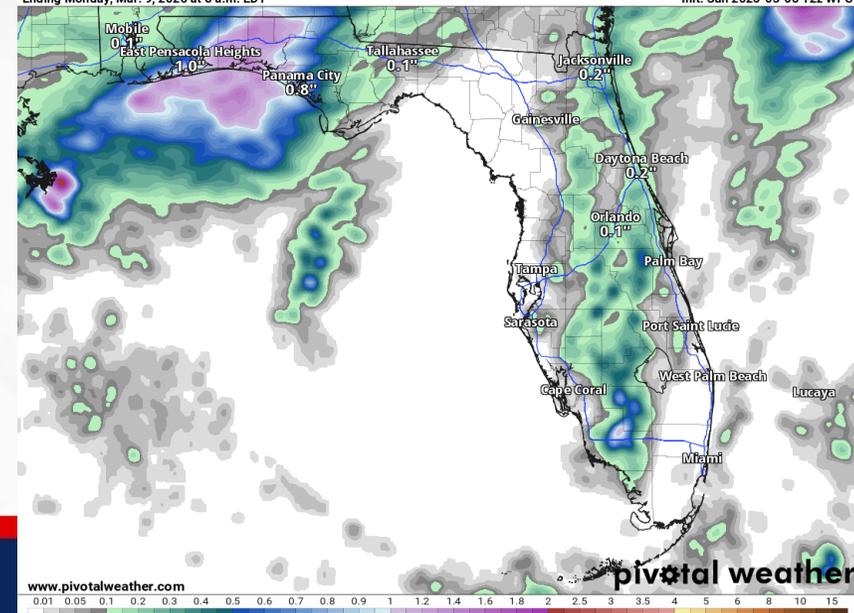
Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Florida Panhandle today. Increasing low-level moisture ahead of a slow-moving cold front along with daytime heating will give way to showers and thunderstorms capable of producing locally heavy rainfall that may lead to **instances of localized flash flooding**. The heavier the downpour, the less likely it is for the rainfall to really soak into the ground, so urban or low-lying areas may have a greater potential. Rainfall totals of 1-2" are likely for the Panhandle, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 3-4" with any heavy downpours or repeated activity. Sea breeze showers thunderstorms across the Peninsula will be possible as well, where they can produce a quick 1-2".

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.25 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.24 feet below normal for this time of year.



24-Hour Precipitation (in)
Ending Monday, Mar. 9, 2026 at 6 a.m. EDT
Init: Sun 2026-03-08 12z WPC



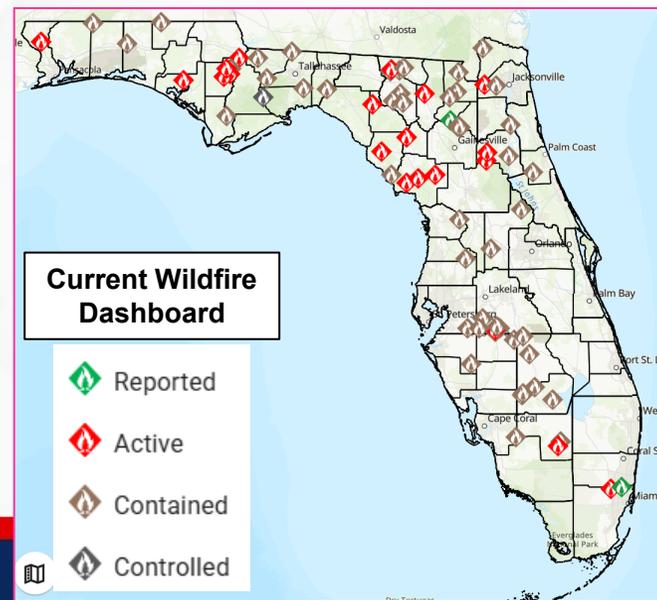
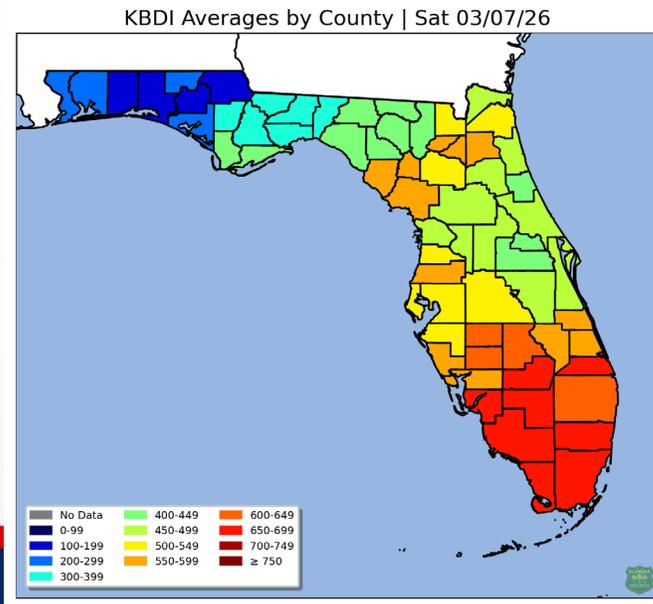
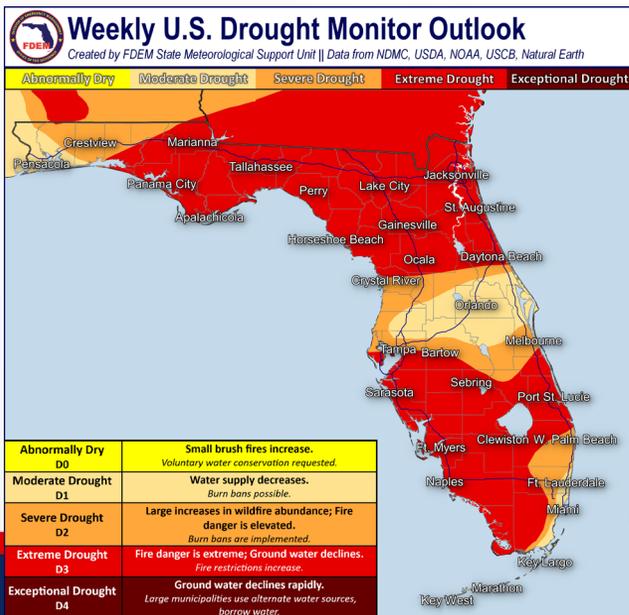


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: **Foggy conditions** this morning throughout the state will gradually lift and dissipate, especially in areas of the Big Bend and along the northeastern Peninsula where dense fog has developed. Relative humidity values are expected to remain above critical thresholds throughout the day as low-level moisture continues to surge over the state. Showers and thunderstorms can also be expected to develop with a slow-moving cold front approaching the state and the sea breeze developing. *Thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds.* Southerly to southeasterly winds are expected to stay light today near 5-10 mph, with wind gusts also keeping near 10-15 mph. Stronger winds gusts upwards of 20 mph are possible along the Florida Keys. **Widespread fog** can be expected to develop late overnight and into Monday morning across the state, with **dense fog possible** across the Big Bend and Nature Coast. *Foggy conditions will further reduce visibilities where there are ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 71 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 6,492 acres.

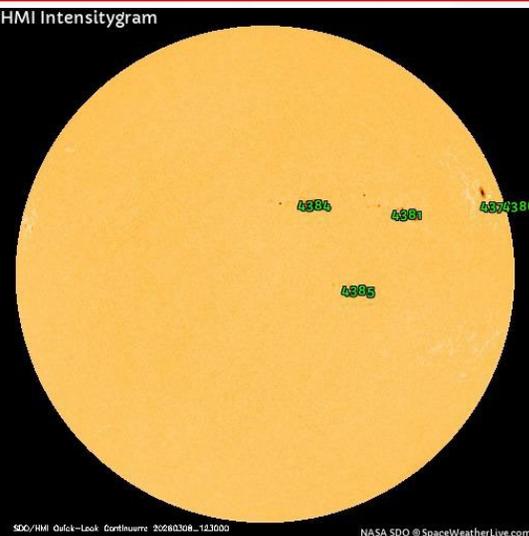
Drought (3/5/26): The cold front that swept through the state last weekend (2/27-2/28) brought some “beneficial” rains to portions of the state, yet totals were still not enough to provide any real relief or alleviation to the ongoing long-term drought that has stricken Florida. The heaviest totals were 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 **491 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **32** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

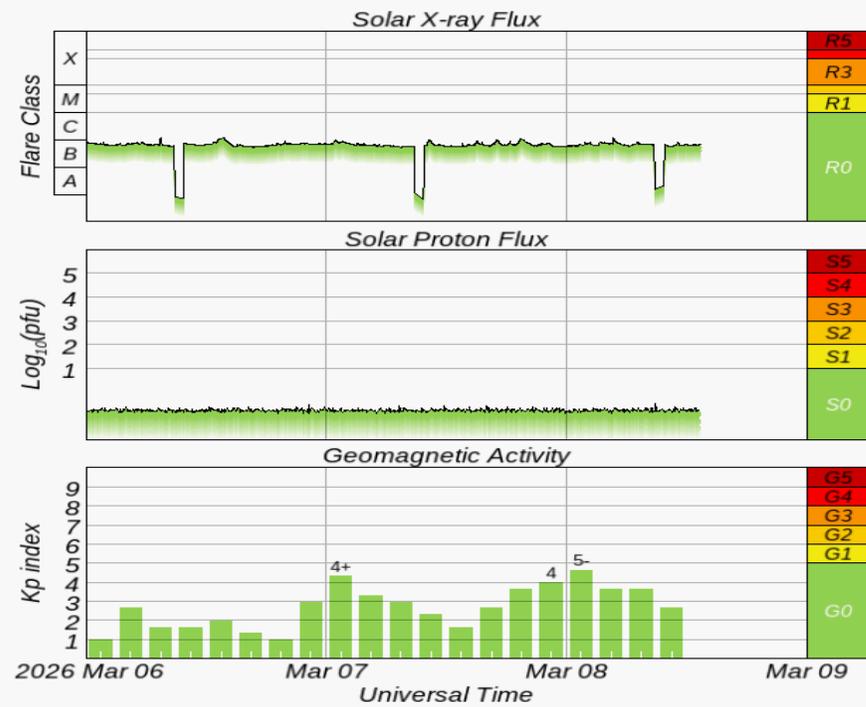
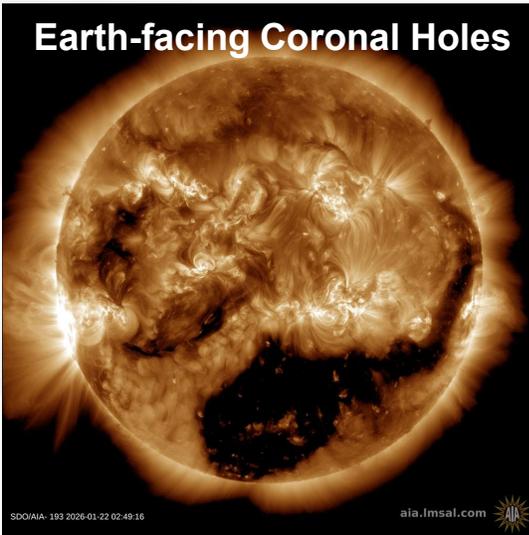




Space Weather



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	
3/8	3/9
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 remain at low levels with a chance for an isolated strong (M-class) solar flare. Even with several sunspots on the surface of the sun, they all pose little to no threat for strong solar activity. Should any M-class flares erupt, they will bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions can be expected with ongoing Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) that struck the Earth's magnetic fields. This has also sparked active conditions within the Earth's geomagnetic field, and active conditions will continue today. 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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