



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, March 23, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Calhoun	Baker Rd Wildfire Response
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	Baker Rd Wildfire Response
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	G-235 Course Instruction Prep / Regional Outreach
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Sumter	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Polk	Equipment Exchange / FL COCO Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	SWFL WMD Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	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	Walton	Partner Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Calhoun	Wildfire IDA's
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	IS 300 Training
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Internal Stakeholders Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Recovery Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Recovery Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Broward	FL 603 & 608
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	FL 603 & 608

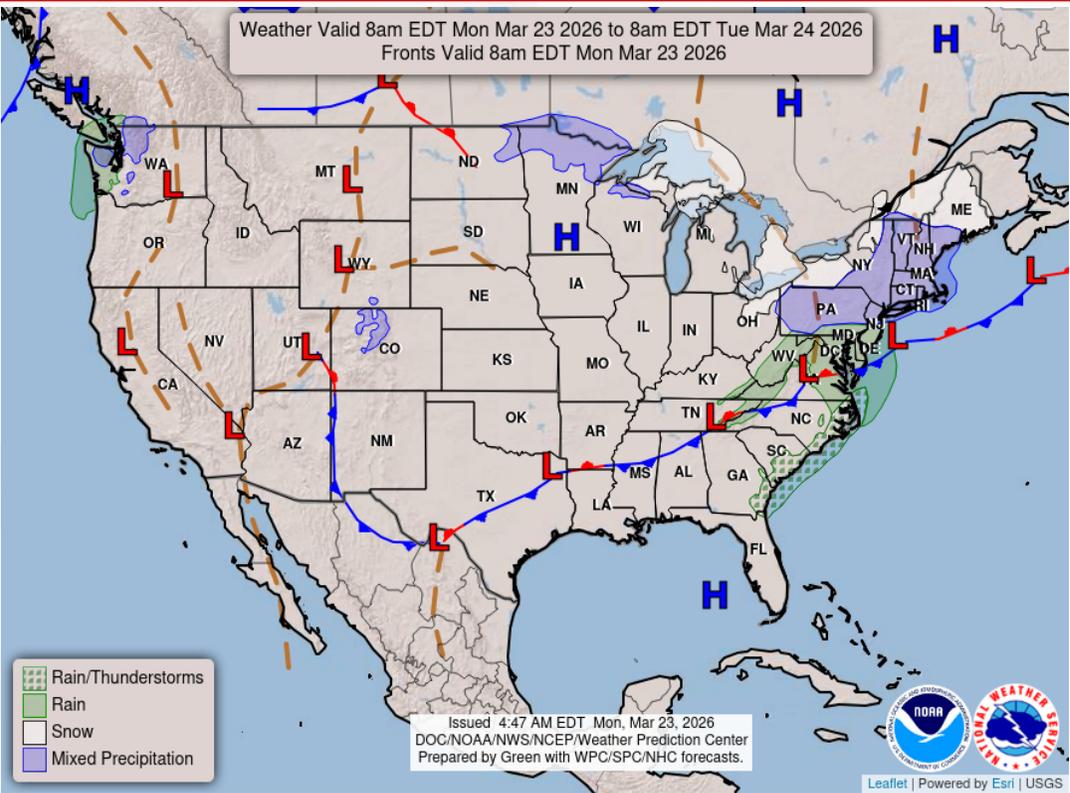
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

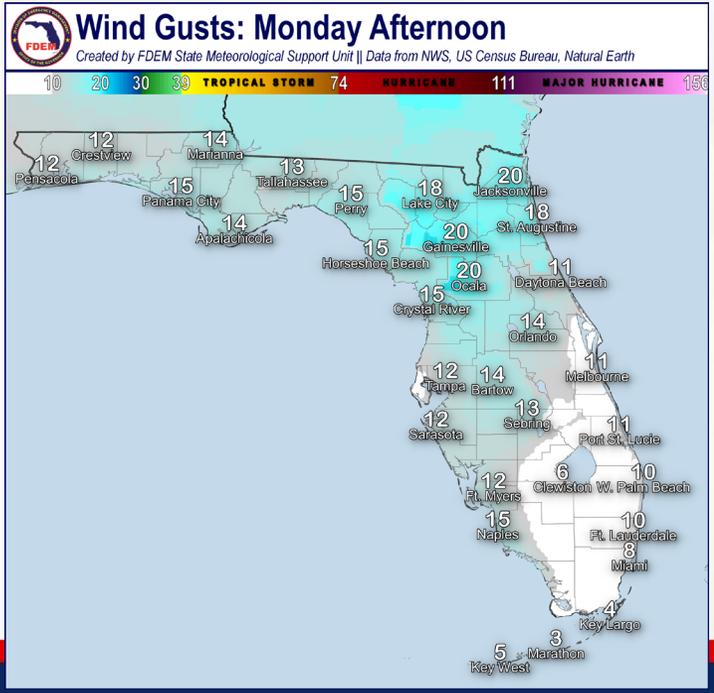
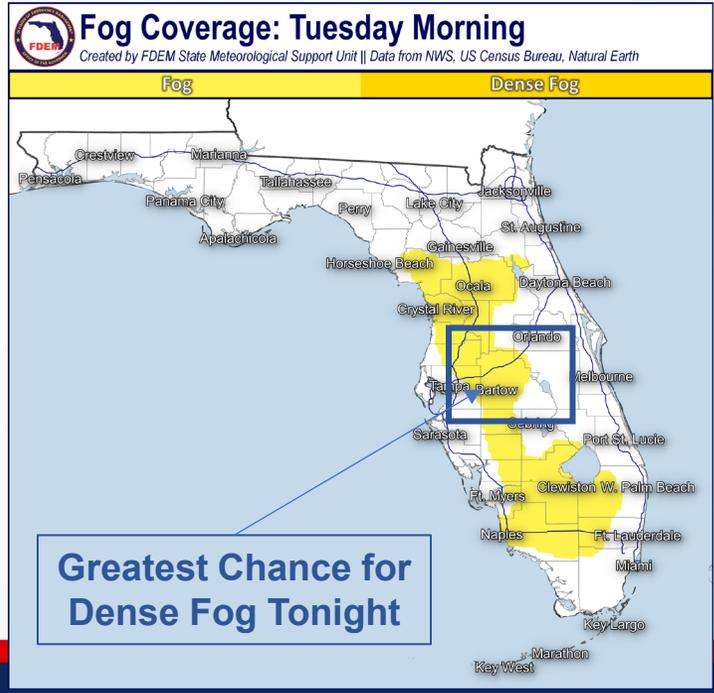


Meteorology Summary



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)			L	L	H	H	M	L	M	
Wildfire	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		H	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.05 ft. (2.33 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	445 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





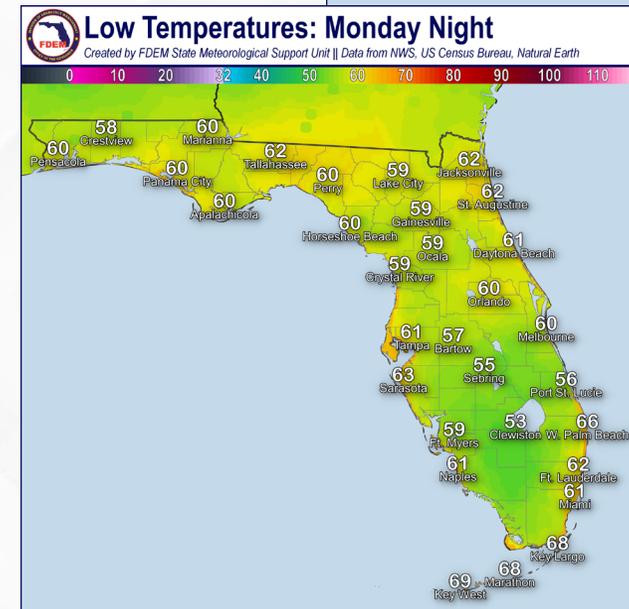
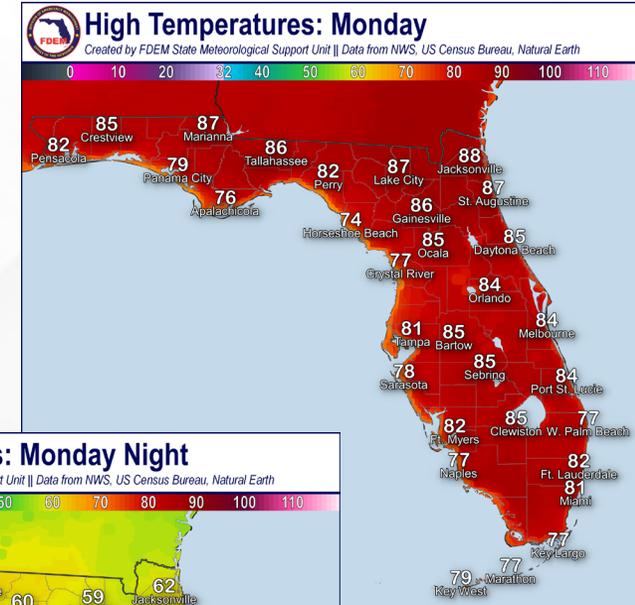
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Foggy conditions this morning will give way to ample sunshine by midday, allowing for afternoon high temperatures to top out in the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide. Even a few interior Florida Big Bend locations may make a run toward the 90-degree mark, but those chances look better toward the end of our work week. The once dominant area of high pressure will gradually erode ahead of a weak cold front approaching the Deep South, leading to a westerly wind regime for the Sunshine State. **Wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will be possible across North Florida during the peak heating hours of the day.

The recent uptick in wildfire activity and brush burns across North Florida and southern Georgia will result in continued **haze and smoke** over portions of the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend; *air quality will likely degrade through the afternoon and evening hours.*

Tonight, the aforementioned weak frontal boundary will move southward with little to no fanfare aside from a stray shower or two along the Northeast Florida coastline (10-25% chance of rain). **Fog and low clouds** likely across portions of Central and Southwest Florida tonight, with computer forecast models suggesting the greatest chance of **locally dense fog** residing along the I-4 corridor through the Tuesday morning commute.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for many Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches, with a **localized high risk** residing along Gulf County and Palm Beach County beaches. Low risk conditions continue along the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along all Florida beaches today. Locally higher breakers in the surf zone approaching **2-4'** cannot be ruled out along the Florida Northeast Coast tonight into Tuesday morning as the weak cold front progresses south through the state.

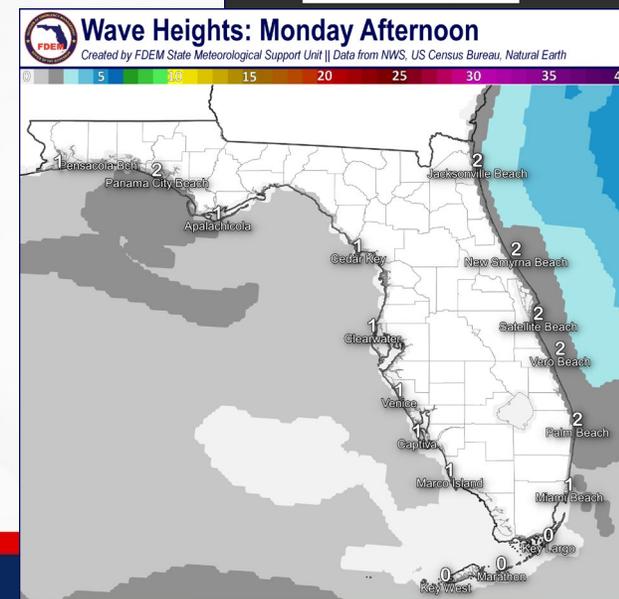
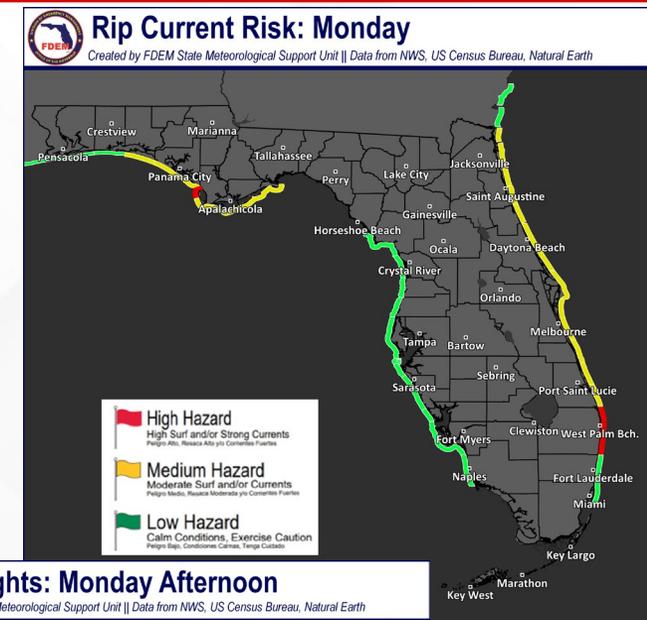
Red Tide was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 3/20/26).

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 12.05 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.33 feet below normal for this time of year.



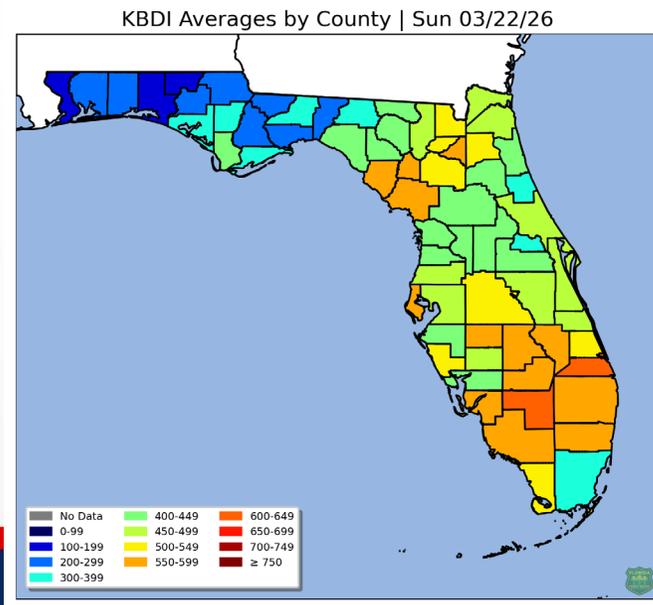
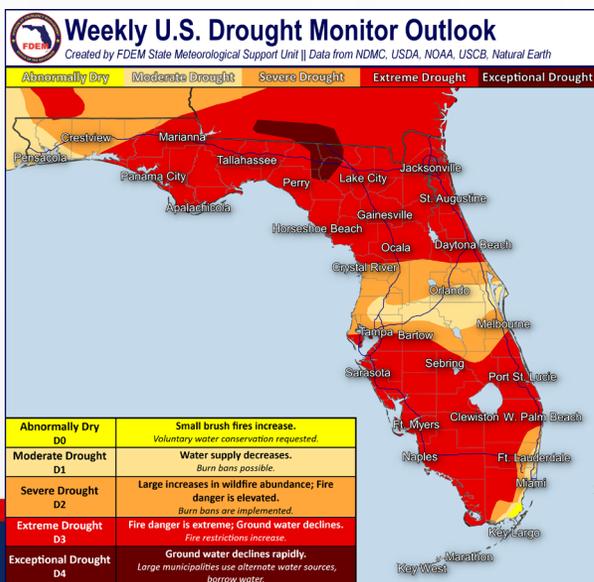


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A recent uptick in local brush burn and wildfire activity has been observed across North Florida and adjacent southern Georgia will lead to areas of **smoke and haze** to linger throughout the day, further degrading air quality late this afternoon and evening. Westerly winds can be expected today ahead of our next weak cold front; however, **low relative humidity values (30-40%)** can be expected for most interior Florida locations, yielding **sensitive to locally enhanced wildfire** conditions. Isolated **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will be possible for North Florida this afternoon. Warm and dry conditions statewide will continue to cure vegetation and increase the local wildfire risk. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** can be expected along the Florida Gulf Coast and into the I-4 corridor; *a further reduction in visibility can be expected where fog develops near any ongoing wildfires or burns*. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 76 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,303 acres.

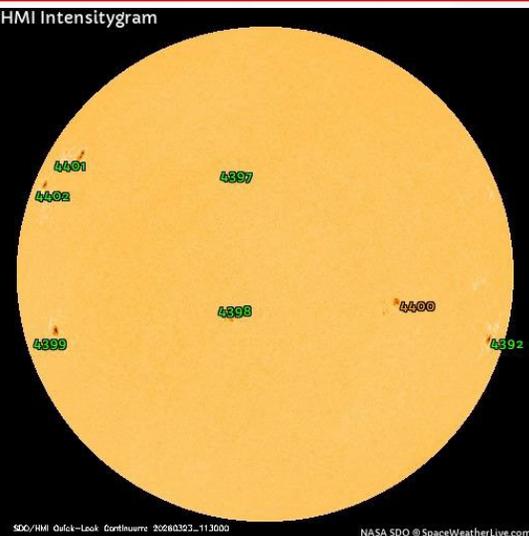
Drought (3/19/26): Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. As previously mentioned, the rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front helped Florida locations in the 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 **445 (+7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **23** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

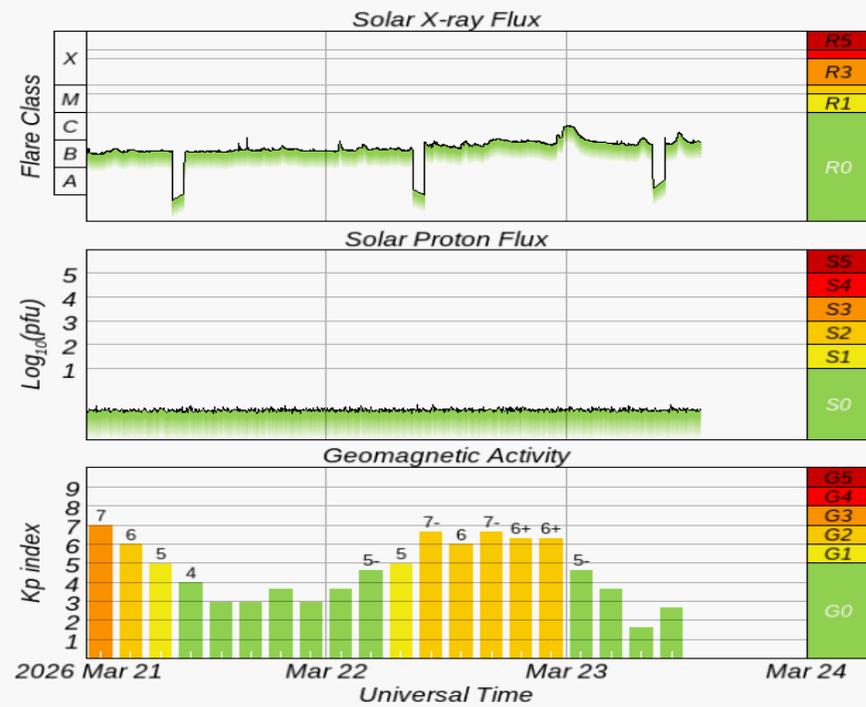
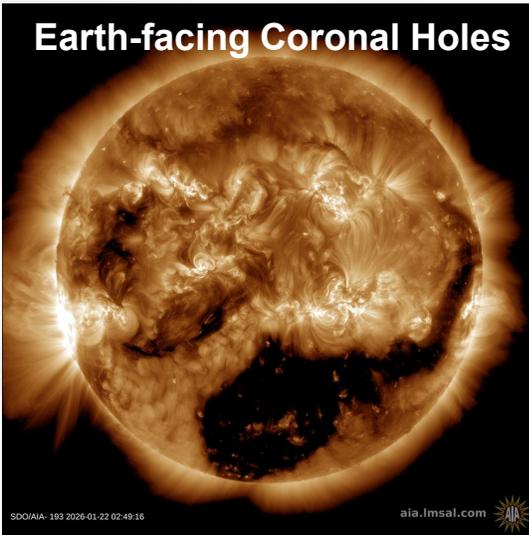




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: G2 Watch 3/23 (Extended)	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
	3/23	3/24
	Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
	Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is forecast to remain very low, with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily from new sunspot #4400. Should organized flare activity occur, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts cannot be ruled out. The solar wind environment is expected to remain enhanced through the forecast period due to coronal hole influences; however, the elevated regime looks to gradually wane beginning tomorrow. Periods of minor to moderate (G1 to G2) geomagnetic storming are expected today in response to these coronal hole effects; 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:	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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