



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Thursday, March 19, 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	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@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	Gadsden	Wildlife Cooperation Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Sumter	Structurally Unsafe Building Response / Hazmat TTX
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	SRT Assessment (Pinellas Co Hazmat)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami- Dade, Broward	FIU Wall of Wind Event / FIFA World Cup 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	Okaloosa	L-449 Assistance
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Bradford	Stakeholder Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Region	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	RDSTF1 Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	LMS Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Palm Beach	FAU EM Meeting / F-ROC TA
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Wall of Wind Challenge

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 1

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

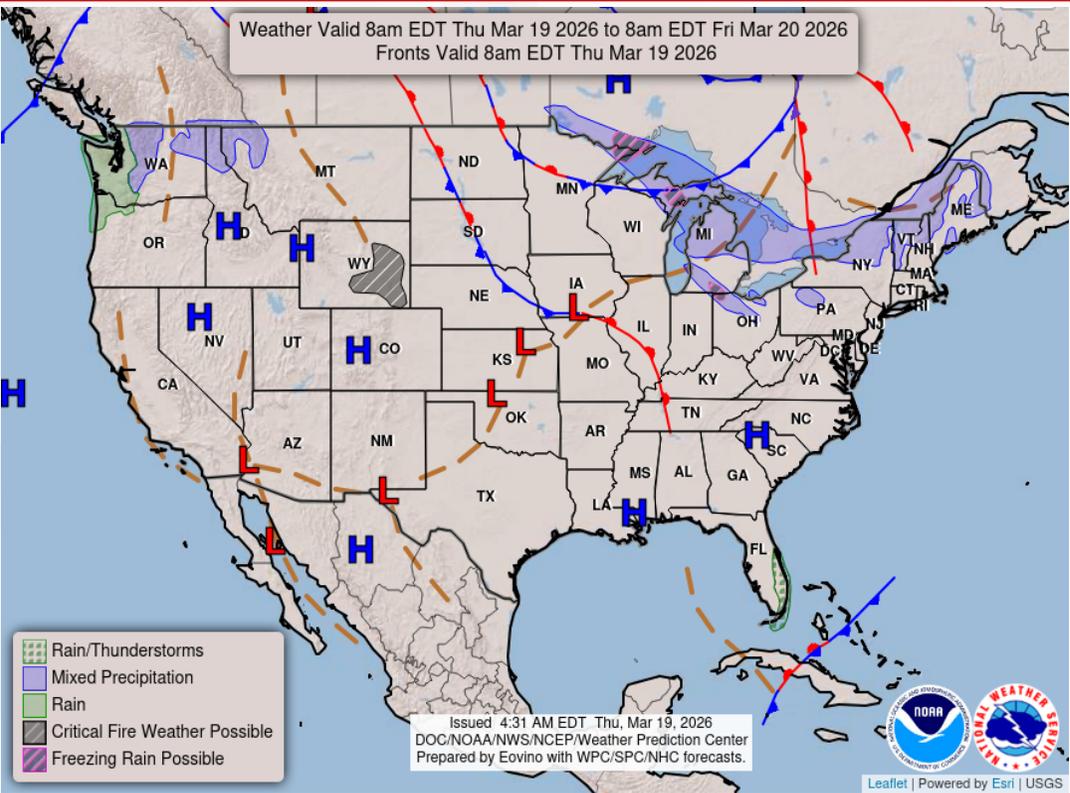
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

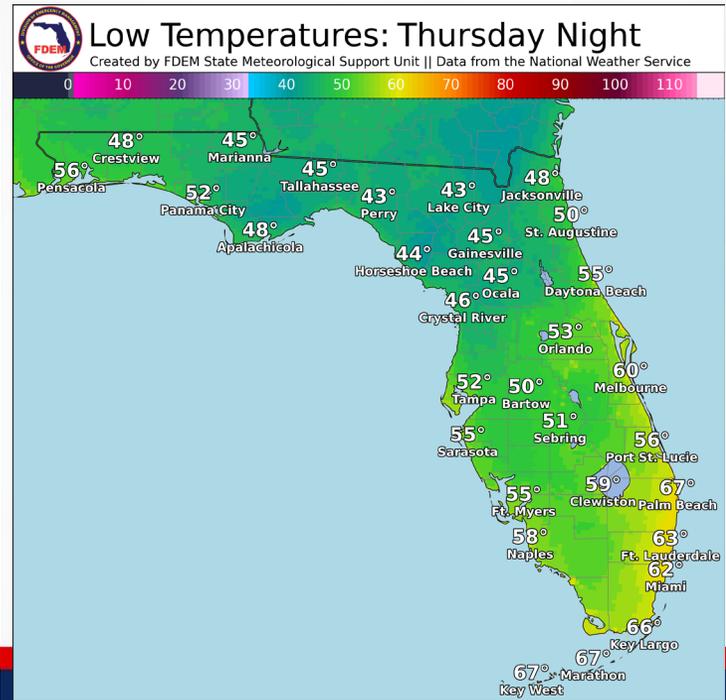
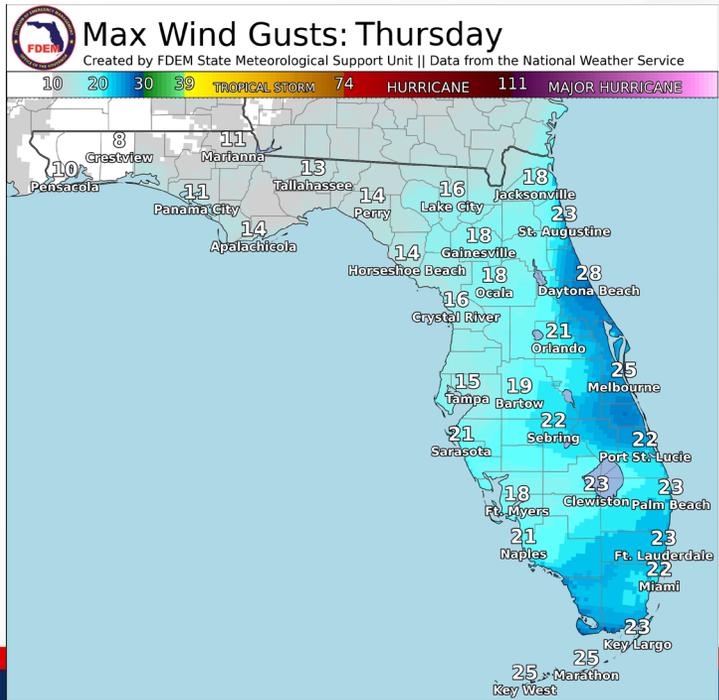


# Meteorology Summary



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)										
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	12.09 ft. (2.32 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	425 (-1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



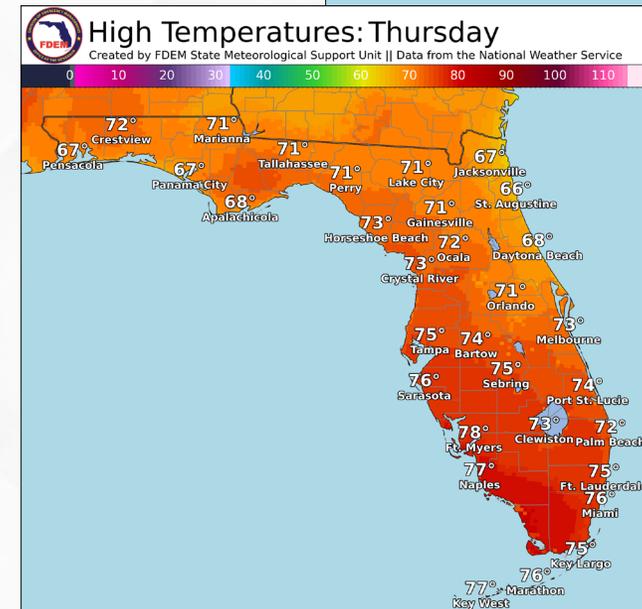
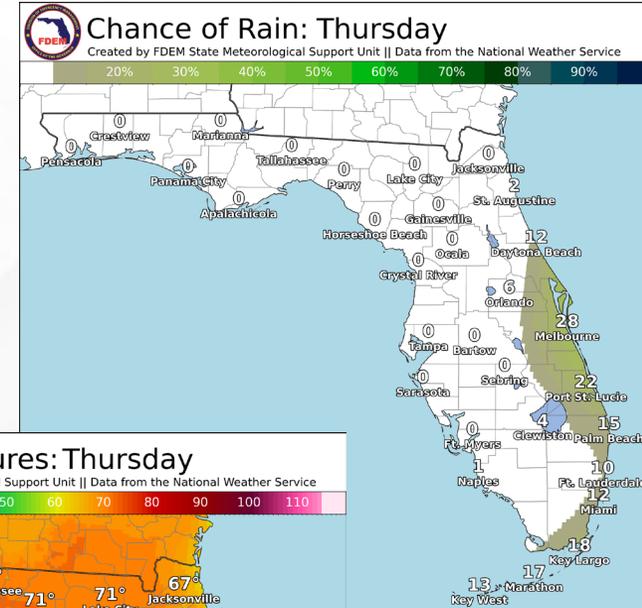


# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Our late season cool pattern will begin to rebound today under a mixture of sunshine and clouds; however, brisk northeasterly winds will keep afternoon highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s through much of North and East Florida. **Wind gusts** of **20-25 mph** can be expected, with locally higher wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** will be possible along the immediate Atlantic beachfront. Onshore flow will allow for isolated to widely scattered showers (35-50% chance of rain) along coastal East-Central and Southeast Florida. Shielded by the winds, West-Central and Southwest Florida will be the warmest spots on the map today with afternoon high temperatures returning into the middle to upper 70s.

While warmer than recent nights, low temperatures will remain chilly in the lower 40s across North Florida and the Nature Coast, with a few interior locations making a run toward the **upper 30s** one more night. While it is looking like a greater concern for this weekend, **patchy fog** and **low clouds** may be possible tonight across interior Northeast Florida areas.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **high risk for rip currents** will persist for East Coast and West-Central Florida beaches today, with a **moderate risk** expected along the Florida Panhandle and Southwest Florida coastline. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** **Dangerous beach and marine conditions** can be expected to persist along the Florida East Coast today, with **wave heights** reaching **4-6'** consistently at all Atlantic beaches. Locally higher breakers in the surf zone will reach **7-8'** at times as strong northeasterly winds continue to build its long-period ocean swell. Wave height conditions improve along the Florida Gulf Coast, with breakers remaining in the 1-3' range.

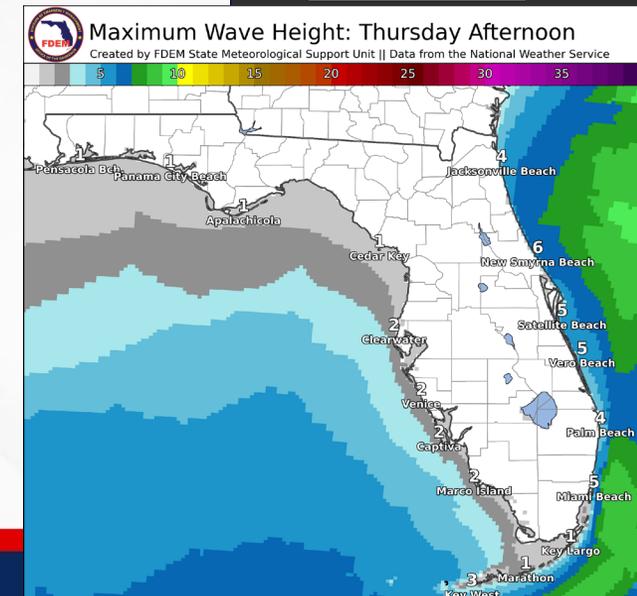
**Red Tide** was observed at background conditions in Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, and in very low concentrations from one sample collected in Brevard County (valid 3/13/26).

**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 12.09 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.32 feet below normal for this time of year.



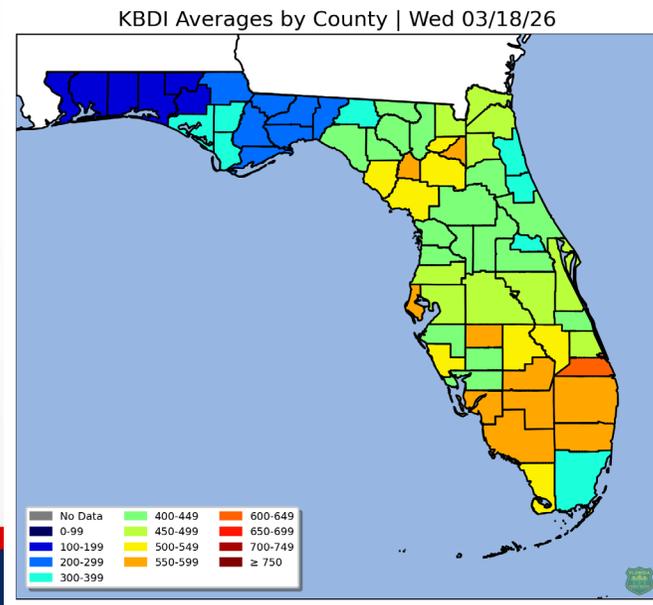
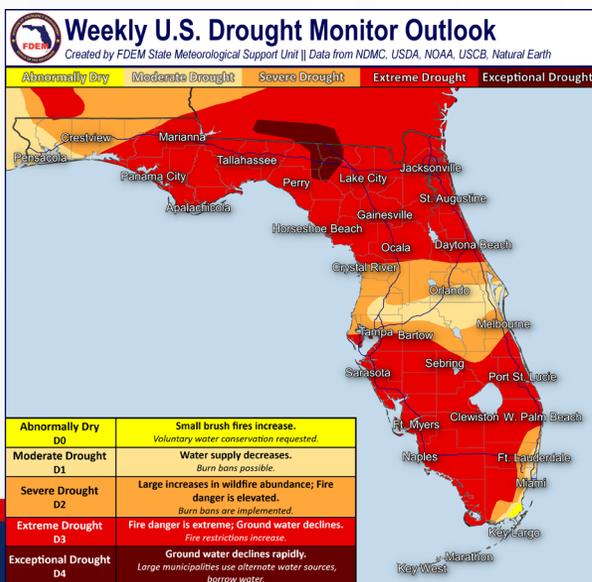


# Drought & Fire Weather

**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 drop once again into the **20s and 30s** across North and interior North-Central Florida, leading to **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions**. Winds again will be strongest along the I-95 corridor this afternoon, with **wind gusts** reaching **20-30 mph** possible. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 44 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,825 acres.

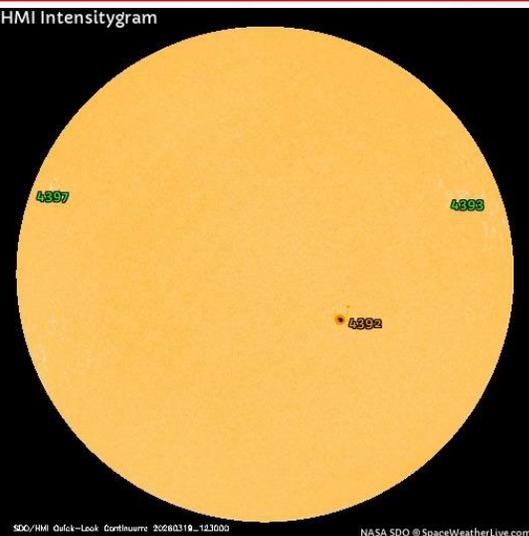
**Drought (3/19/26):** Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. As previously mentioned, the rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front helped Florida locations in the near-term, as observed in improved KBDI values; however, observed rainfall totals were still not enough to alleviate long-term drought and dry soils/vegetation. Widespread **severe (level 2 of 4) to extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** continues nearly statewide, with the largest change occurring along the northern reaches of the Suwannee River. **Exceptional (level 4 of 4) drought** has been introduced over eastern Madison, Northern Gilchrist, western Suwannee, and Hamilton counties; portions of the Florida-Georgia state line saw worsening soil moisture and precipitation deficits and several streamflow gauges moved into record-low territory for mid-March. Very heavy rain fell in parts of Miami-Dade County, resulting in some improvements to drought conditions, though the benefit of the heavy rain was likely limited given runoff and very low water levels in the Everglades.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **425 (-1)** 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).

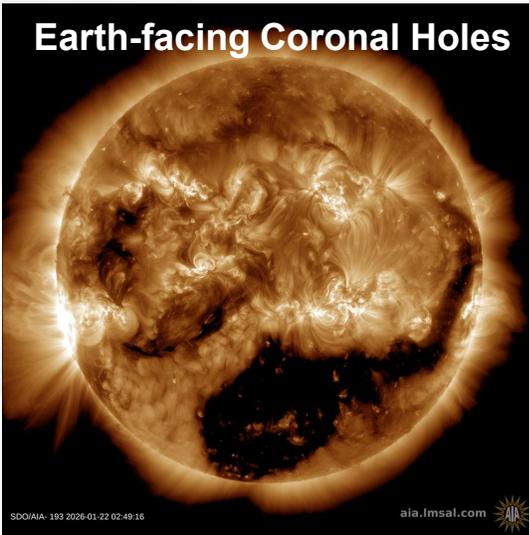
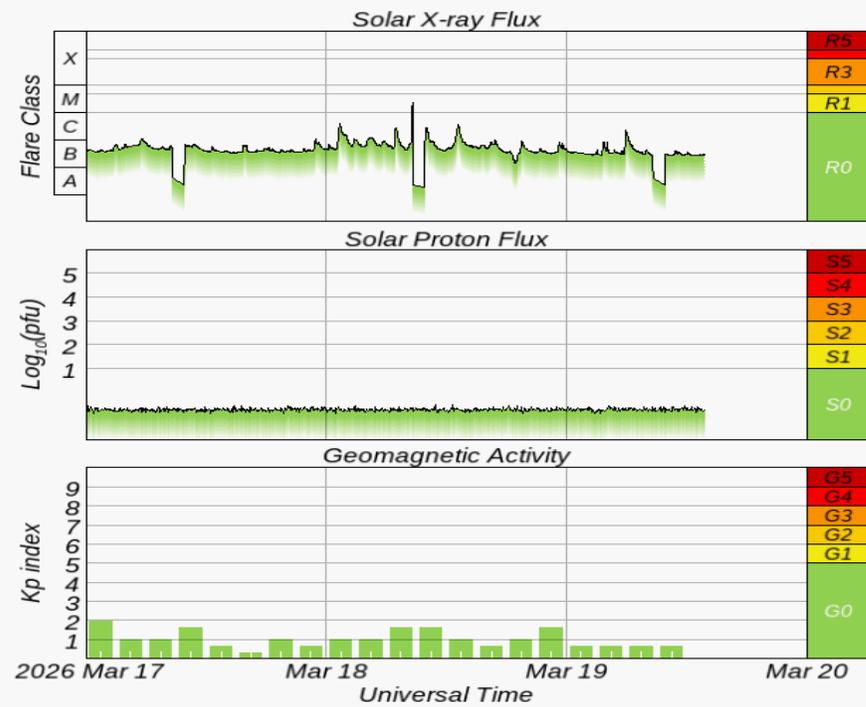




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G2 Watch 3/19-3/21</b>	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/19	3/20
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%	Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 30%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is forecast to remain low, with a chance for M-class (moderate to strong) solar flares. Flare activity would be likely associated with active sunspot #4392 and may produce instances of minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. The solar wind environment is expected to become enhanced today as the Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) from 3/16 and 3/17 are expected to arrive. The geomagnetic field is expected to become elevated today in response to the multiple CME event and coronal hole influences. Active G2 (moderate) geomagnetic storm levels will be likely today, increasing in coverage and intensity during the next three days; however, 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:	<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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