



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Monday, March 16, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Austin Johnson	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Branch Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services Branch Director	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com">Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
ESF 14: Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Finance Chief	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team



Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Okaloosa	L-449 Course
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson	Statewide Exercise Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Madison, Hamilton	County EM Visits
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Polk	L-449 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	L-449 Course Instruction

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 3  
 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	Okaloosa	L-449 Assistance
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Madison	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Region	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Recovery Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Recovery Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Recovery Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Recovery Meeting

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 1

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

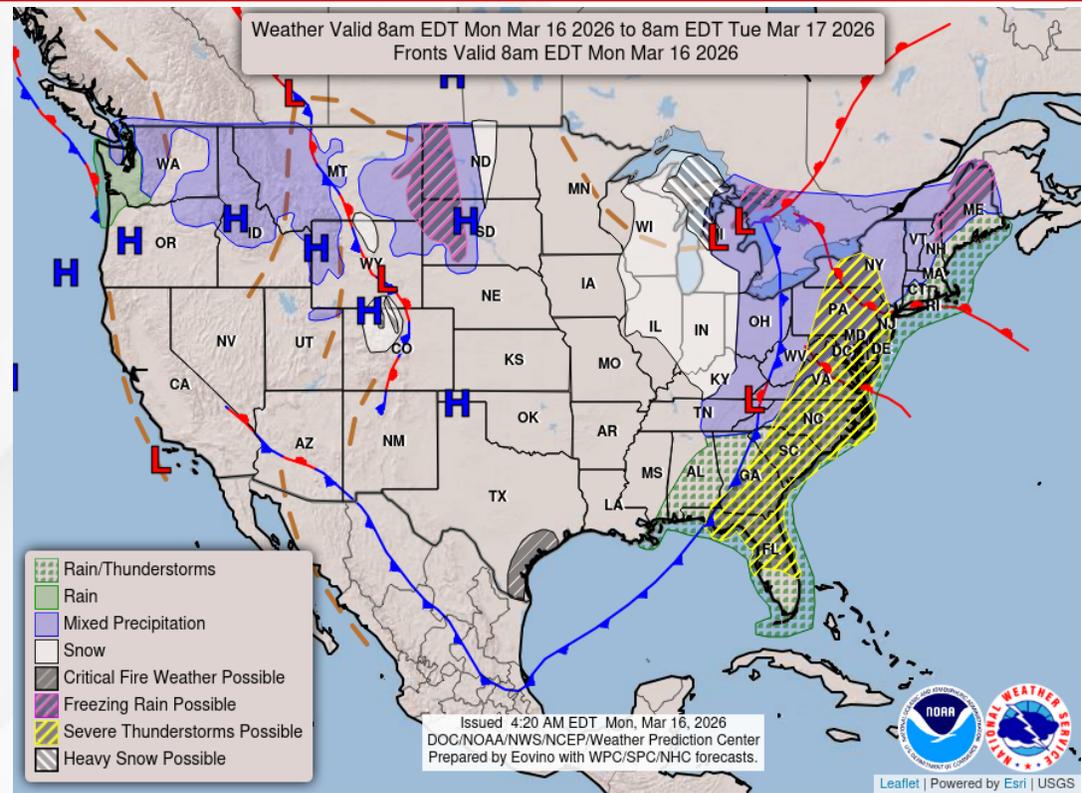
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 7

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 7

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

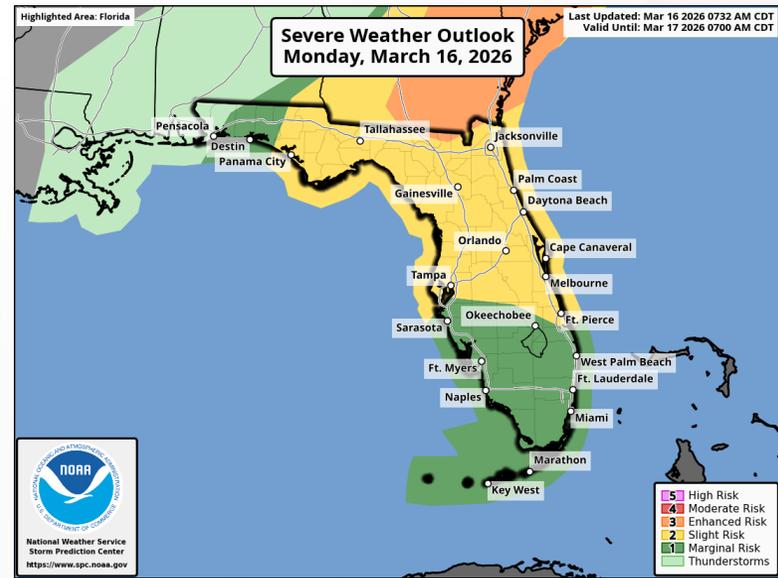


# Meteorology Summary

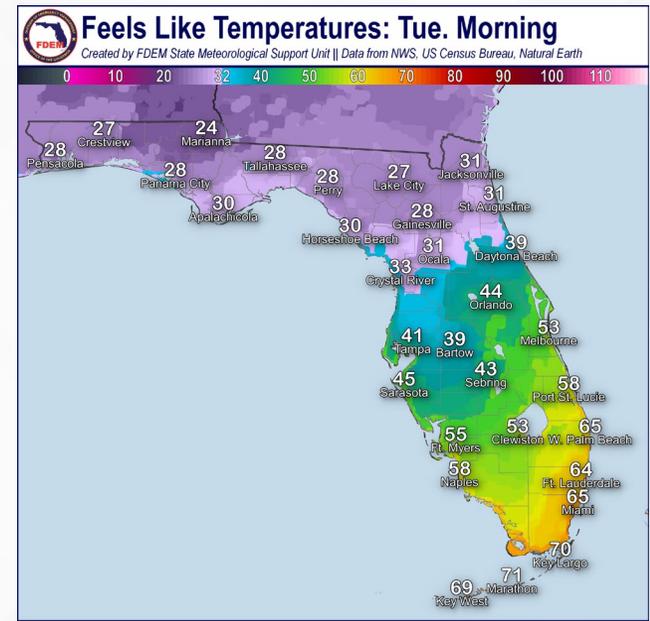


Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Tornado	L	M	M	M	L	L		L		
Damaging Wind	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	L	L
Hail		L	L	L	L	L		L		
Flash Flooding								L		L
Freeze (Overnight)	M	M	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	H		H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.16 ft. (2.30 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	504 (+1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Severe Weather Risk – Today



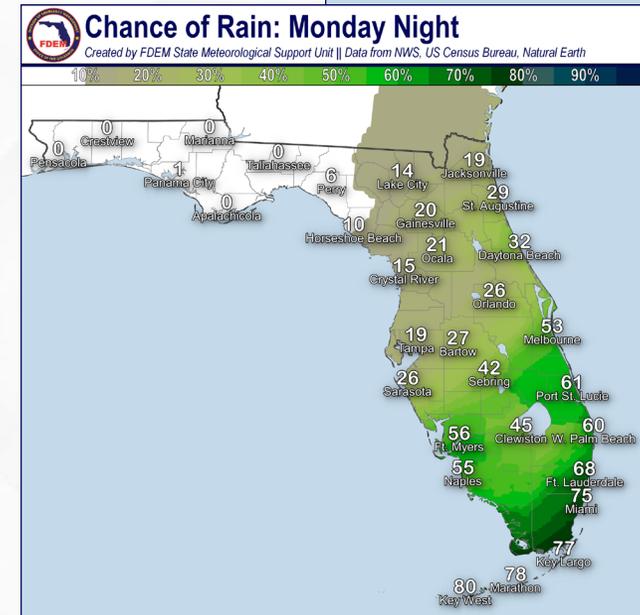
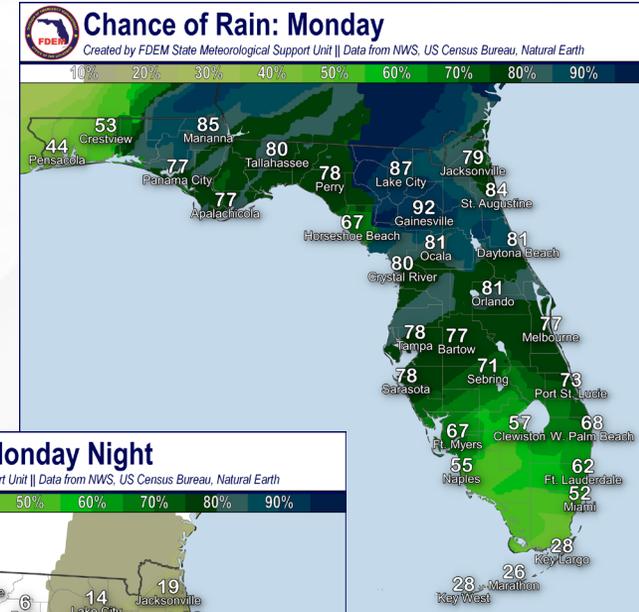


# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An active weather day can once again be expected across the Sunshine State as a strong springtime cold front brings a multi-hazardous severe weather threat to much of North and Central Florida. While the squall-line became a bit disorganized over the Florida Panhandle earlier this morning, organized thunderstorm segments were still capable of producing embedded tornadoes and damaging wind gusts and prompted the issuance of several Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings. **Tornado Watch #65** remains in effect for the eastern Florida Panhandle, the Florida Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley through 2:00 PM ET; additional downstream watches will be issued as conditions warrant. Scattered **strong to severe thunderstorms** along and ahead of this cold front will advance eastward this morning and will look to regain organization with daytime heating. The line of showers and thunderstorms will reach the I-10/I-75 interchange around midday, Northeast Florida early this afternoon, and the I-4 corridor by the evening commute. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) maintains a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across North and Central Florida, as well as the Treasure Coast, as organized thunderstorm activity will be capable of producing damaging wind gusts (50-70 mph), isolated embedded tornadoes, lightning, and instances of large hail (1" in diameter). While the frontal boundary will lose organization south of Lake Okeechobee, the combination of ample daytime heating and the daily sea breeze will promote a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** for isolated **strong to locally severe thunderstorms** this afternoon and evening. There is no organized risk of flash flooding; however, any heavier rainfall rates may lead to pockets of **ponding water and flooding** along portions of coastal and metro Southeast Florida.

Outside of thunderstorm activity, breezy to windy conditions will develop through much of North and Central Florida with **wind gusts** reaching upwards of **25-35 mph** throughout portions of North and Central Florida. Afternoon high temperatures will remain in the 50s and 60s across the western Florida Panhandle, the 70s across the eastern Florida Panhandle, and the 80s through Northeast Florida and the Florida Peninsula. In the wake of this potent frontal system, northerly winds will quickly usher in a colder and drier airmass to Florida, with **wintertime temperatures** making their return. Low temperatures tonight will drop **at or below freezing** for interior North Florida locations, with temperatures **feeling like the middle to upper 20s** by Tuesday morning.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **moderate to high risk of rip currents** can be expected along all Florida beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Breezy conditions today will allow for elevated **wave heights** of **3-5'** along many Florida Panhandle beaches this afternoon and evening, with isolated breakers in the surf zone reaching upwards of **6'** possible. Wave heights of **2-4'** can be expected along Florida East Coast beaches.

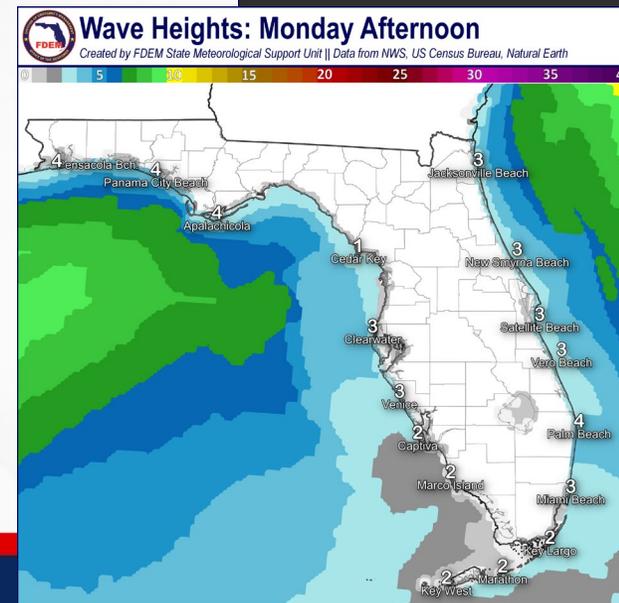
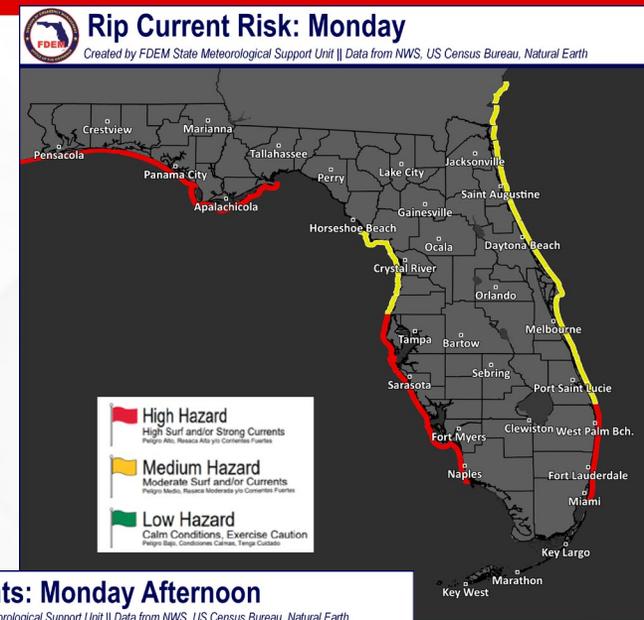
**Red Tide** was observed at background conditions in Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, and in very low concentrations from one sample collected in Brevard County (valid 3/13/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk of flash flooding today. Intense rainfall rates will accompany today's shower and thunderstorm activity; however, the forward speed of this frontal system will limit the extent of flooding concerns. Rainfall totals of 1-3" will be possible within any North or Central Florida location that experiences multiple rounds of thunderstorm activity. Further south, the combination of ample moisture and the daily sea breeze may result in pockets of **flooding and ponding water** along the urban and metro Southeast Florida corridor later this evening.

**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 (valid: 3/15/2026).



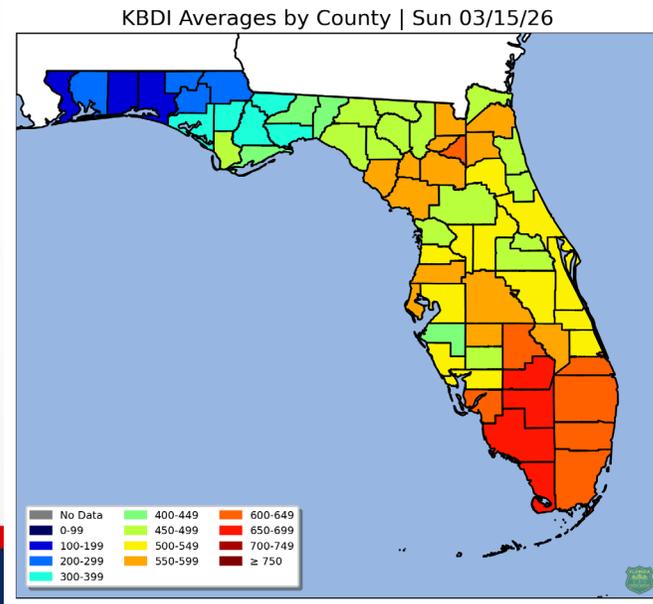
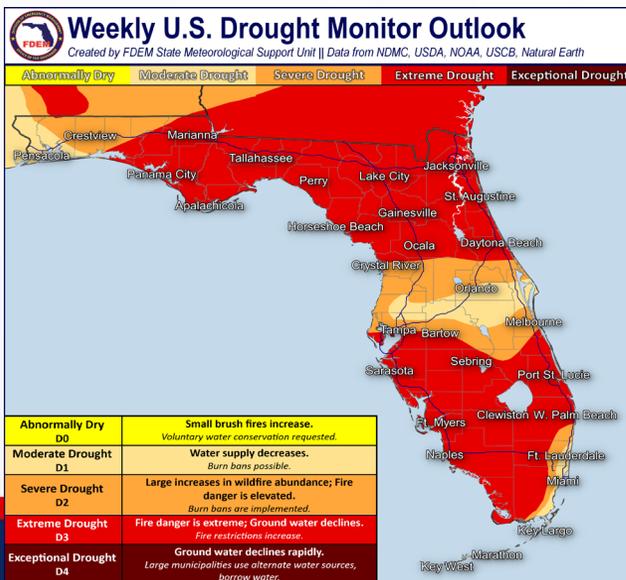


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Widespread rain and thunderstorm chances (75-near 100% chance) will continue across the Sunshine State today, courtesy of a potent springtime cold front. *Thunderstorms can produce gusty/erratic winds which can influence ongoing wildfire behavior, and lightning can spark new or reignite existing wildfires.* Outside of thunderstorm activity, winds become very breezy with **wind gusts** reaching **upwards of 25-35 mph** possible throughout North and Central Florida this afternoon. 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 56 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,740 acres.

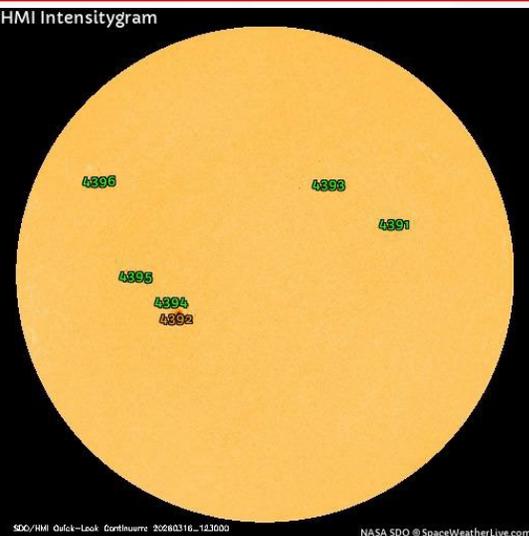
**Drought (3/12/26):** Very little changes were made to this weeks Drought Monitor update as much of the state struggled to see any meaningful rainfall enough to put a dent in the ongoing drought. The heaviest rains over the past week fell across portions of West-Central Florida with pockets of 2-4" 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 (+1)** 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).

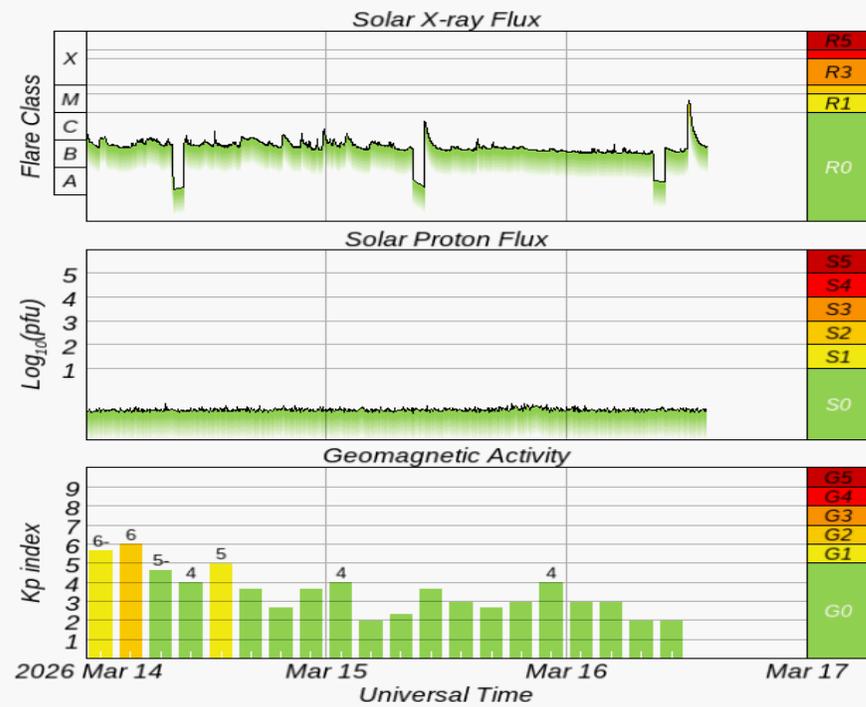




# Space Weather

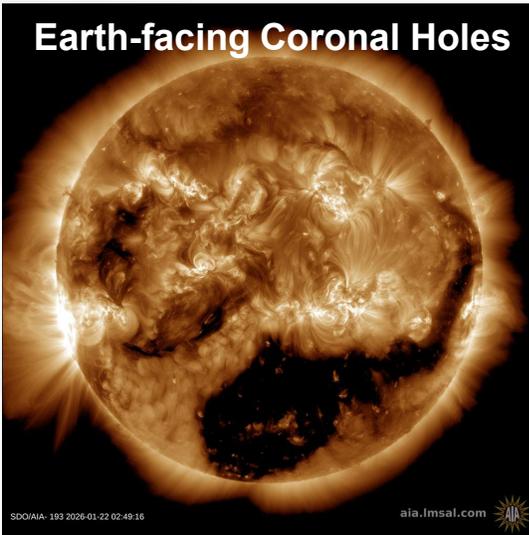


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/16	3/17
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:** Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels, with a chance for a strong (M-class) solar flare mainly from sunspot region #4932. 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 through the early parts of this week. Only isolated geomagnetic conditions are expected today, with no organized storming expected. The overall space weather threat remains very low for Florida.



# 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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