



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 12, 2026



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2: Partial Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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 Branch Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com
Emergency Services Branch Director	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: Health & Medical On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
ESF 14: Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com
Finance Chief	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com



Response Regional Coordination Team



Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Walton	County Mass Casualty Exercise
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Walton	County Mass Casualty Exercise
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Alachua	Healthcare Coalition Exercise / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	HSEEP Instruction Prep / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Brevard	County EM Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Martin	G-141 Course
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Martin	G-141 Course
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Glades	G-300 Course
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Palm Beach	Fire Response / RDSTF Meeting

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

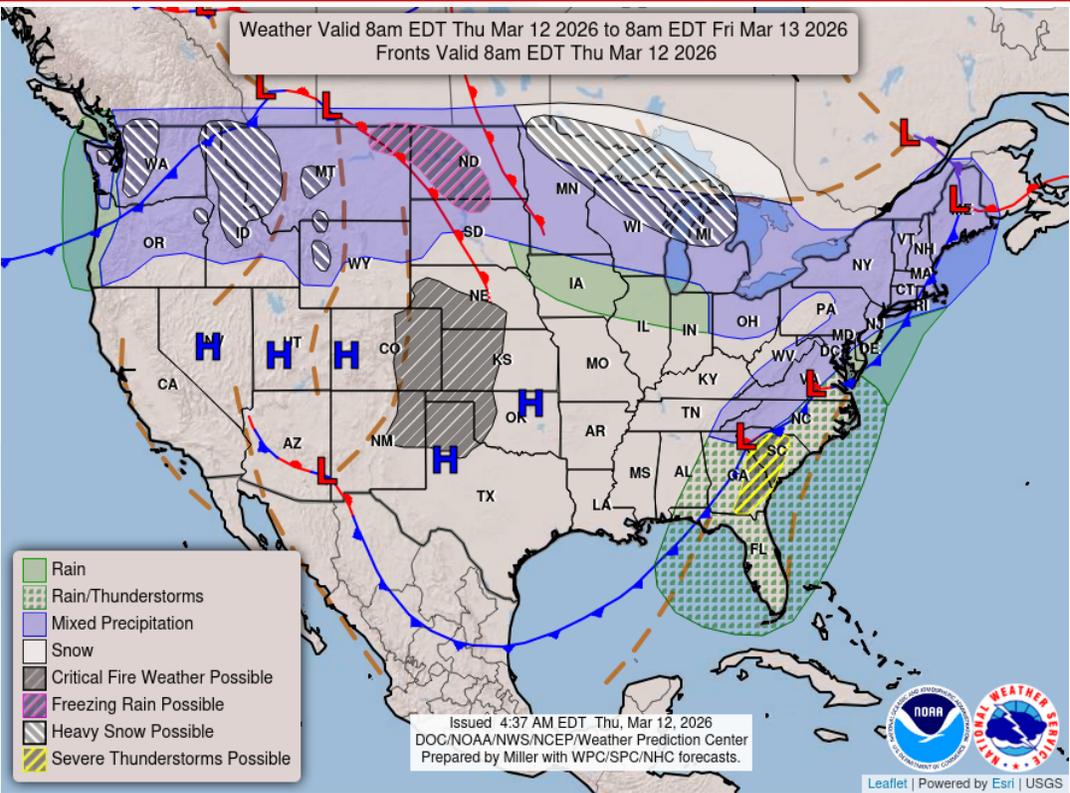
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Walton-TTX
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Alachua	Emergency Drill
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Alachua	Emergency Drill
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Brevard	EM Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	EM Visit
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Palm Beach	SERDSTF Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Palm Beach	Regional Domestic Security Task Force

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2
 Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 9 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6

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

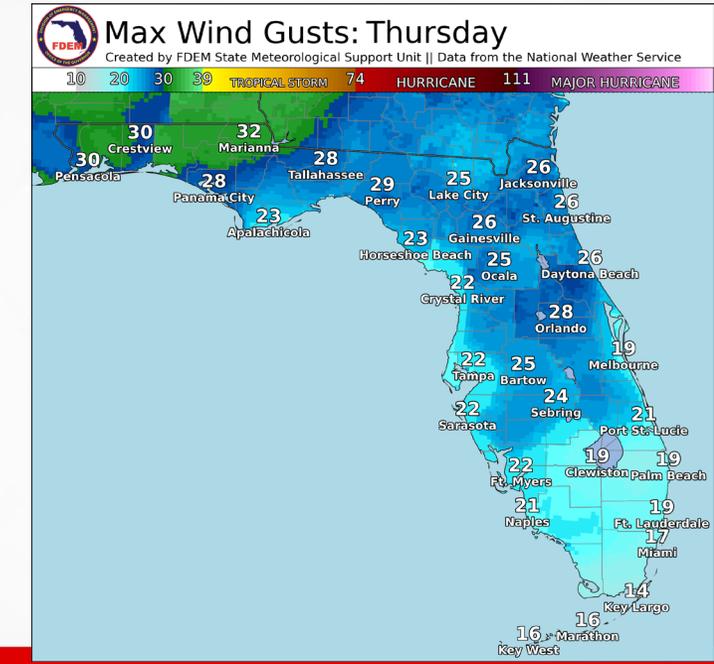
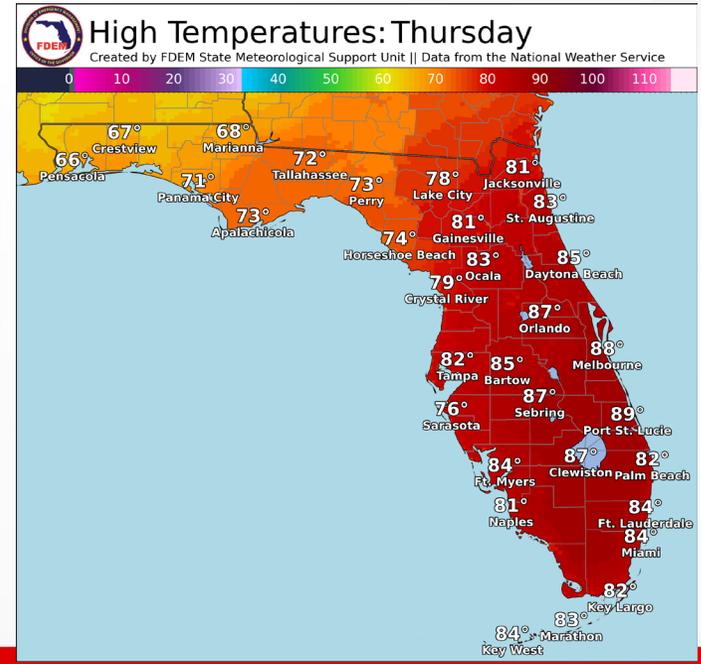


Meteorology Summary



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					
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)									L	L
Fog (Overnight)									L	L
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.20 ft. (2.28 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	505 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





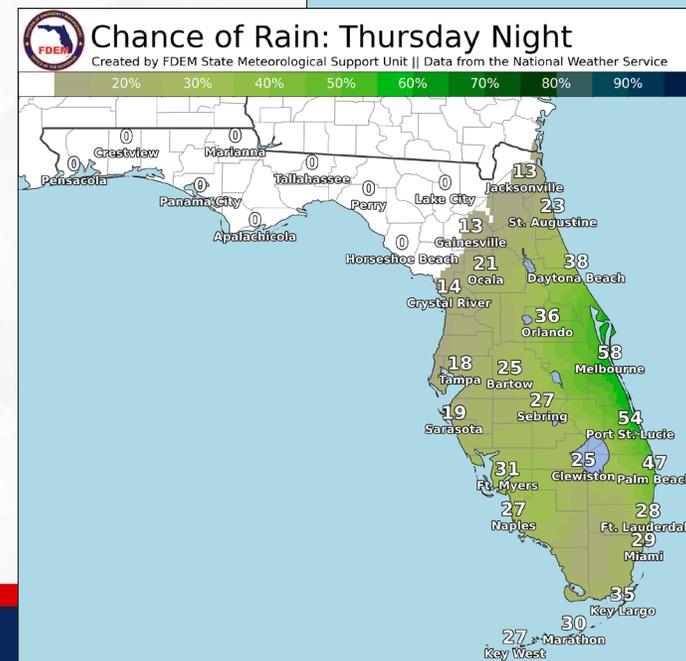
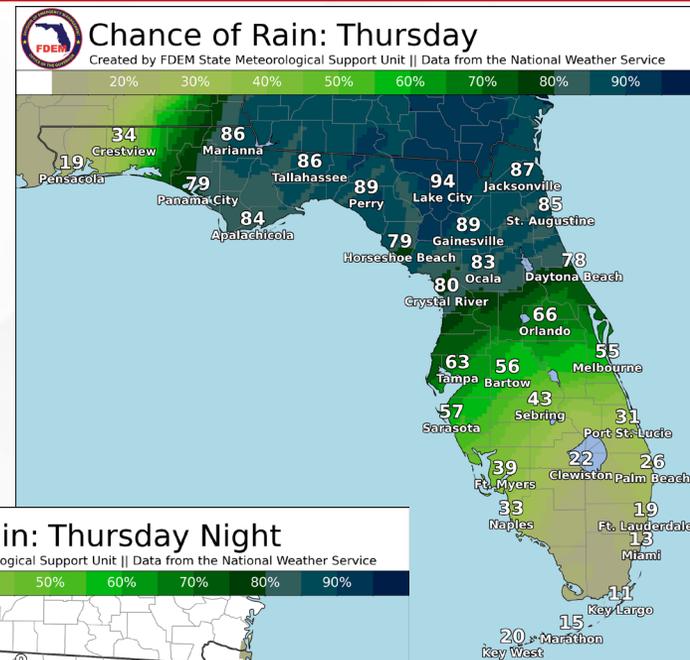
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A line of **strong to severe thunderstorms** is ongoing this morning across portions of the eastern Big Bend and Suwannee Valley with a few of these storms capable of producing damaging winds (50-60 mph), a brief tornado or two, and locally heavy downpours. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked across the Big Bend and portions of Northeast Florida as this line of activity makes its way eastward through the morning hours (85 – near 100% chance of rain) with gradual weakening below severe levels expected. The line will begin to approach Central Florida later this afternoon and evening with widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms (45-75% chance of rain). In the wake of the front, breezy post-frontal conditions will develop with wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** spreading throughout all North and Central Florida, with locally higher gusts **upwards of 35 mph** across the Panhandle. Drier air will also filter into the Panhandle in the wake of the front, with lower relative humidities (35-40%) encouraging **sensitive wildfire conditions**, though the overnight rainfall will keep the wildfire risk lower. Temperatures will struggle to climb out of the lower to middle 60s across the Panhandle this afternoon and upper 60s to lower 70s across the Big Bend. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s are expected for Northeast Florida with middle to upper 80s throughout the Peninsula. Feels-like temperatures may reach the **lower 90s** throughout portions of the interior Peninsula.

Tonight, a few lingering showers are expected across Central and South Florida as the front begins to stall and dissipate (25-55% chance of rain), with the greatest coverage of activity over the East-Central Peninsula. Winds will begin to subside statewide through the evening, though breezy winds with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** will still linger along the I-95 corridor.

Low temperatures will cool off into the lower to middle 40s across the Panhandle and Big Bend tonight, with upper 40s to lower 50s throughout Northeast Florida. Temperatures may feel like the **upper 30s** across portions of the Panhandle north of the I-10 corridor near sunrise Friday. Lows in the 60s to lower 70s can be expected along and south of the I-4 corridor.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy winds and increasing surf will bring a return of a **high risk for rip currents** to all Panhandle beaches today. A **moderate risk** persists for the entire Florida East Coast. West Coast beaches can still expect a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights will begin to increase this afternoon for all Panhandle beaches with breezy post-frontal winds building surf. Waves of **2-4'** are expected while surf remains near 1-2' for all West Coast beaches. East Coast beaches can expect surf of 2-3' through this afternoon. Tonight, surf will remain elevated for all Panhandle beaches with waves of **2-4'**. A significant increase is also expected for East Coast beaches, with waves of **6-8'** expected by daybreak Friday. A **High Surf Advisory** may be issued if conditions warrant.

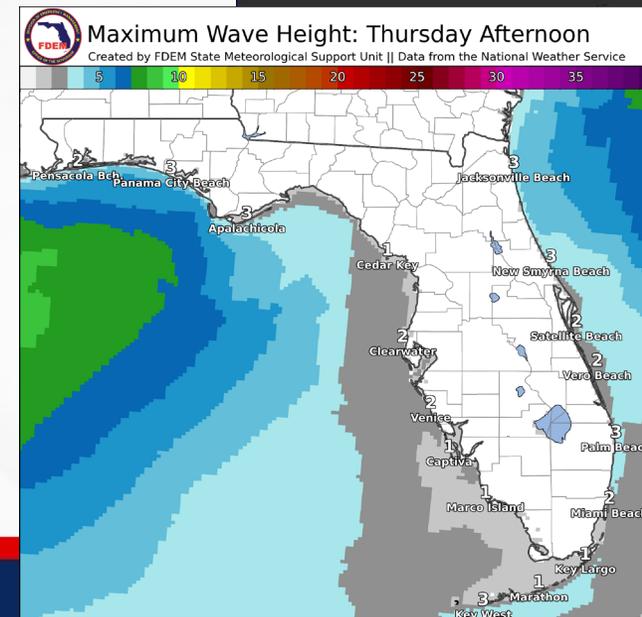
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Walton and Bay counties in Northwest Florida. It was also observed at background concentrations from Flagler County and low concentrations in Brevard County along the East Coast. It was not observed in Southwest Florida (valid 3/6/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. A line of showers and embedded thunderstorms will trek eastward across the Big Bend, Northeast Florida, and Central Florida through today. Rainfall totals will remain on the lighter side, generally below 0.5". However localized amounts **upwards of 1-2"** cannot be ruled out.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.20 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.28 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



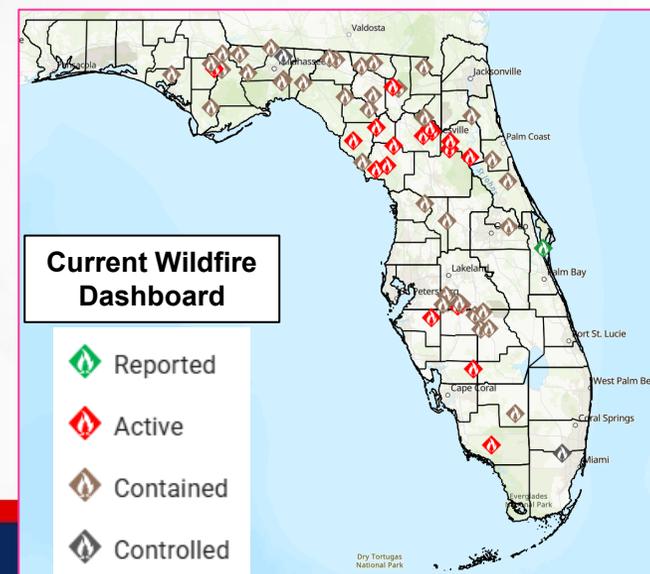
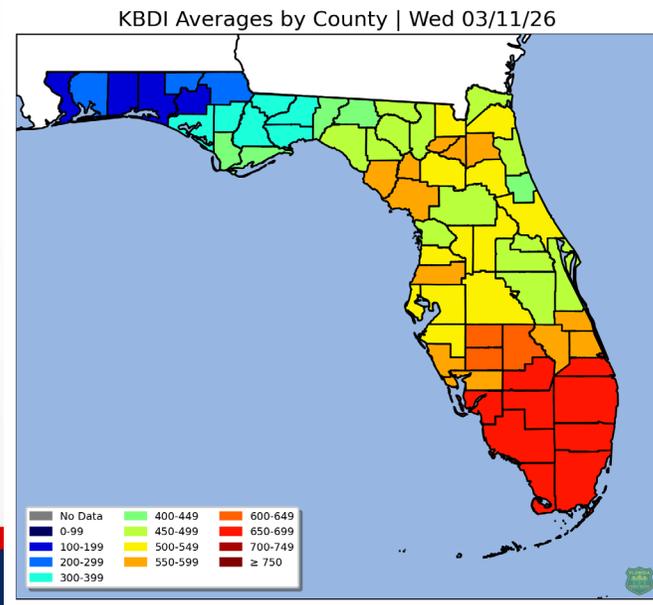
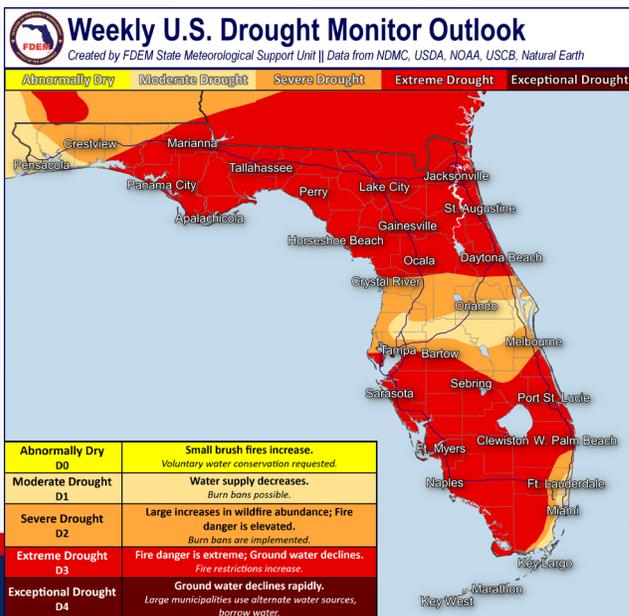


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Areas of fog and low clouds will slowly dissipate across interior South Florida this morning. Mostly dry conditions will return to the Panhandle and Big Bend later this afternoon in the wake of our line of showers and thunderstorms. Relative humidities will dip to lower values (35-40%), which will encourage **sensitive wildfire conditions** given the ongoing drought, though the morning rainfall will help to keep vegetation mostly saturated. Breezy winds will develop across much of the state this afternoon in the wake of our front, with gusts **upwards of 30 mph** across North and Central Florida and locally higher gusts **upwards of 35 mph** across the Panhandle. *Thunderstorms can produce gusty/erratic winds which can influence ongoing wildfire behavior, and lightning can spark new or reignite existing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 63 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,883 acres.

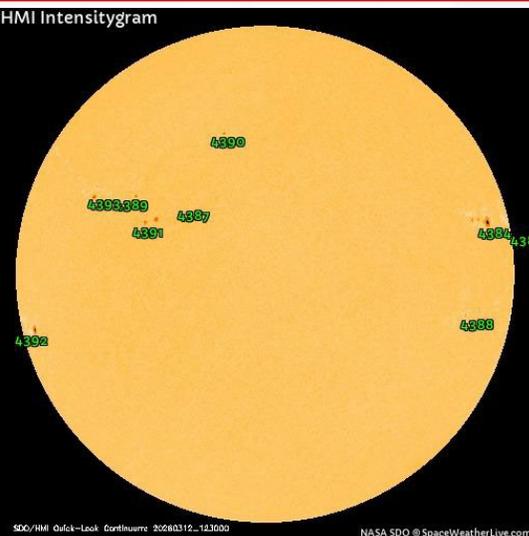
Drought (3/12/26): Very little changes were made to this weeks Drought Monitor update as much of the state struggled to see any meaningful rainfall enough to put a dent in the ongoing drought. The heaviest rains over the past week fell across portions of West-Central Florida with pockets of 2-4" of rainfall. A few localized pockets of heavier totals fell across Northeast Florida as well, though general amounts below 1" were found statewide. An **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place across much of North Florida and South Florida. In fact, some expansion of the extreme drought was seen across interior Palm Beach and Broward counties closer to the coastline. Throughout Central Florida, and small pocket of **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** remains, though it shrunk with **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** expanding to include all of southern Sumter, Lake and Seminole counties. A **moderate drought** also remains in place for the very far western Panhandle. As of this outlook, 90% of the state is under a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** or worse and 72% of the state under an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. Rainfall departures still remain well below normal across much of the state as recent warm and dry conditions have led to further drying of vegetation and grounds. Streamflows continue to drop to extremely low levels in some waterways across North and Central Florida, and some have completely dried up. Looking ahead, scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms will be a theme each afternoon across much of the Peninsula, especially South Florida, through the weekend (3/13-3/15) as warm temperatures and the sea breeze boundaries promote afternoon development. Some of this rainfall could lead to localized amounts enough to put a good dent in the local drought (4-6" amounts through the weekend). However, a widespread drenching rainfall is not currently anticipated. Trends in the weekend rainfall will continue to be monitored to see if it will be enough for meaningful drought alleviation.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **505 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **36** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

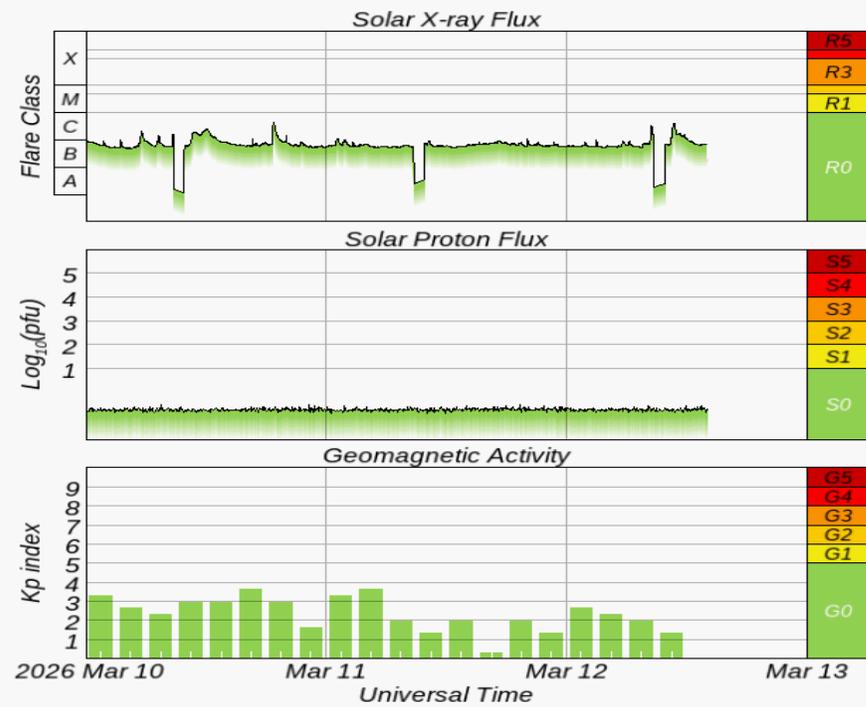




Space Weather

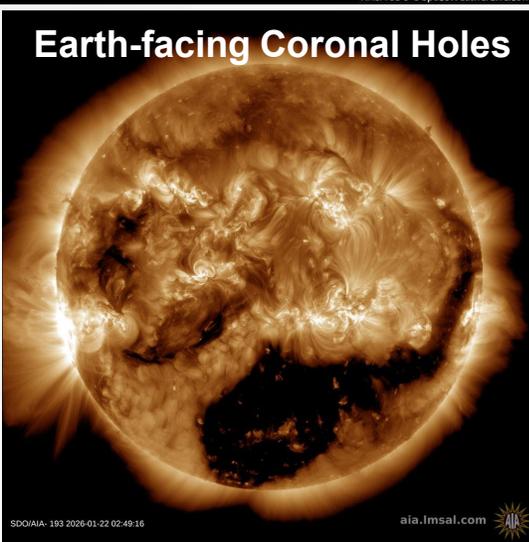


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/12	3/13
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%



Space Weather: Solar activity will remain at very low to low levels with a slight chance for a strong (M-class) solar flare if any of the current sunspots, or new ones that develop, become active. Should an M-class flare develop it will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will reach near nominal levels today before enhancements are expected Friday and Saturday with the return of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. The Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be mostly quiet today before active conditions return on Friday paired with the coronal hole influences and Minor (G1) storming is possible. 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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