



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, March 21, 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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
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 2 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 1
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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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	Out of Region	Not Available
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

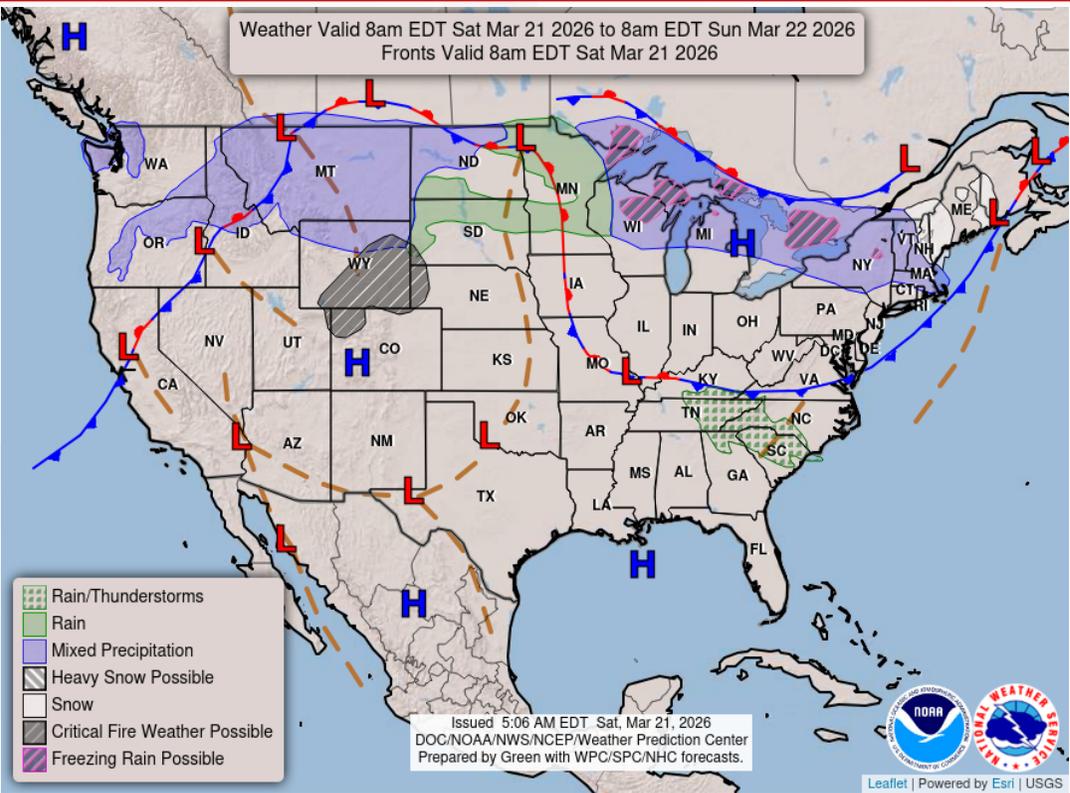
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

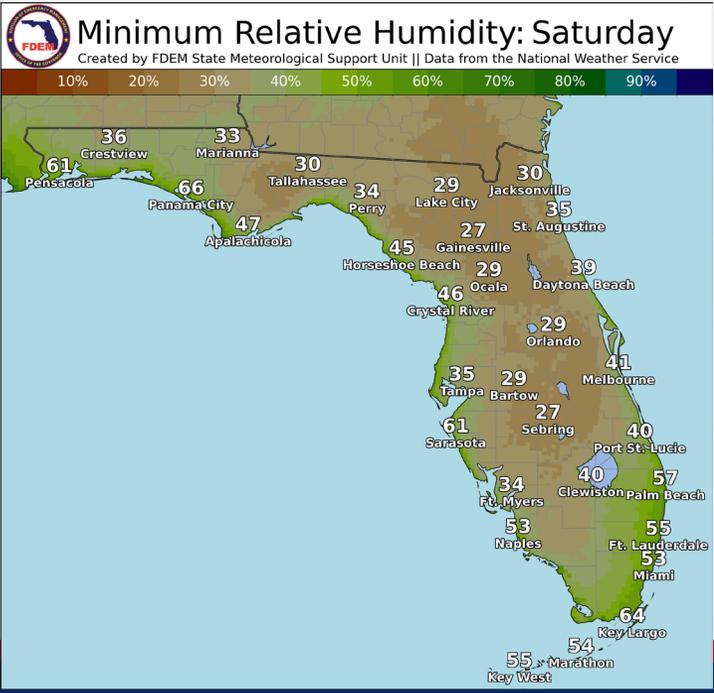
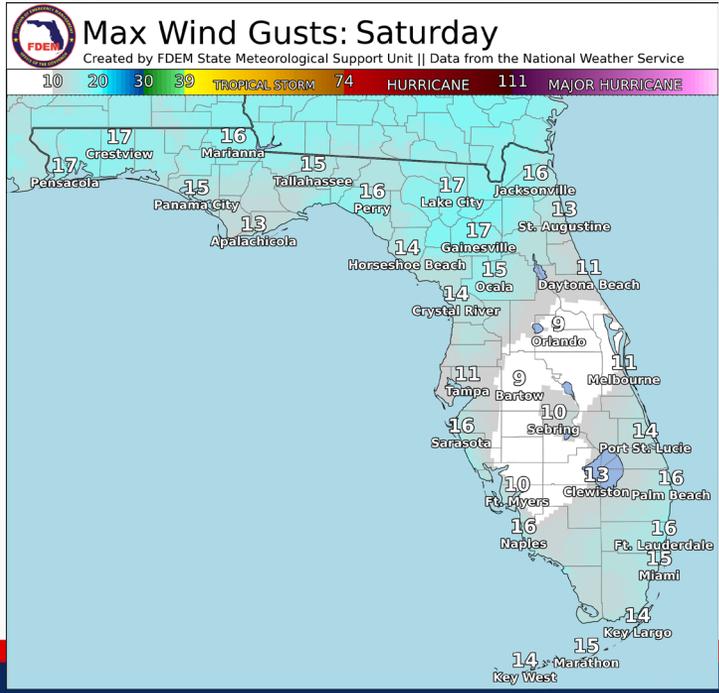


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	L	L			
Wildfire	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.06 ft. (2.35 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	432 (+4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





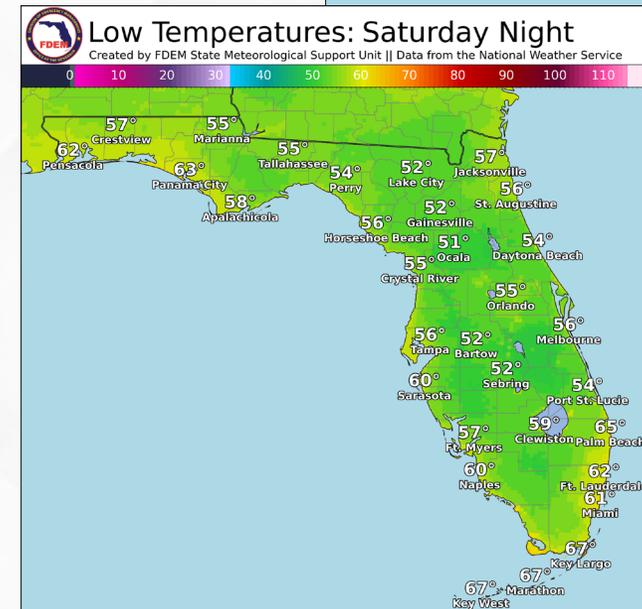
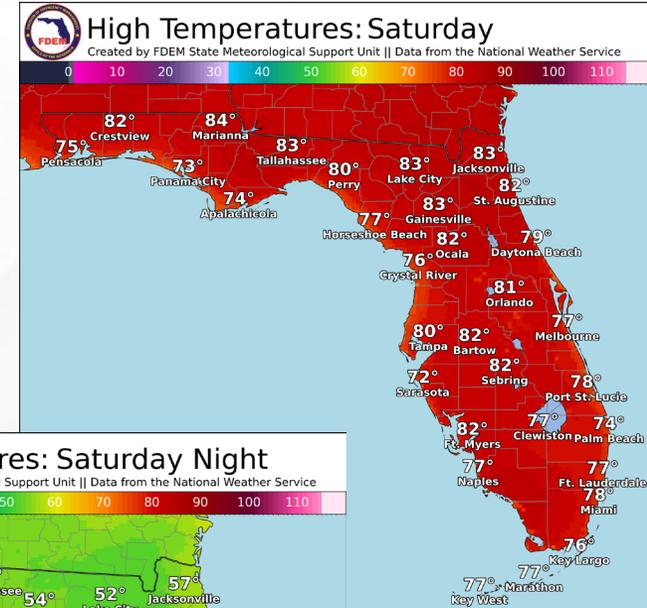
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure will build across the Gulf states today bringing sunny skies and dry conditions. Chances of rain will remain near zero as dry air filters across the state. High temperatures will climb into the 80s across interior locations this afternoon, with coastal locations remaining in the 70s.

Critically low relative humidities (25-30%) are expected across much of North and interior Central Florida this afternoon which will encourage **sensitive** to **locally elevated wildfire conditions**. 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. These poor air quality conditions will continue today, likely peaking during the afternoon and evening hours. Easterly winds with gusts **upwards of 20 mph** across North Florida will blow wildfire smoke throughout the region, with areas of **smoke and haze** expected this afternoon.

Low temperatures will continue a warming trend this weekend similar to high temperatures. Lows tonight will reach the lower to middle 50s across interior locations throughout the Panhandle and Peninsula, with coastal locations remaining in the middle 50s to lower 60s. Increasing southerly flow and low-level moisture throughout the Panhandle, Big Bend, and North-Central Florida will encourage areas of **fog and low clouds** to develop after midnight. Some of this fog could become **locally dense** and **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant. *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. A low risk will continue for all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Seas will begin to slowly calm and diminish today along the East Coast, with surf near **3-5'** expected through tonight. A few waves **upwards of 6'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone for Treasure Coast beaches. For all Gulf-facing beaches, waves near 1' can be expected.

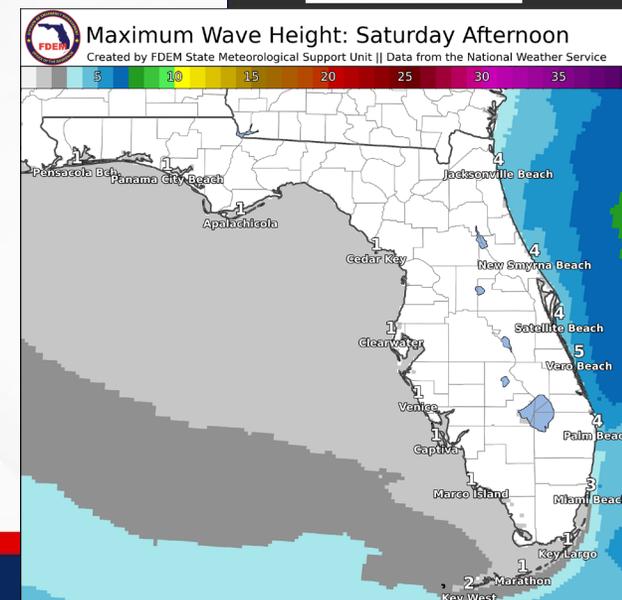
Red Tide was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 3/20/26).

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



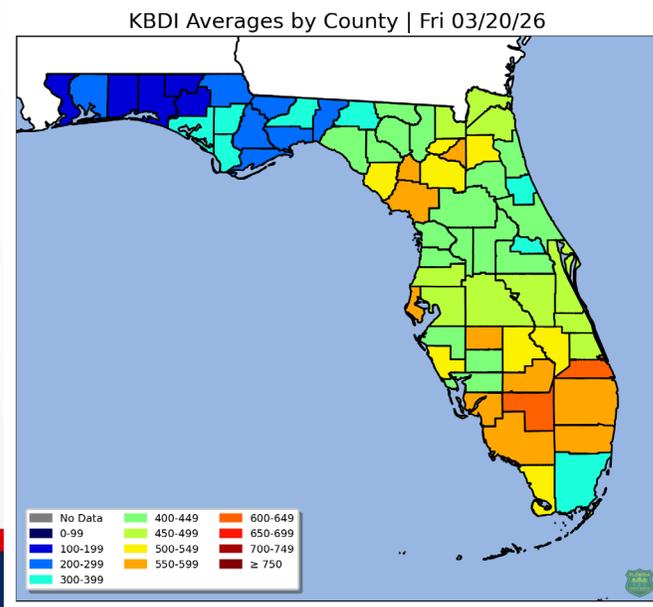
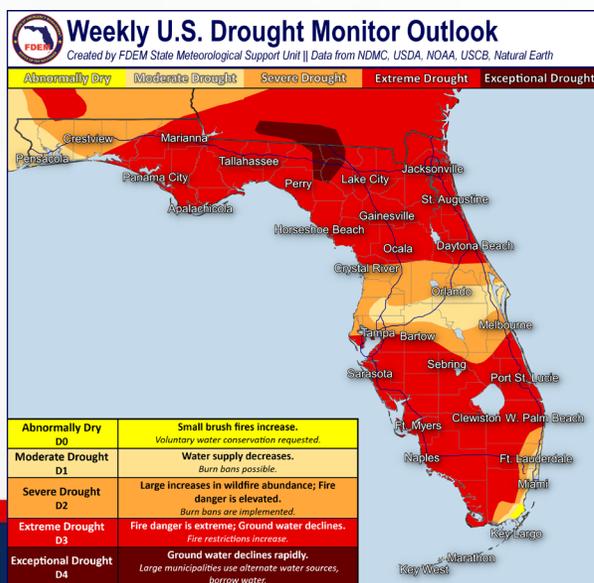


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: **Critically low relative humidities (25-30%)** are expected across much of North and interior Central Florida today which will continue to encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Winds will generally remain low, though a few **wind gusts** upwards of **20-25 mph** will be possible across North Florida this afternoon. Warm and dry conditions statewide will continue to cure vegetation and increase the local wildfire risk. 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** this afternoon. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 56 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,189 acres.

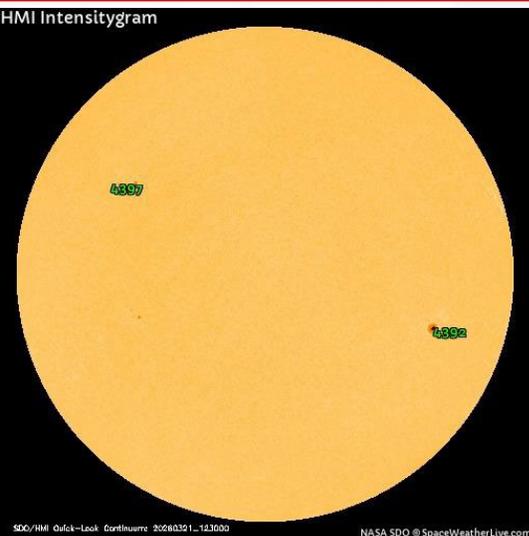
Drought (3/19/26): Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. As previously mentioned, the rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front helped Florida locations in the 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 **432 (+4)** 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).

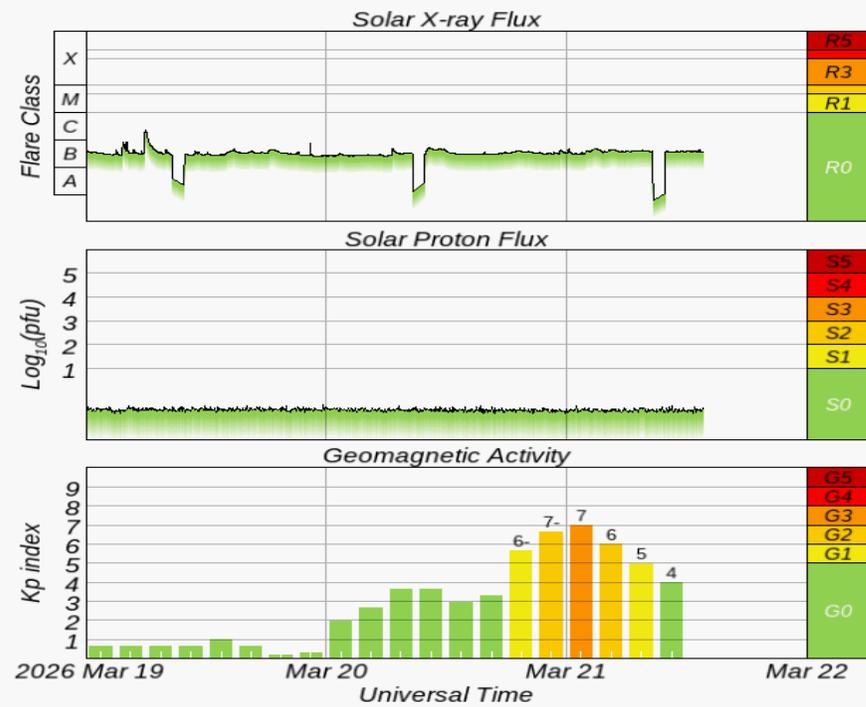
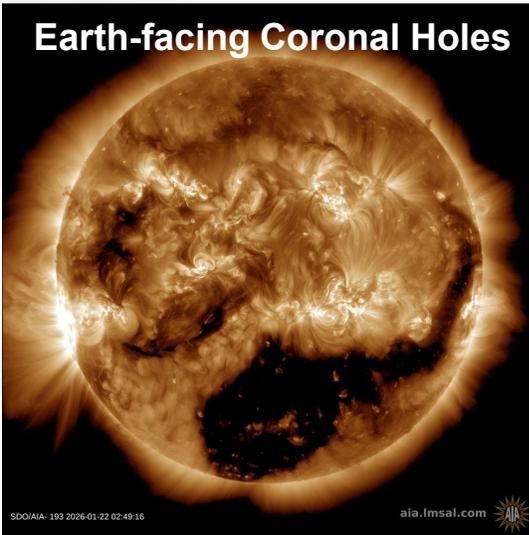




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: G2 Watch 3/21	B4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/21	3/22
Max Kp= 7 (G3)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 50%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%

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 remain enhanced today as the recent Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) from 3/16 and 3/17 continue to impart their influence. Conditions will wane on Sunday before coronal hole influences return on Monday. The geomagnetic field is expected to be reach G3 (Strong) storm levels today due to ongoing CME effects. Periods of G1 (Minor) storming are likely to continue through Sunday. 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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