



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, March 15, 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	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	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	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	In Region	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



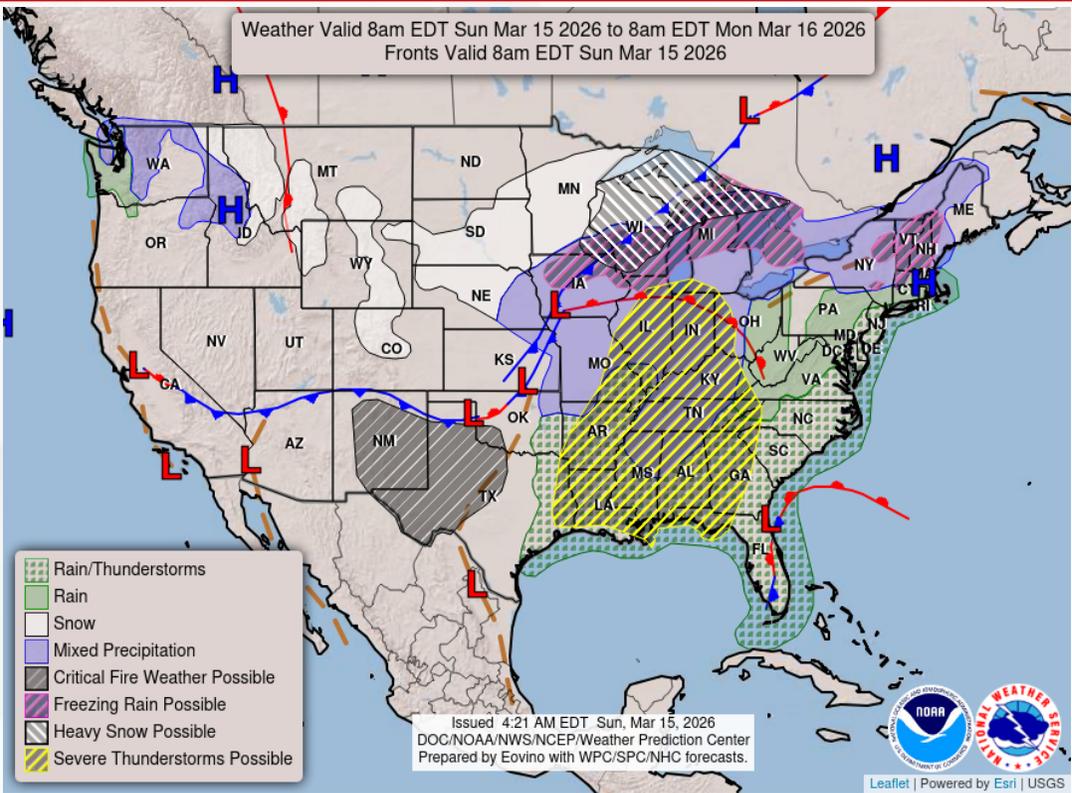
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
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

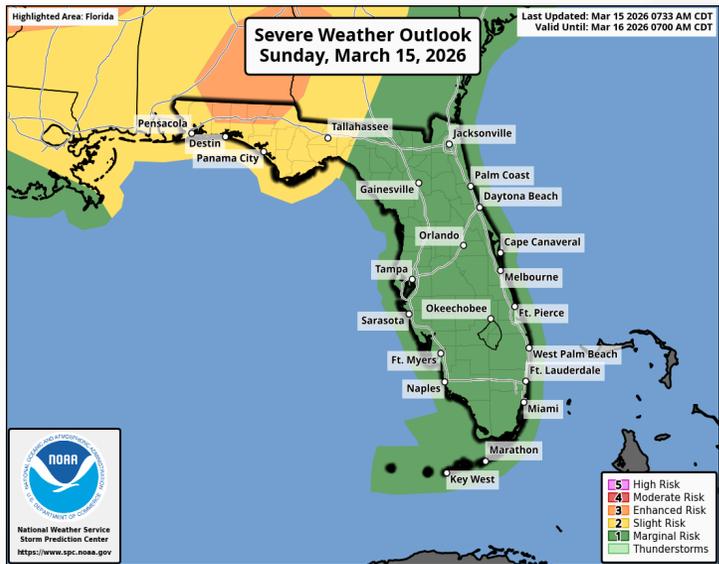


Meteorology Summary

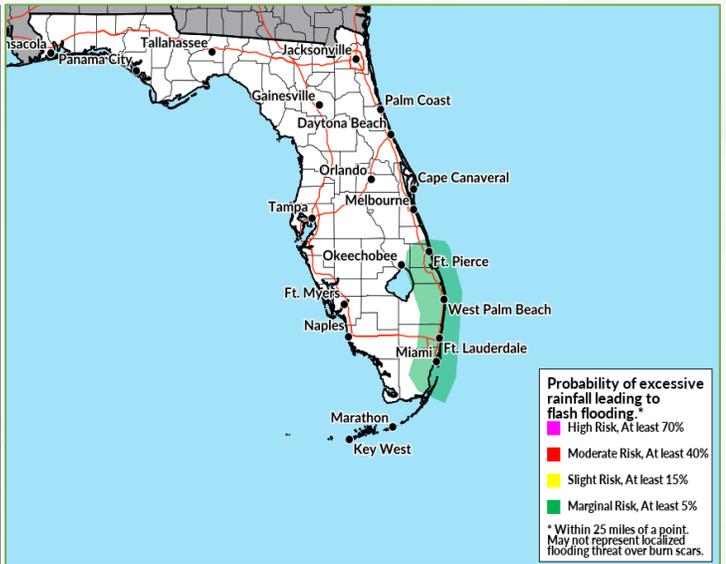


Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Tornado	M	M	L							
Damaging Wind	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Hail	L	L		L	L	L				
Flash Flooding								L	L	L
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.16 ft. (2.30 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	503 (-7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Severe Weather Risk – Today & Tonight



Flash Flood Risk – Today



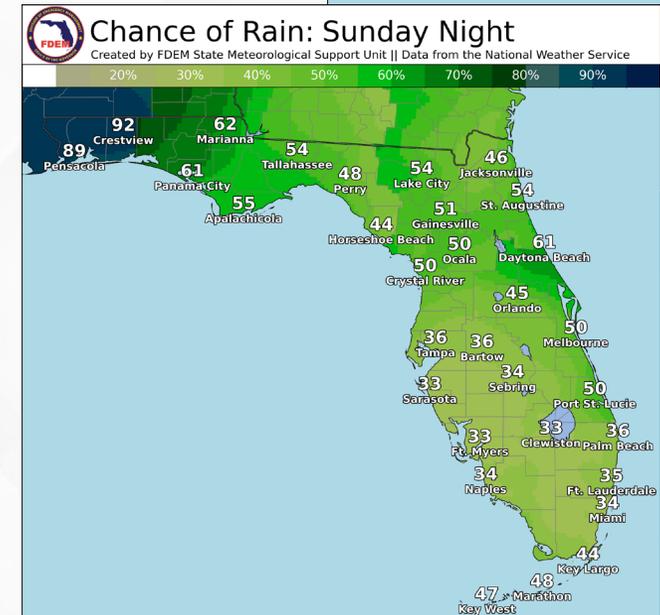
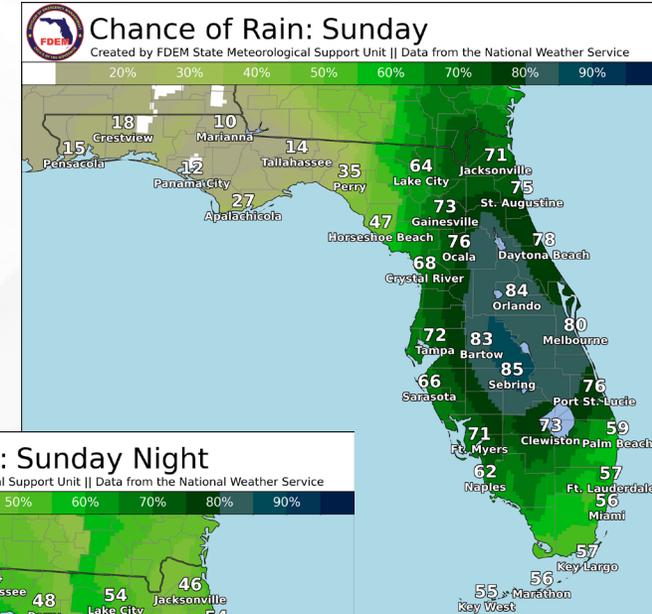
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An active weather day can be expected across the Sunshine State today (and tonight) as we are monitoring the evolution of a strong frontal system making its way across the eastern United States. A mixture of sunshine and clouds will set the stage for a warm afternoon with high temperatures in the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide. Rain and thunderstorms chances will increase through the daytime heating hours across Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula, courtesy of deep southerly flow and the daily sea breeze (60-90% chance of rain). A few of these thunderstorms may be **strong to severe** and pose the risk of locally damaging winds (45-60 mph), lightning, and intense rainfall rates. Some Florida Peninsula locations may see multiple rounds of thunderstorm activity, increasing the risk of **ponding water and flooding** throughout low-lying/flood-prone urban corridors.

While thunderstorm activity will gradually subside from south to north across the Florida Peninsula afternoon, attention quickly turns to a likely squall-line containing **strong to severe thunderstorms** advancing eastward across the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Computer forecast models indicate that the squall-line will likely arrive to the western Florida Panhandle early Monday morning, progress along the I-10 corridor during the pre-dawn hours, reaching the Florida Big Bend by the Monday morning commute. As with many overnight severe weather set-ups, there are several forecast uncertainties and trends that will need to be monitored through the day; however, the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Thunderstorms** along the Florida Panhandle for straight-line winds existing within any organized segments of thunderstorm activity and isolated tornadoes that develop along the line's leading edge. One trend to closely monitor tonight will be a greater tornado potential within any clusters of thunderstorms that develop **ahead** of the primary line of thunderstorms; the SPC has placed a localized **Enhanced Risk (level 3 of 5)** for Florida counties adjacent to the southeastern Alabama border where ingredients may be more supportive for tornadic activity. Please be sure you have multiple ways to receive alerts tonight into Monday morning!

Low temperatures in the 50s and 60s can be expected tonight, with a sharp return of **frost and freeze conditions** expected along the Florida Panhandle early next week.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for Florida Panhandle, Northeast Florida, Space Coast, and Treasure Coast beaches today, with a **high risk of rip currents** residing along the Southeast Florida coastline. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along Florida Gulf Coast beaches today, building to 2-4' overnight. Wave heights of 3-4' can be expected along all Florida East Coast beaches.

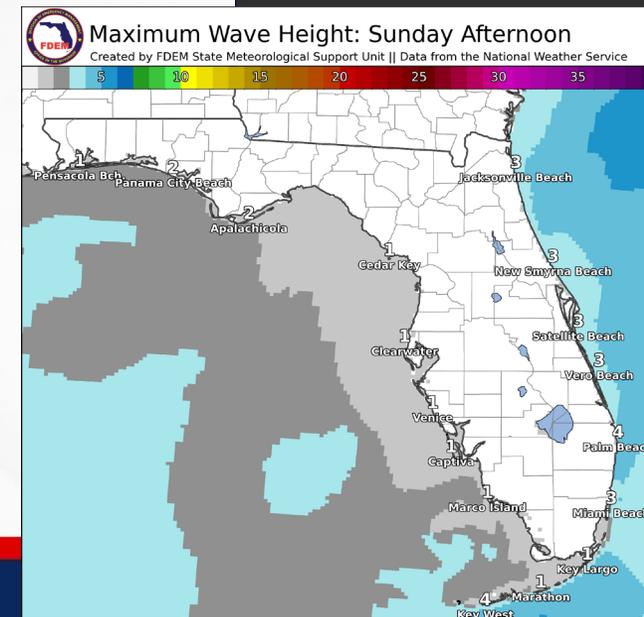
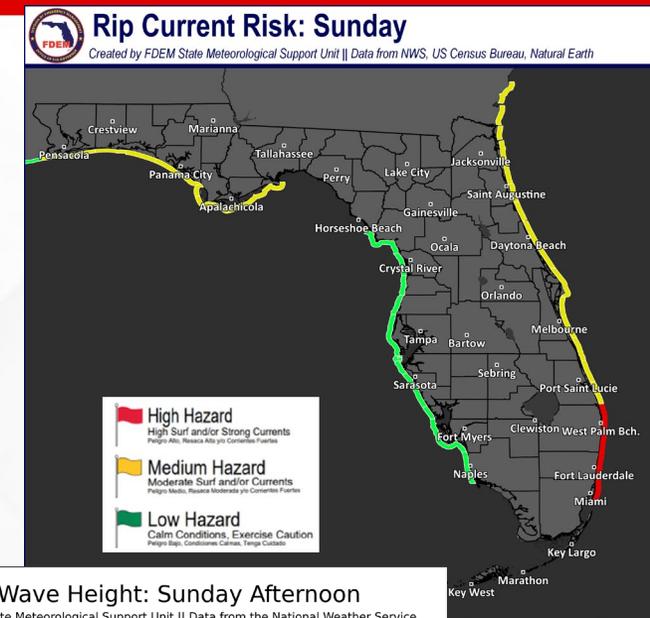
Red Tide was observed at background conditions in Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, and in very low concentrations from one sample collected in Brevard County (valid 3/13/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Southeast Florida I-95 corridor today. Showers and thunderstorms this afternoon will be capable of producing intense rainfall rates (upwards of 2" per hour) which may result in quick areas of **flooding and ponding water** throughout the flood-prone urban areas. Localized rainfall totals in excess of 3-5" cannot be ruled out, especially in areas that experience multiple rounds of thunderstorm activity as the East and West Coast sea breeze boundaries merge. Elsewhere across the state, 1-2" of rain can be expected, with locally higher amounts of 2-4" possible.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.16 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.30 feet below normal for this time of year.



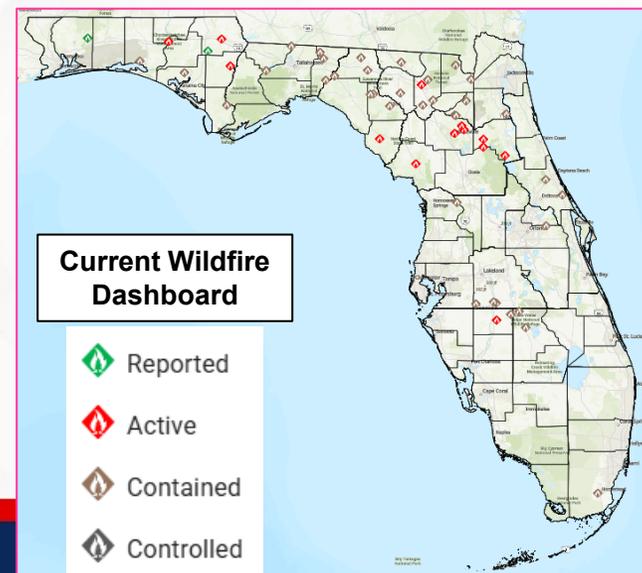
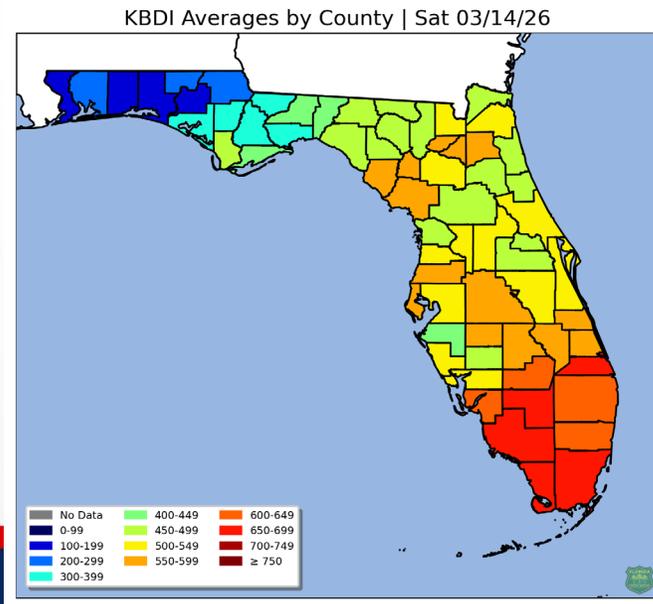
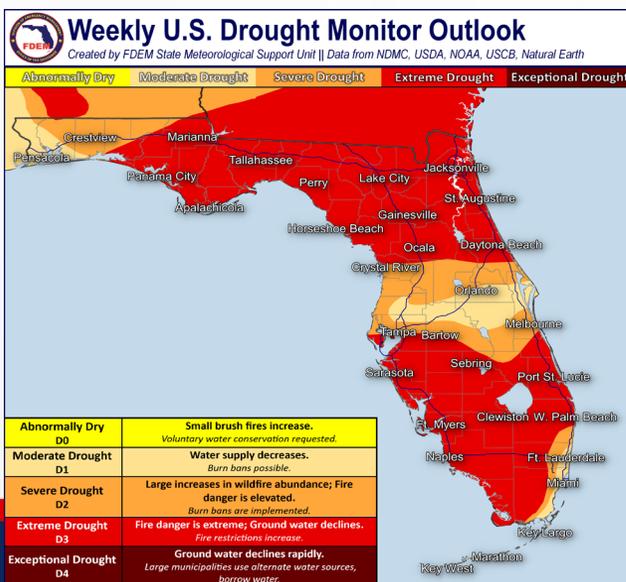


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A pattern change is on the horizon, with a strong frontal system moving over the eastern U.S.; southerly winds of 10-15 mph can be expected today with gusts 15-20 mph possible. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds statewide, with increasing rain chances expanding through Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula by this afternoon (60-90% chance of rain). *Thunderstorms can produce gusty/erratic winds which can influence ongoing wildfire behavior, and lightning can spark new or reignite existing wildfires.* While the widespread wildfire threat will remain generally low, we will maintain **locally sensitive wildfire** conditions today for locations experiencing the greatest drought and dry soil/vegetation. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 51 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,225 acres.

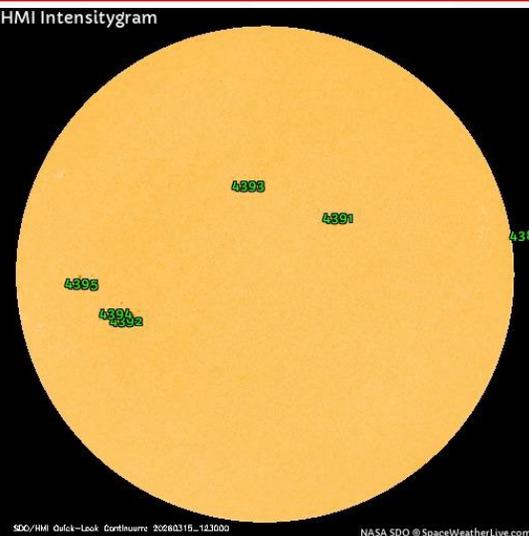
Drought (3/12/26): Very little changes were made to this weeks Drought Monitor update as much of the state struggled to see any meaningful rainfall enough to put a dent in the ongoing drought. The heaviest rains over the past week fell across portions of West-Central Florida with pockets of 2-4" of rainfall. 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 **503 (-7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **38** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

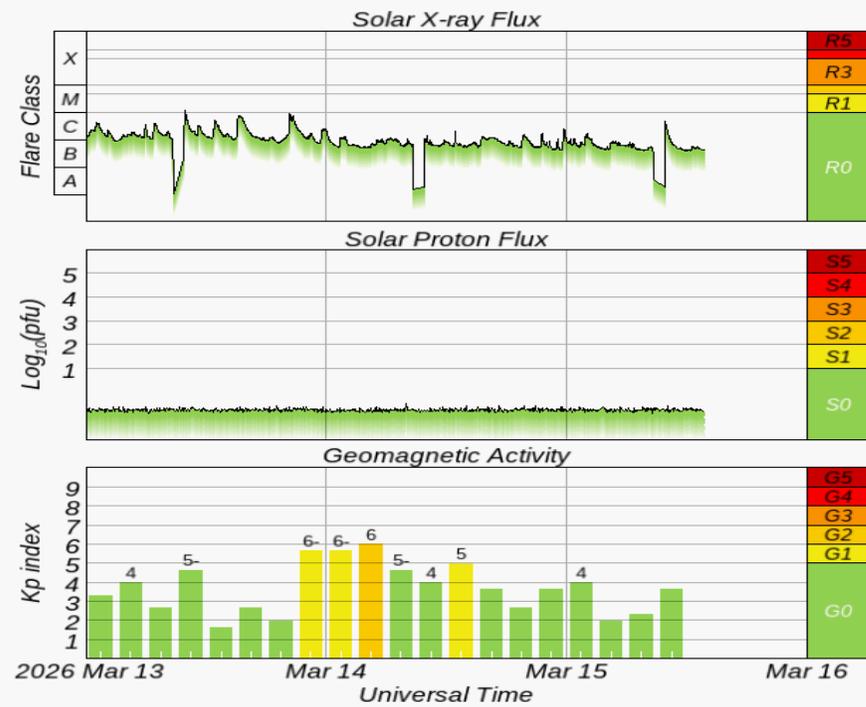




Space Weather

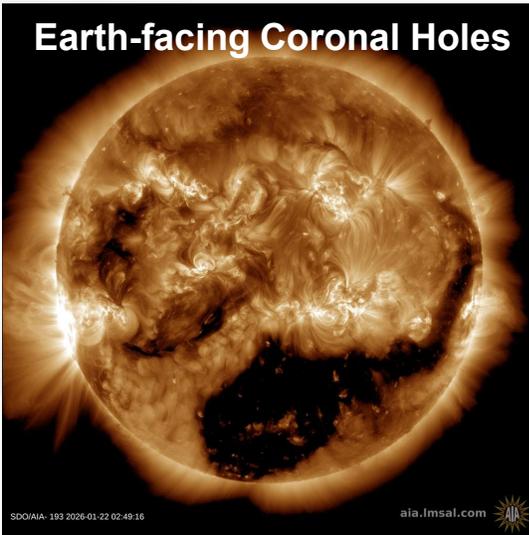


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/15	3/16
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 55% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 5%



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels, with a chance for a strong (M-class) solar flare mainly from sunspot region #4384. Should an M-class flare develop it will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Enhanced solar wind conditions will continue today before gradually subsiding early next week; further elevated winds are possible today due to the proximity of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 3/13. Periods of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming, with isolated G2 (moderate) storms possible if the CME is more Earth-directed. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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