



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, March 9, 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	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	Santa Rosa	FD FROC Meeting/Vehicle Inspection/Maint/ FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gadsden	County EM Meeting / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon	HQ Visit / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Putnam	County EM Meeting / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Seminole	Community Outreach Event / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	County EM Visit / Office Admin / FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	FDEM & County EM Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Warehouse Fire Response / FDEM & County EM Meeting

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	Santa Rosa	F-ROC Abatement
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Gadsden	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Lafayette	EM Stakeholder Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam	Mayors Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Statewide Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Regional Recovery Coordination Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Vehicular Maintenance
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Regional Recovery Coordination Meeting

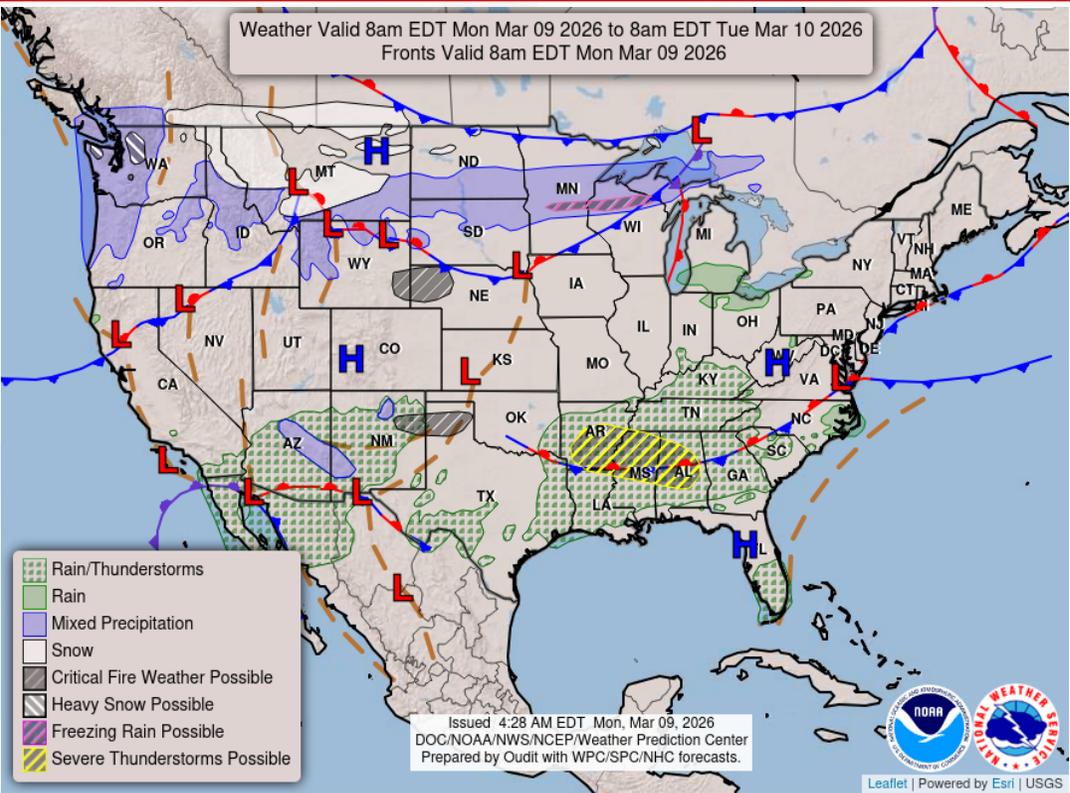
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

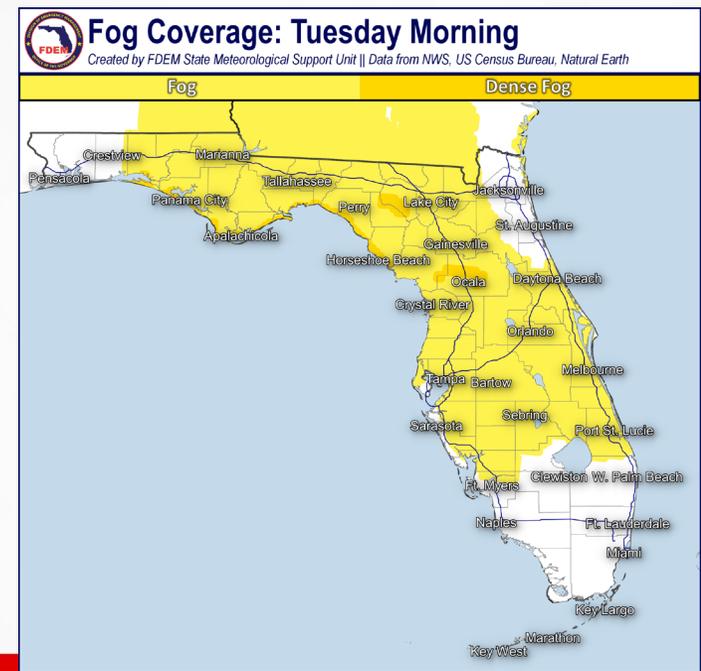
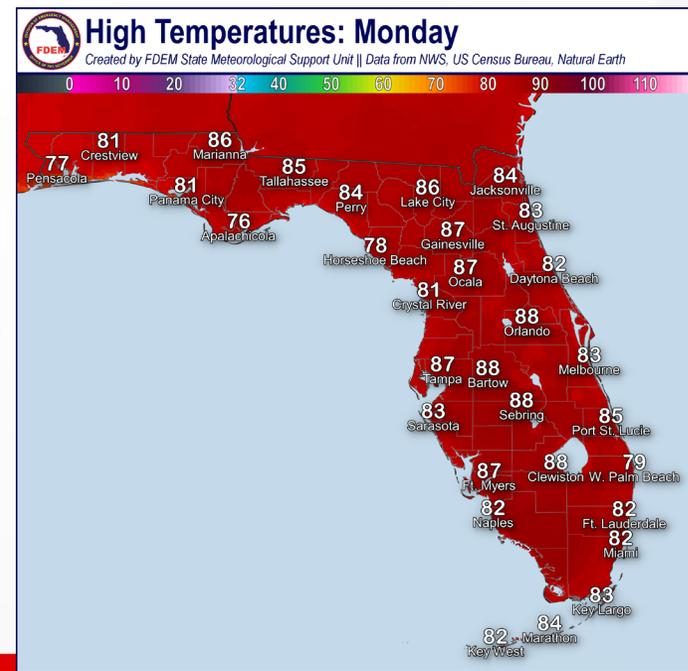


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L			L		L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L						L	L	L
Hail	L	L								
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	M	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.24 ft. (2.24 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	492 (+1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

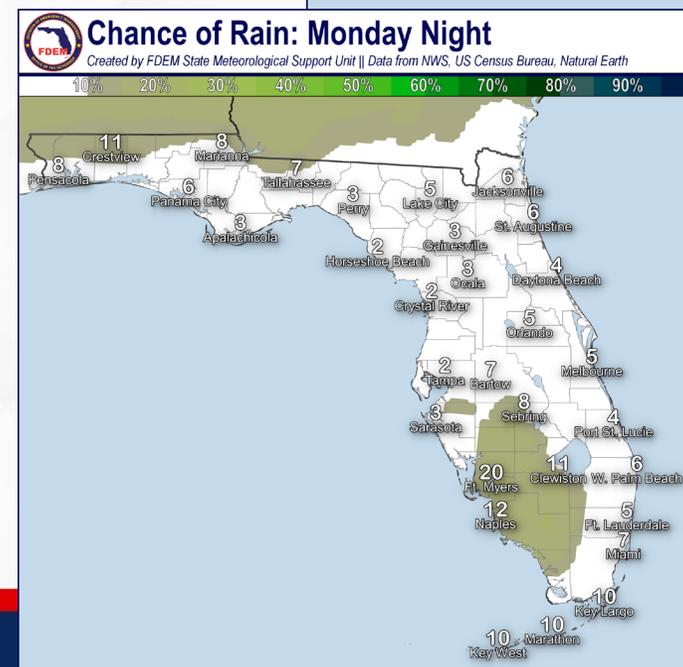
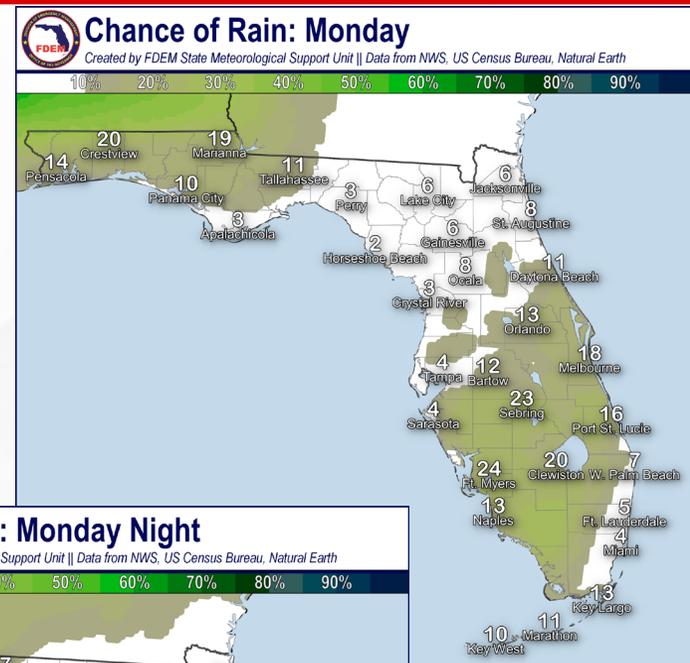
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Fog and low clouds this morning have reduced visibilities for much of the state, especially in areas of **dense fog** across the Big Bend and Central Florida. Fog will be slow to lift and mix out this morning but will lead to mostly sunny skies. High pressure extending over the state will also help to bring mostly dry conditions throughout the state during the daytime hours. The sea breeze moving inland across the southern Peninsula will help isolated showers and embedded thunderstorms to develop (15-30% chance of rain). An upper-level disturbance moving across the southeastern U.S. will dissipate as it approaches the state line this afternoon and evening. This system may help to bring isolated showers or thunderstorms to the northern Panhandle, but the greatest chance will remain to the north. Similarly, the greatest chance for severe weather is also to the north, but an **isolated strong to severe thunderstorm** near the state line or crossing into the northern Panhandle will be possible. Any stronger thunderstorm activity that develops will be capable of producing lightning, damaging wind gust (50-60 mph) and small hail.

High temperatures will rise into the upper 70s to upper 80s across the state this afternoon, with portions of the interior Peninsula reaching the **90-degree mark**.

Shower and thunderstorm activity from this evening should dissipate or move towards the coastal waters leading to mostly dry conditions overnight. Calm winds and low-level moisture will give way to **fog developing** nearly statewide, with instances of **dense fog** possible by early Tuesday morning.

Low temperatures will fall into the 60s and lower 70s throughout the state overnight.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Calmer than recent marine conditions can be expected which will allow for a **moderate rip current risk** for return to the East Coast. Breezier onshore winds along the Panhandle will create a **moderate to high risk for rip currents**. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 1-3' can be expected statewide.

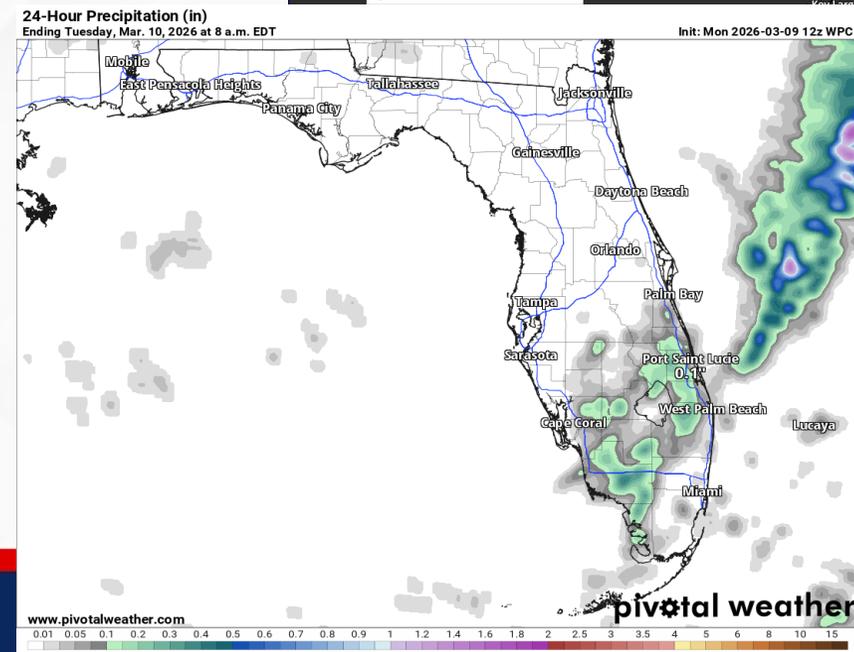
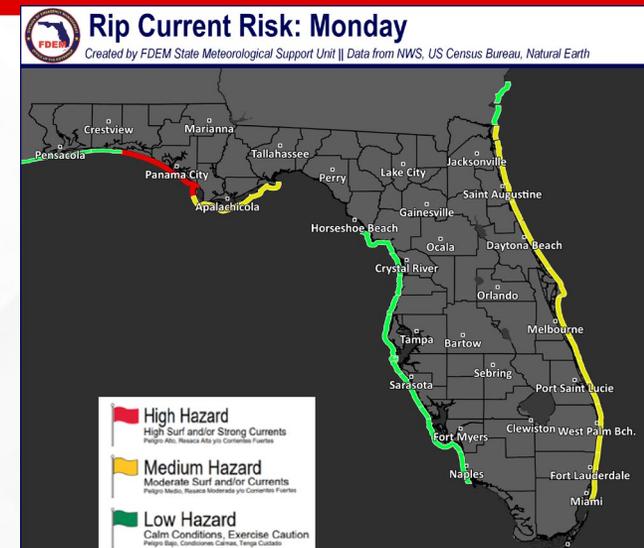
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Walton and Bay counties in Northwest Florida. It was also observed at background concentrations from Flagler County and low concentrations in Brevard County along the East Coast. It was not observed in Southwest Florida (valid 3/6/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Sea breeze driven showers and thunderstorms throughout the southern Peninsula may be capable of producing a quick 1-2", especially any stronger thunderstorm activity that manages to develop.

Riverine Flooding: [Shoal River near Crestview](#) is forecast to rise just into Action Stage (bank-full) over the next 24-hours given the locally heavy rainfall the Panhandle has seen over the weekend. Water levels will then quickly fall below Action Stage soon after. There are no additional riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.24 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.24 feet below normal for this time of year.



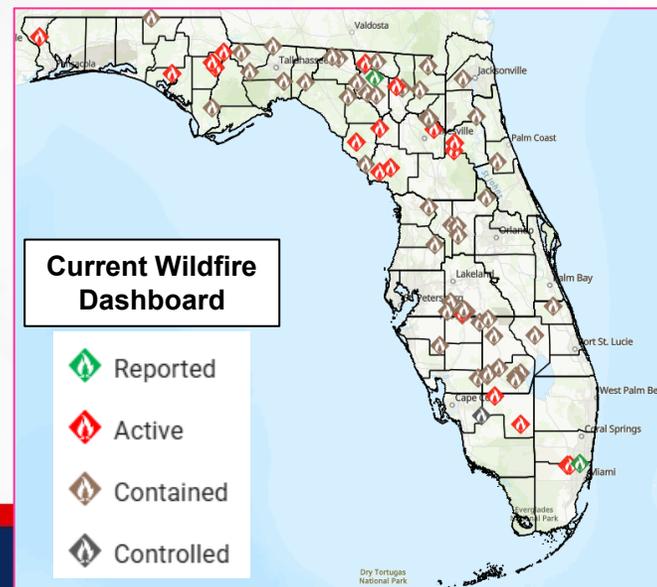
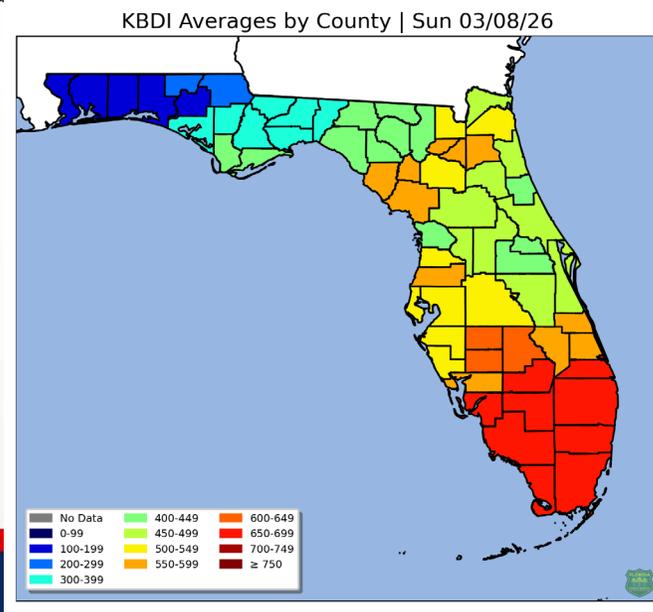
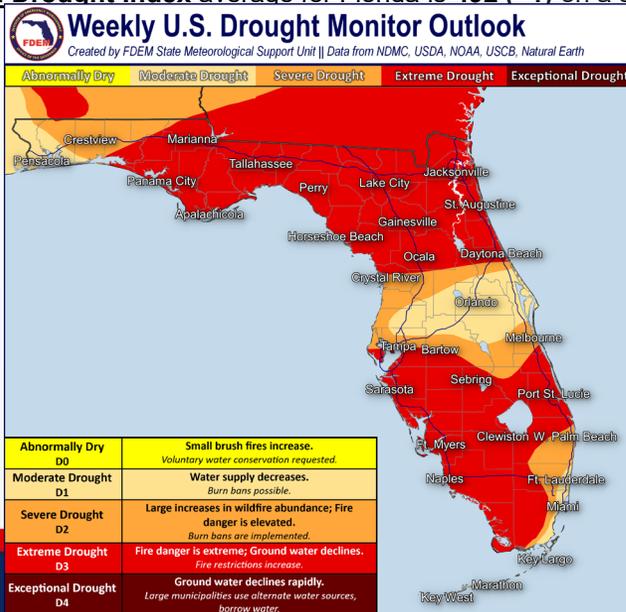


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Foggy conditions this morning throughout the state this morning will linger as it slowly mixes out and lifts. Low-level moisture across the state continues to keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds with the “lowest” values across the most interior Peninsula areas. Easterly to southeasterly winds near 5-10 mph are expected to continue across the state, with wind gusts keeping below 15 mph. Afternoon showers and embedded thunderstorms will be possible across the Panhandle and South Florida, and *thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds*. Another round of **widespread fog** can be expected to develop statewide overnight and into Tuesday morning, with **dense fog conditions** possible. *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 8,948 acres.

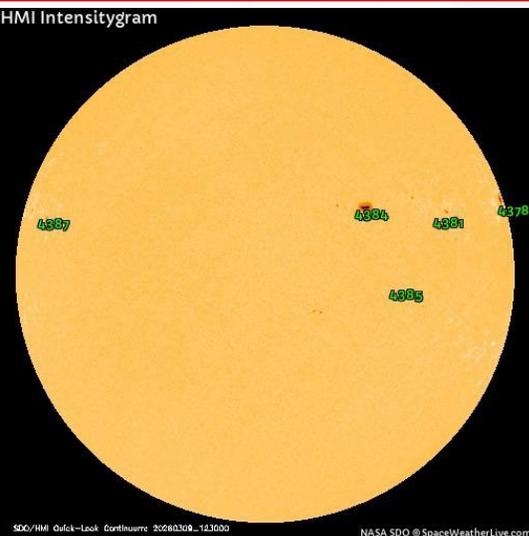
Drought (3/5/26): The cold front that swept through the state last weekend (2/27-2/28) brought some “beneficial” rains to portions of the state, yet totals were still not enough to provide any real relief or alleviation to the ongoing long-term drought that has stricken Florida. The heaviest totals were 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 **492 (+1)** 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).

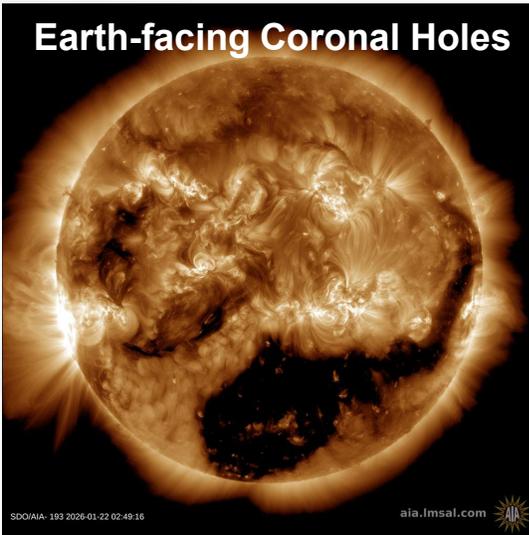
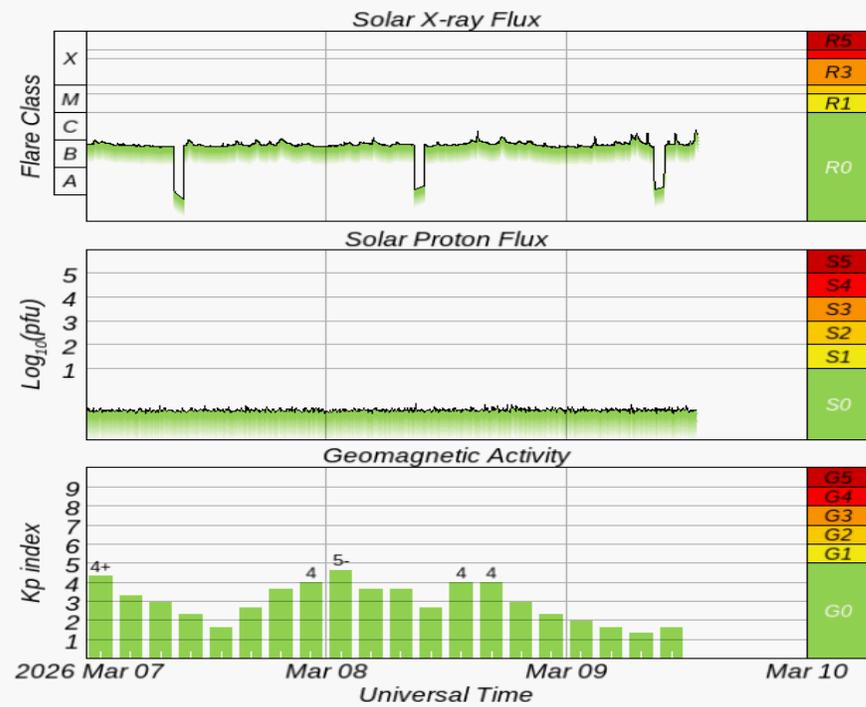




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/9	3/10
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Low solar activity is expected to continue with a chance for an isolated strong (M-class) solar flare or two. All current sunspots have stable magnetic fields, but should one erupt and produce M-class flares it will also bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions can be expected to continue from the weekend with ongoing Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) conditions. There is a chance for a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun of 3/6 to graze the Earth late tonight or tomorrow, which could increase solar wind conditions. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to reach active levels due to ongoing CH HSS conditions. The approaching CME could also spark additional enhancements. 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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