



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, March 18, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Jim Lawhon	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	Liberty	Statewide Exercise Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Support Services Call / FEPA AlertFL Call
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Support Services Call / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	SRT Assessment (Tampa FR)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Support Services Call
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin / Support Services Call
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	L-449 Course Instruction

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response 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	Okaloosa	L-449 Assistance
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Hamilton	EM F-ROC Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Region	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	FEPA Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	EM Visit
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Flagler	Training L-146
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	LMSWG Meeting

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 1

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

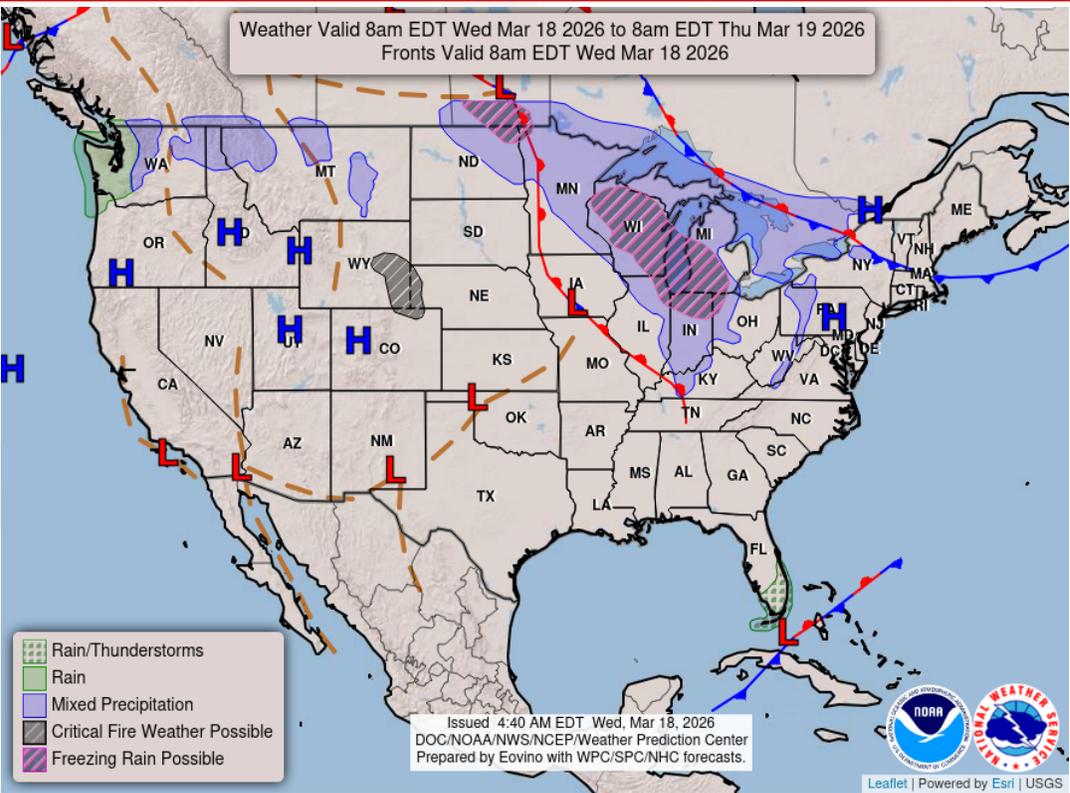
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

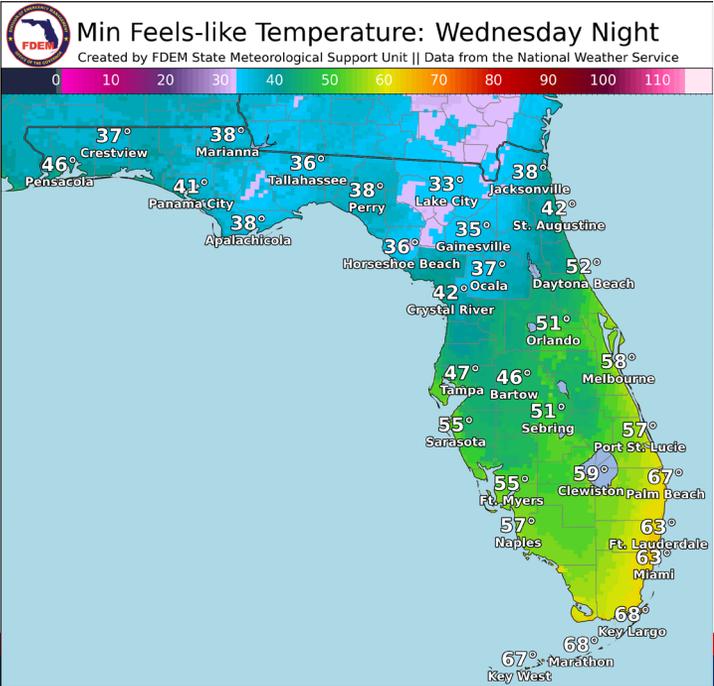
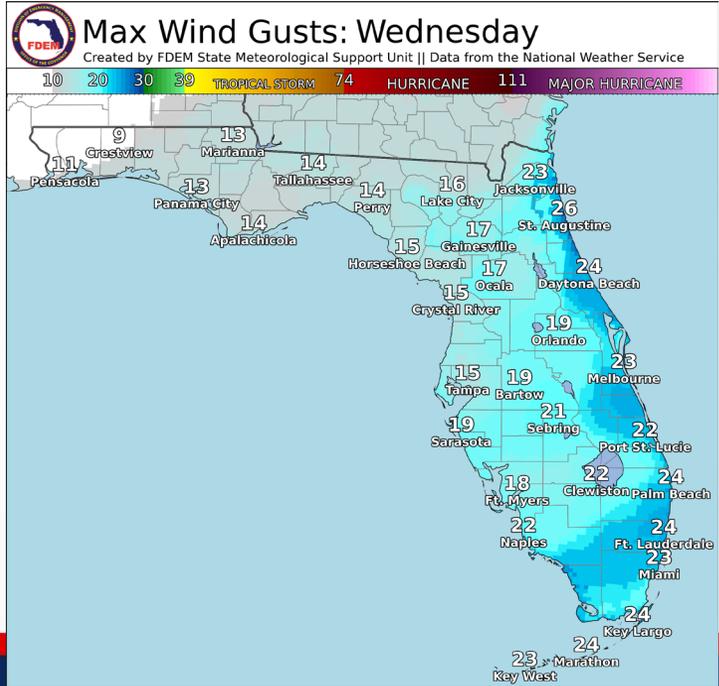


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)		L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	M		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.13 ft. (2.30 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	426 (-38) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



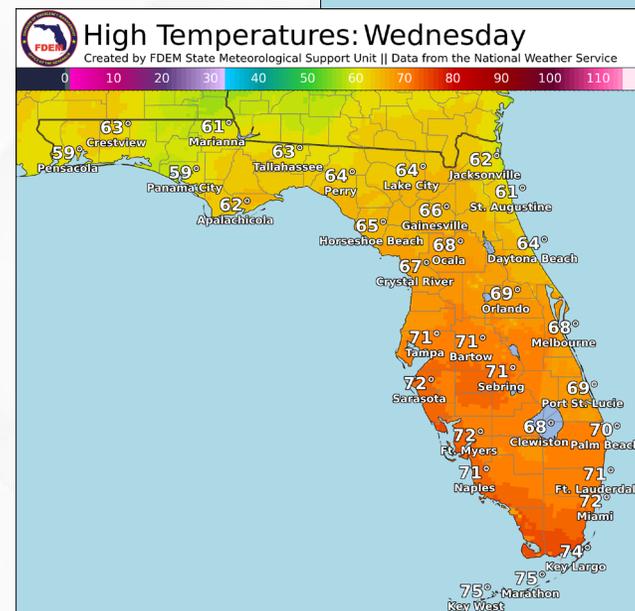
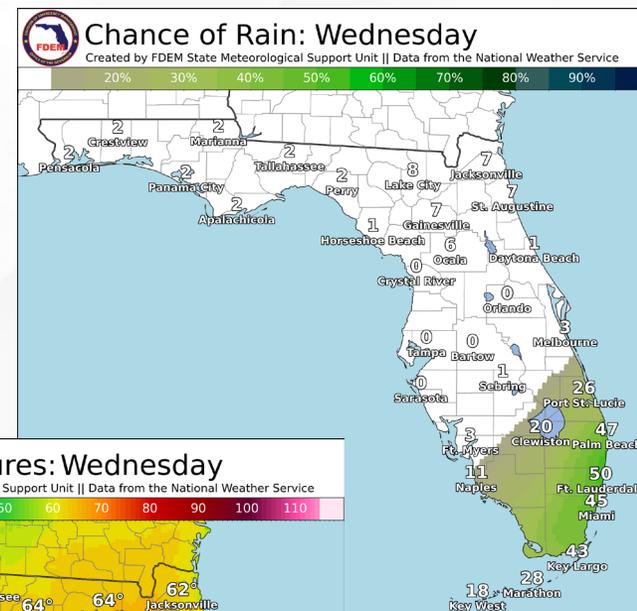


# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An even **chillier morning** across much of North Florida with temperatures observed in the **upper 20s to middle 30s**. A few select locations, such as Jacksonville International Airport, even tied daily record lows! Temperatures will continue to warm with the sun rise with a dry day on tap for North and Central Florida. A mixture of sun and clouds, as well as a cool and dry northeasterly breeze, will keep temperatures in the upper 50s to middle 60s throughout North Florida this afternoon. Highs will reach the upper 60s to lower 70s throughout Central and South Florida. The north to northeasterly breeze will remain elevated for much of the I-95 corridor and Southeast Florida today, with gusts reaching **upwards of 20-25 mph**. This onshore flow will also keep a chance for isolated to widely scattered showers throughout South Florida, especially along the coast (35-50% chance of rain). Very **low relative humidities (15-25%)** will allow for **sensitive wildfire conditions** this afternoon across North Florida, even with some of the recent rainfall.

Another cold night is expected across North Florida, though will not be as cold as recent nights. Lows will dip into the **middle to upper 30s**, with a few rural locations possibly getting close to the freezing mark. Calm winds and clearing skies may allow for **patchy frost** to develop, especially in rural locations, important for agricultural interests as many plants and crops have already begun to bud, bloom, and green up. Additional **Frost Advisories** cannot be ruled out tonight for portions of North Florida. Lows throughout Central Florida will reach the upper 40s to middle 50s with upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida where a few lingering showers may stick around along the immediate coastline overnight (25-45% chance of rain).





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **high risk for rip currents** will persist for most East Coast beaches today, with a **moderate risk** expected for Northeast Florida, West Coast, and Panhandle beaches. A low risk will return to the Nature Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Dangerous beach and marine conditions will persist along much of the East and West Coast today. Waves near **3-5'** can be expected for most East Coast beaches, increasing to **5-7'** overnight for Southeast Florida beaches. West Coast beaches can expect surf near **2-3'** through tonight, while the Panhandle will see diminishing surf to near 1-2'.

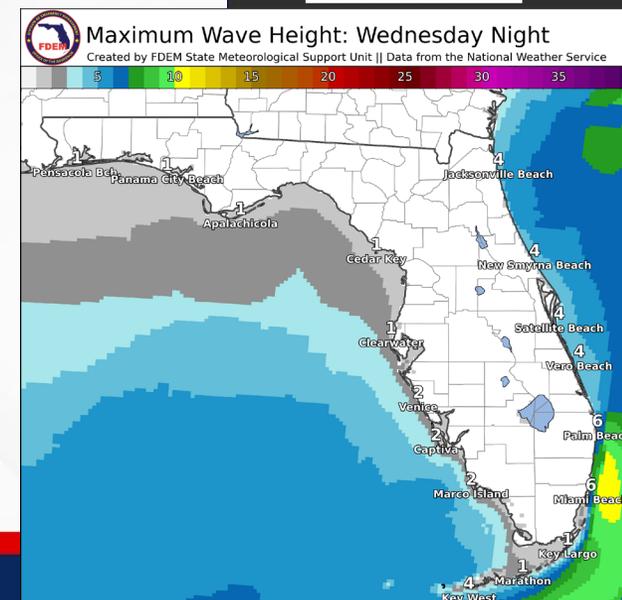
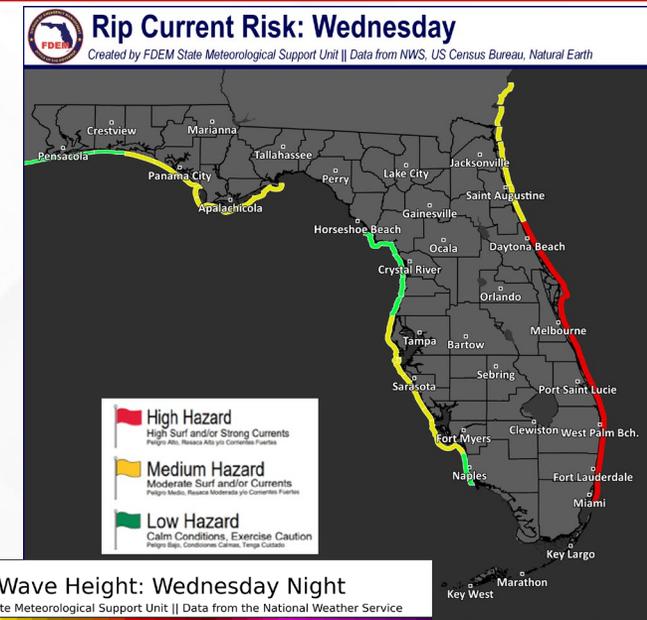
**Red Tide** was observed at background conditions in Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, and in very low concentrations from one sample collected in Brevard County (valid 3/13/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** Flash flooding is not expected across Florida today.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 12.13 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.29 feet below normal for this time of year.



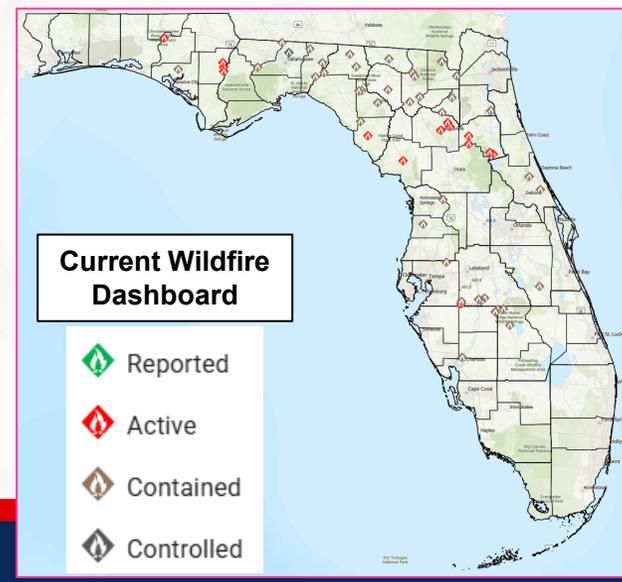
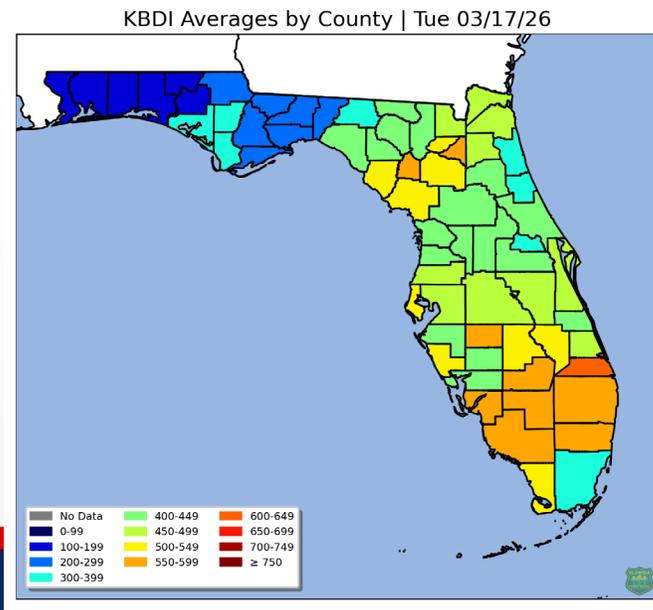
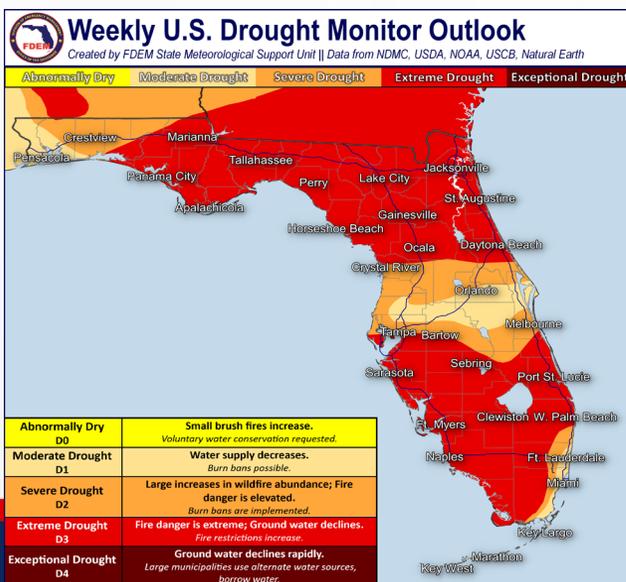


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Recent wetting rains have been certainly beneficial in the short-term; however, we will need several more rounds of rainfall to push the needle out of the deficit and improve the long-term drought and dry soil/vegetation. Relative humidity values will dip **critically low (15-25%)** across North Florida today which, paired with some breezy winds upwards of 15-20 mph, will lead to **locally sensitive to elevated** wildfire conditions. Winds will be strongest along the I-95 corridor this afternoon, with gusts reaching **upwards of 25 mph**. A few light showers will also linger throughout South Florida this afternoon. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 54 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,876 acres.

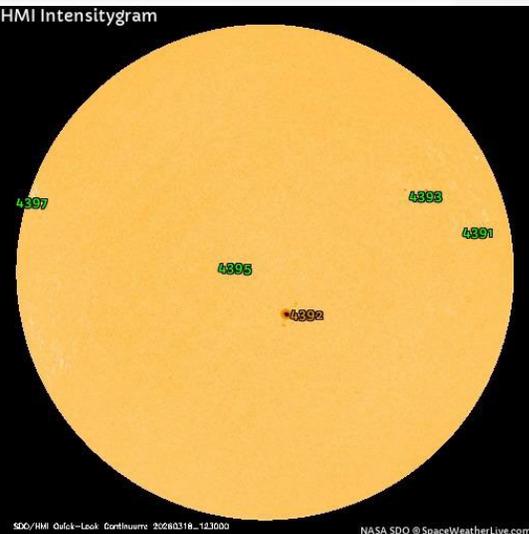
**Drought (3/12/26):** Very little changes were made to this weeks Drought Monitor update as much of the state struggled to see any meaningful rainfall enough to put a dent in the ongoing drought. The heaviest rains over the past week fell across portions of West-Central Florida with pockets of 2-4" 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, a 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 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 **426 (-38)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **19** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

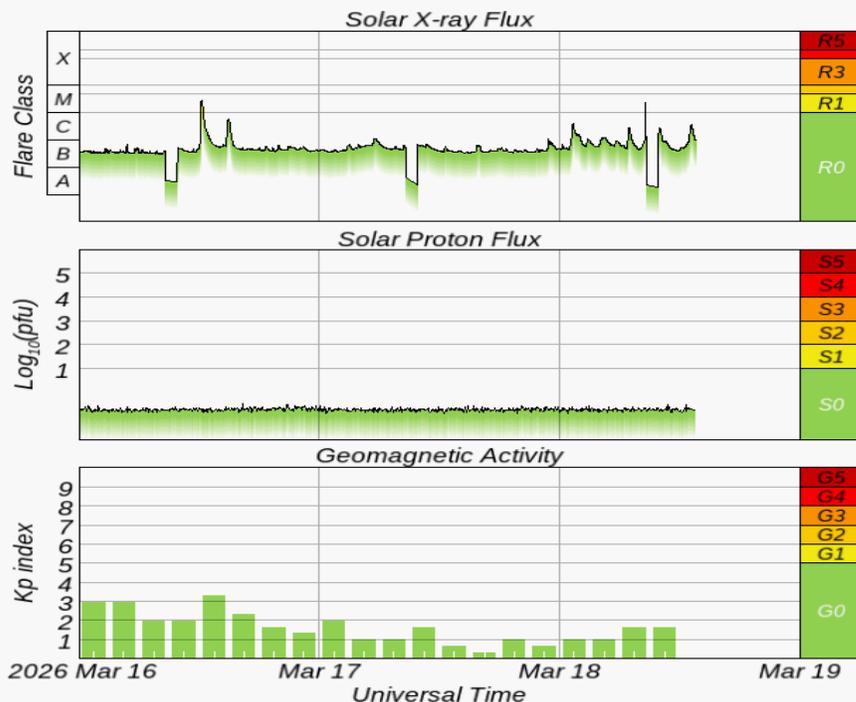




# Space Weather

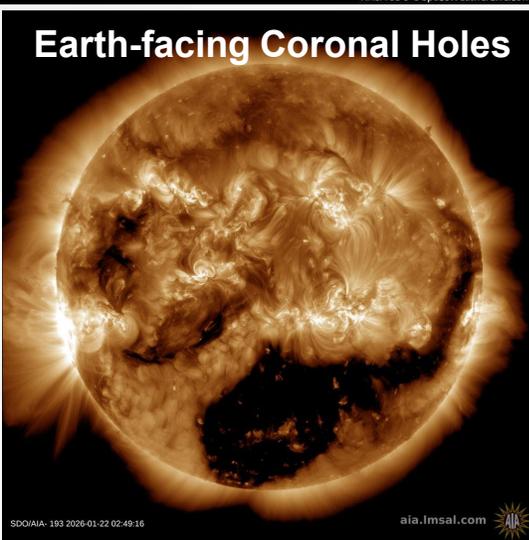


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/18	3/19
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%



**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 #4392. Should an M-class flare develop it will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will briefly transition to more background levels today before the anticipated arrival of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) tomorrow which will bring increased and amplified solar winds through the end of the week. The arrival of the CME will also bring active geomagnetic conditions, with moderate (G2) storm levels likely upon and after its arrival. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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:	<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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