



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, March 20, 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	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	Brandon Gore	(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	Okaloosa	L-449 Course
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gadsden	American Red Cross Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Alachua, Columbia	Logistics Support
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Office Admin / FEMA Course Work
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Office Admin
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Palm Beach	County EM Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Sarasota	SRT Assessment (Sarasota Co FR)
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	Suwannee	Transition Follow-up
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Region	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Service	Not Available
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	LMS Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian-River	Administration
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Administration

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 1

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

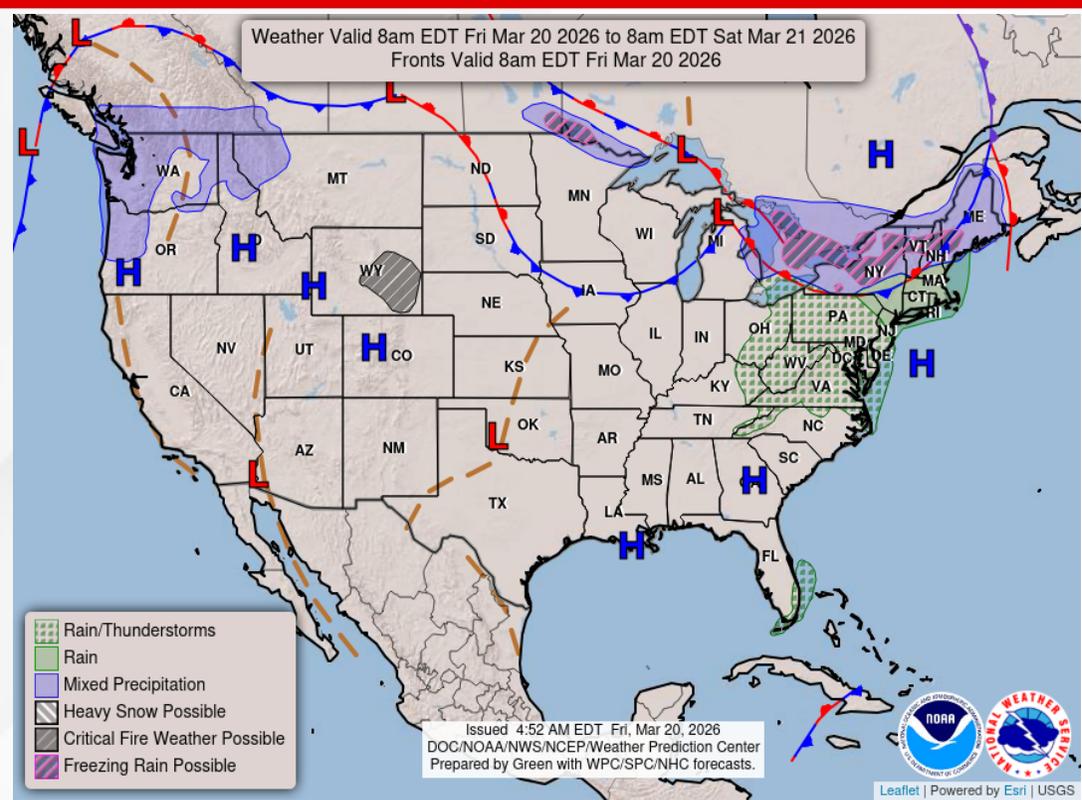
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

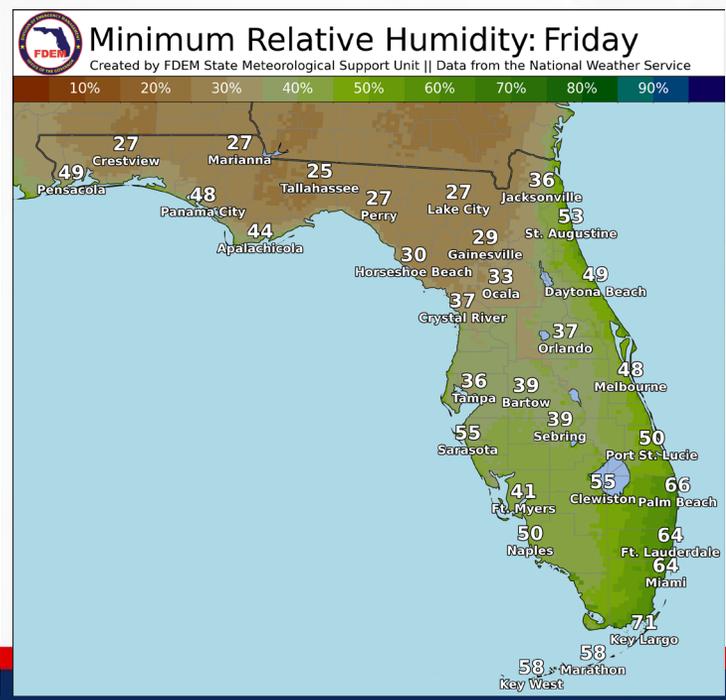
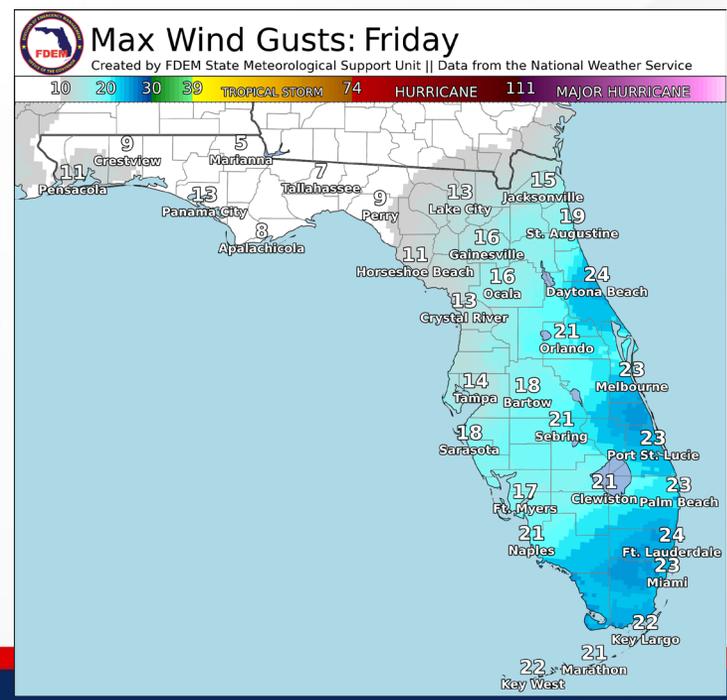


Meteorology Summary



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	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.07 ft. (2.35 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	428 (+3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





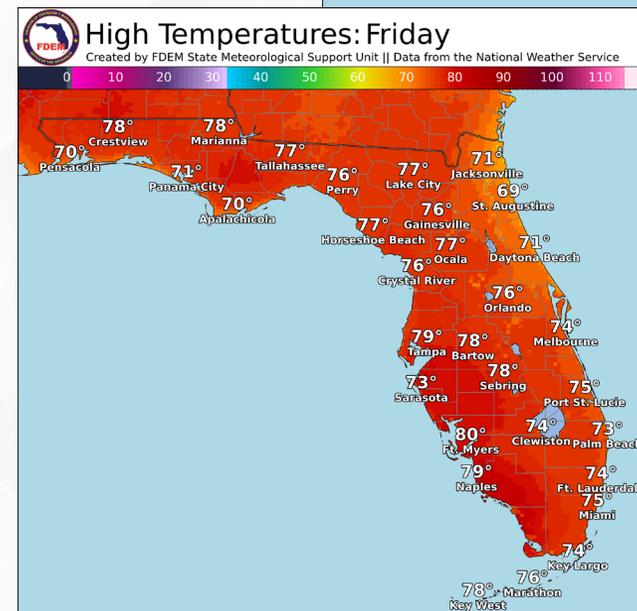
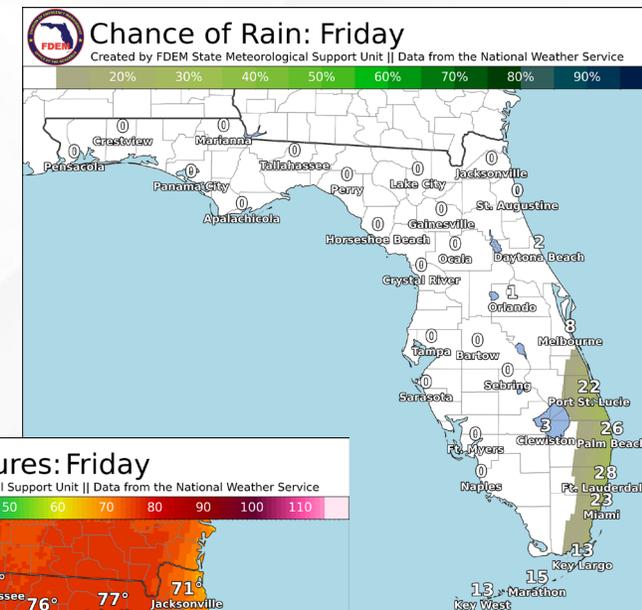
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure will settle over the Southeast U.S. today bringing sunny and dry conditions to much of the state. Elevated northeasterly onshore winds will continue along the I-95 corridor and Southeast Florida today, with **wind gusts** upwards of **20-30 mph** possible. This will bring a slight chance for an isolated shower along the Southeast coastline today (20-30% chance of rain), though any activity is expected to be light and brief in nature. High temperatures will climb into the 70s throughout much of the state, with West-Central and Southwest Florida being the warmest location shielded by the strongest winds.

Critically low relative humidities (15-25%) are expected across North Florida this afternoon which will keep a **sensitive** to **locally elevated wildfire risk** in place. A recent uptick in local brush burn and wildfire activity has brought increased smoke across the I-10 corridor, especially throughout the Big Bend where air quality conditions are poor. With light northeasterly winds expected today, areas of **smoke and haze** will continue across portions of North Florida. Winds will shift out of the south and east tonight, which should help to scour out and blow much of the smoke away from the state.

Low temperatures will remain on the chillier side tonight, dipping into the middle 40s to lower 40s throughout much of interior North and Central Florida. Lows in the middle 50s to lower 60s can be expected along the Panhandle and Big Bend coast and for Peninsula beaches. Fog chances will remain very low tonight; however, isolated instances of **fog and low clouds** cannot be ruled out across the interior Peninsula. *Should fog mix with smoke from any active wildfires, visibilities will be significantly reduced.*





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** will persist for East Coast 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.

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.

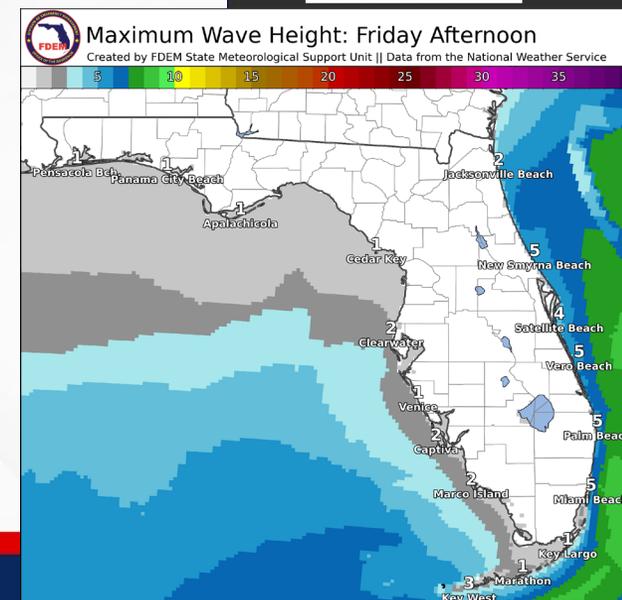
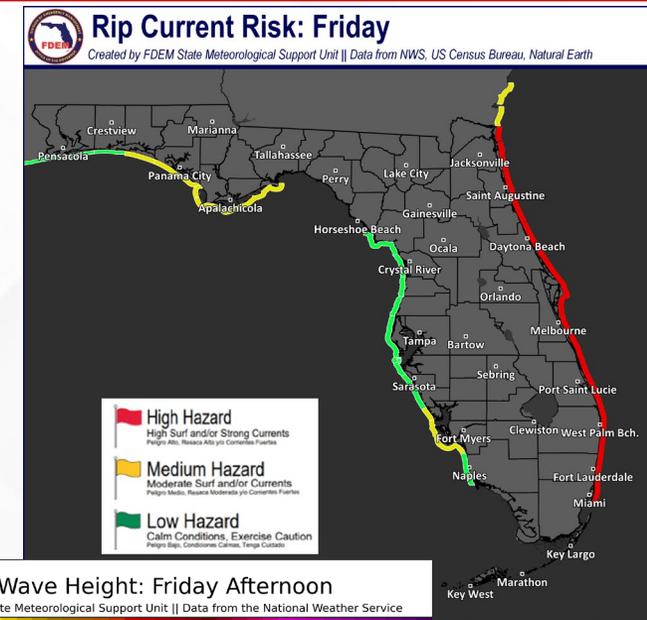
Red Tide was observed at background conditions in Escambia, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, and in very low concentrations from one sample collected in Brevard County (valid 3/13/26).

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 12.07 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.35 feet below normal for this time of year.



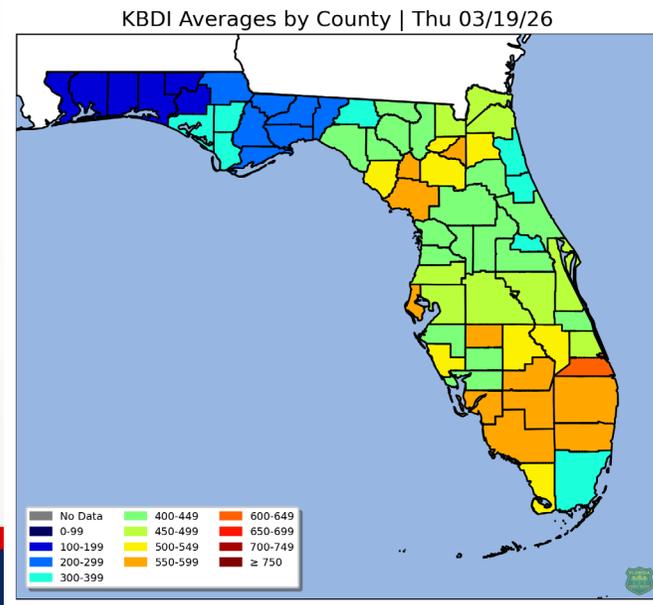
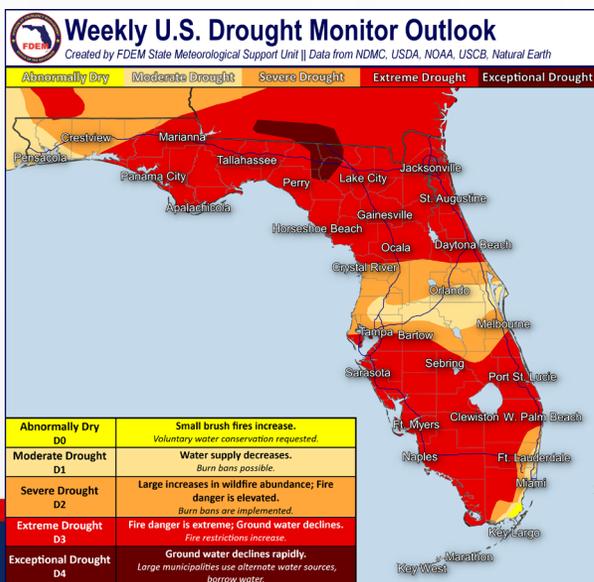


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: **Critically low relative humidities (15-25%)** are expected across North Florida this afternoon which will continue to bring **sensitive** to **locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Recent wetting rains have certainly been 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. A recent uptick in local brush burn and wildfire activity across the I-10 corridor and Big Bend will also bring areas of **smoke and haze** to North Florida. Winds will remain strongest along the I-95 corridor and across Southeast Florida, with **wind gusts** reaching **20-30 mph** possible. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 48 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,720 acres.

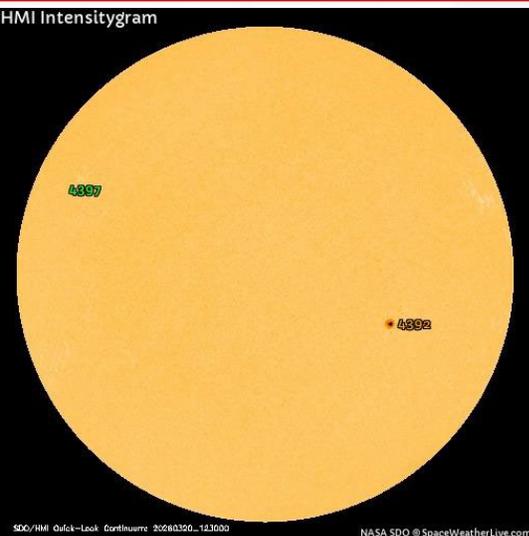
Drought (3/19/26): Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. As previously mentioned, the rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front helped Florida locations in the 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 **428 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **20** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

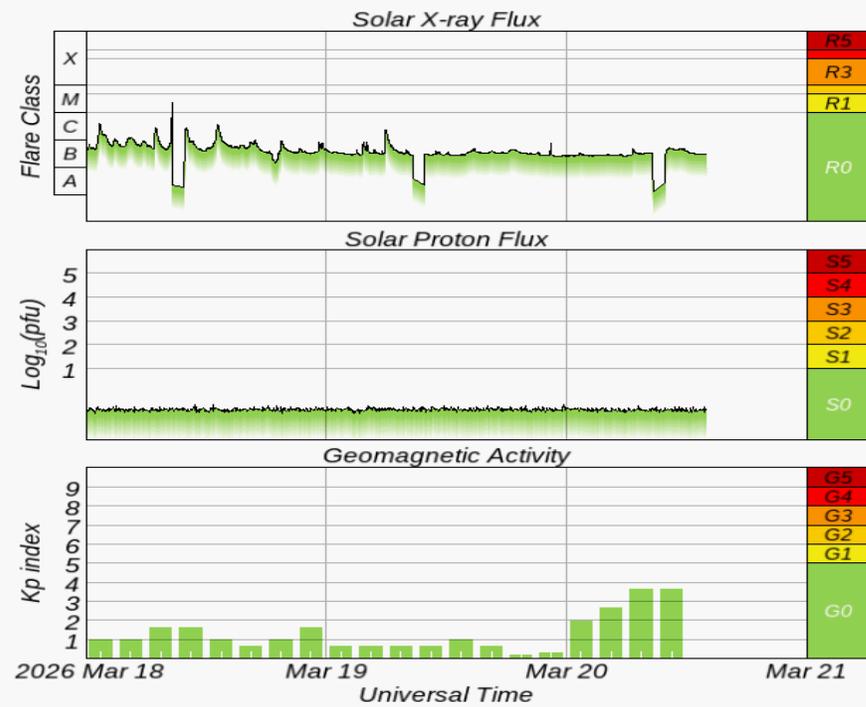




Space Weather

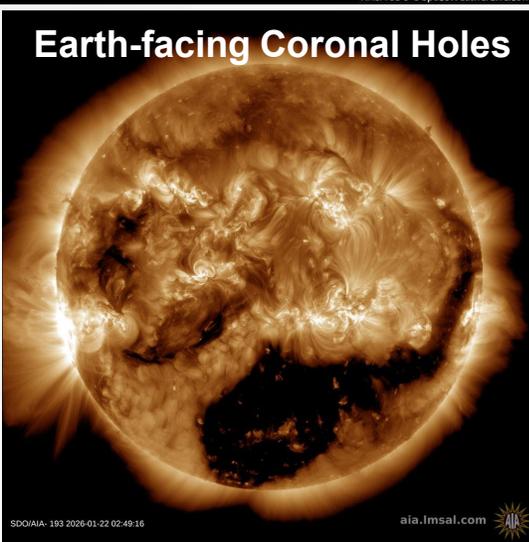


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: G2 Watch 3/19-3/21	B7 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/20	3/21
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 30%	Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 35%



Space Weather: Solar activity is forecast to remain very low, with a chance for C-class (minor) solar flares. Flare activity would be likely associated with active sunspot #4392. Should an isolated M-class (moderate) solar flare erupt, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would accompany it. 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 be at active to G2 (moderate) storm levels today due to the arrival of the CMEs. Additional G2 (Moderate) storming is likely this weekend, with G3 (Strong) conditions possible with the onset of coronal hole influences paired with the CME impacts. 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:	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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