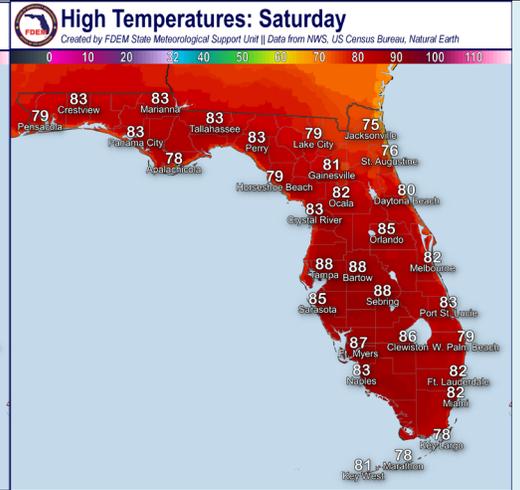
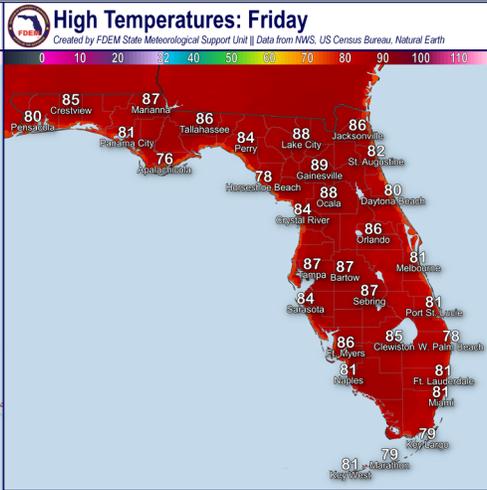
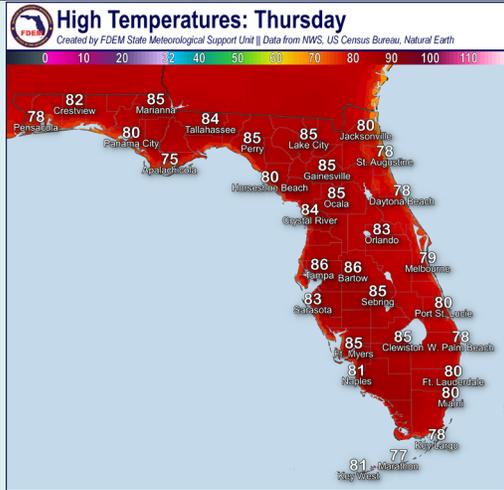


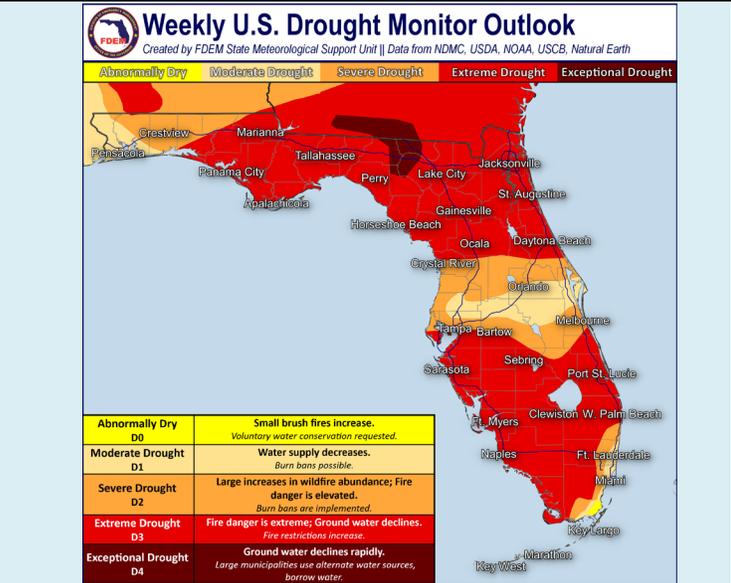
Tuesday, March 24, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

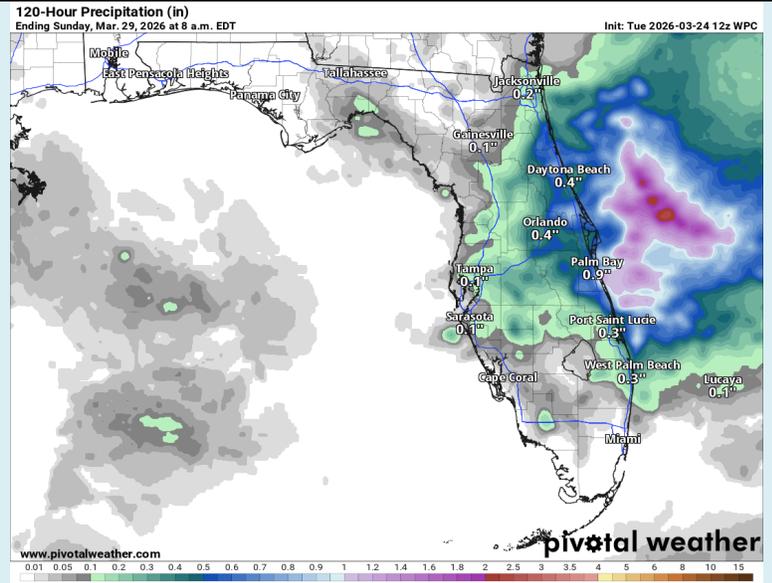
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Coastal Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue	Northeast Florida					Southwest FL Central & South Florida	W Panhandle & South Florida Elsewhere	Florida East Coast Florida Panhandle Florida West Coast
Wed	FL East Coast & Central FL					Locally North, Central, & West Florida	Statewide	Florida East Coast Florida Panhandle Florida West Coast
Thu	FL East Coast & Central FL					Locally North & Central Florida	Locally Int. FL Peninsula Statewide	Florida East Coast Florida Panhandle Florida West Coast
Fri						West Florida FL Peninsula	Locally Int. FL Peninsula Statewide	Florida East Coast Florida Panhandle Florida West Coast
Sat	Eastern FL Peninsula			Iso. Northeast Florida Coast			Statewide	Florida East Coast & Florida Panhandle Florida West Coast



Forecast High Temperatures: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday



Drought Monitor: Valid 3/19/2026



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening

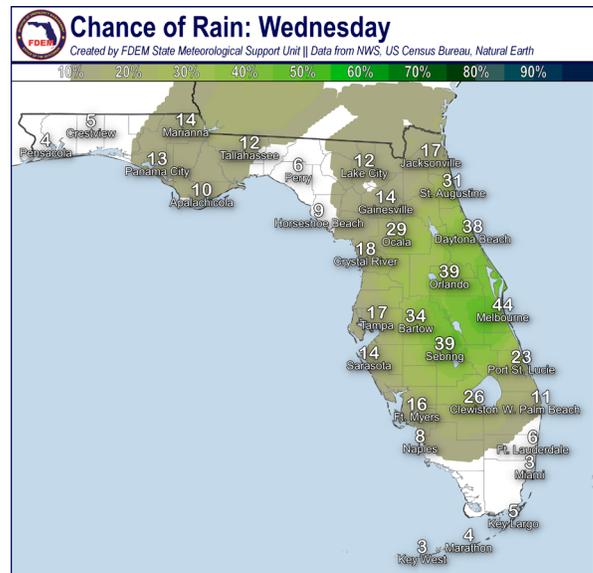


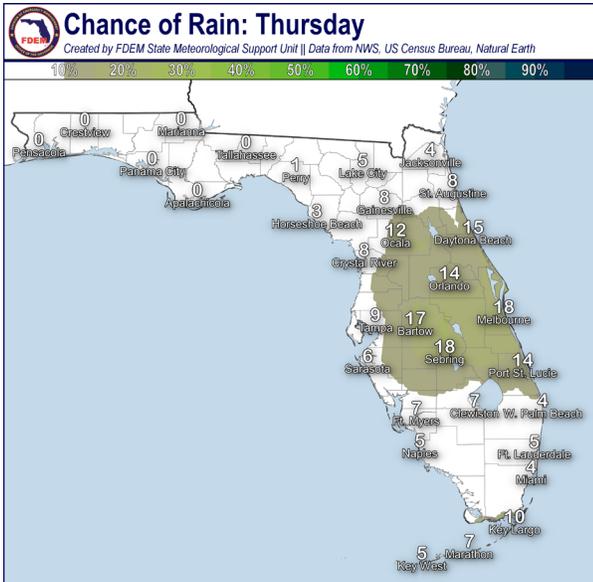
...Couple Frontal Passaged This Week Will Bring an Increased Chance for Showers and Thunderstorms Along the Eastern Florida Peninsula and Breezy Winds...Warm Temperatures Arrive Statewide Late Week...Dangerous Beach and Boating Conditions Expected for Florida East Coast Beaches...Instances of Patchy to Locally Dense Fog Likely for Several Nights This Week...Sensitive to Locally Elevated Wildfire Threat Continue Across Florida as Drought and Long-Term Rainfall Deficits Grow...

Tuesday & Wednesday:

A cold front, currently situated along the I-4 corridor, will largely separate the weather story for North Florida and the Florida Peninsula today. Scattered showers and even a few thunderstorms develop along Florida's First Coast (45-75% chance of rain) along and ahead of the frontal boundary. **Locally heavy rainfall rates** will be possible within shower and thunderstorm activity later this afternoon and evening, especially along the coastal and urban Northeast Florida corridor where computer models are hinting at isolated pockets of 2-4" of rain. While certainly a welcomed sight to the drought-stricken region, **nuisance ponding water** cannot be ruled out. Outside of thunderstorm activity, a squeeze play between our frontal system and a building area of high pressure will yield windy conditions to Northeast Florida. **Wind Advisories** are in effect until 8:00 PM ET for frequent **wind gusts of 35-45 mph** along coastal Nassau and Duval Counties. While not nearly as potent as last week's frontal system, the cold front will lead to quite a tricky temperature forecast for North Florida communities as many high temperatures may be realized this morning! The combination of cooler and drier air as well a thick cloud deck developing north of I-4 will likely cap our high temperatures in the 60s east of the Florida Big Bend. Rain chances gradually expand to additional portions of North Florida and the Space Coast tonight (30-60% chance of rain), with low temperatures dropping into the 50s. To the south of the I-4 corridor, another dry and mostly sunny day can be expected with afternoon high temperatures reaching the upper 70s to middle 80s. Rain chances associated with the aforementioned cold front may sneak southward along the Florida Space Coast tonight (25-45% chance of rain); otherwise, near-zero rain chances expected for the next 24-hour period. Low-level moisture will slowly reintroduce itself to the southern Florida Peninsula, with areas of **fog and low clouds** possible tonight into Wednesday morning. Temperatures tonight remain mild in the 60s.

On Wednesday, our frontal system will largely wash out near Lake Okeechobee gradually tugging rain chances further south. The greatest rain and embedded thunderstorm chances will once again favor the eastern Florida Peninsula, mainly centered over East-Central Florida (45-60% chance of rain). High temperatures trend slightly cooler for one more afternoon under partly to mostly cloudy skies. Afternoon highs will remain in the lower to middle 70s across North and East-Central Florida, with ample sunshine allowing for highs to top out in the upper 70s to middle 80s through the southern Florida Peninsula. As an area of high pressure build back in the wake of the cold front, northeasterly winds will gradually subside through day; however, lingering **wind gusts of 10-20 mph** will be possible over eastern Florida. Rain chances will recede to the adjacent coastal Atlantic waters, leaving only a stray shower or two possible Wednesday evening (15-25% chance of rain). Temperatures moderate Wednesday night, with overnight lows remaining in the 60s and 70s statewide. Areas of **fog and low clouds** may develop across portions of North, Central, and West Florida Wednesday night into Thursday morning; isolated pockets may be **locally dense** at times.





Thursday & Friday:

A couple days of transition as an area of high pressure settles over the southern Appalachians can be expected Thursday and Friday. Stray showers (20-25% chance of rain) remain possible over the Space and Treasure Coasts Thursday; an isolated (potentially stronger) thunderstorm cannot be ruled out during the peak heating hours of the day. Light winds shift out of the east to southeast, with winds gusts remaining between 10-15 mph along the eastern Florida Peninsula. Rain chances reduce to less than 10% statewide on Friday under mostly sunny skies. Temperatures in the afternoon quickly rebound and are forecast to reach the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide; in fact, a few interior Florida Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley locations may make a run to the **90-degree mark** Friday afternoon, challenging the existing record high temperatures for that day. Low

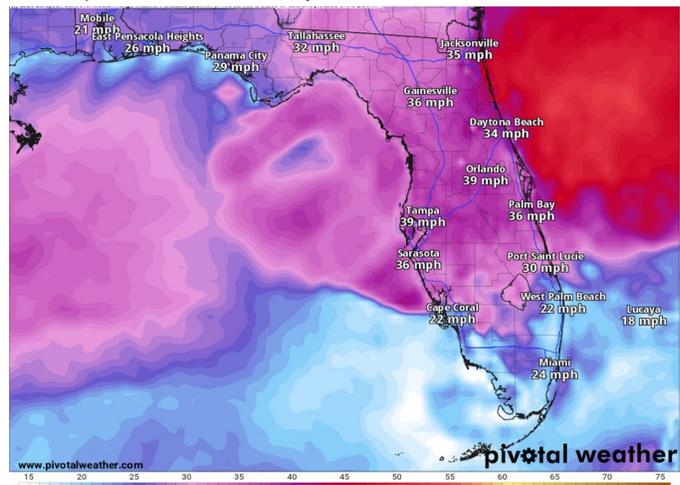
temperatures will remain warm statewide in the 60s and 70s both Thursday and Friday nights. Pockets of **fog and low clouds** remain possible for portions of the Sunshine State are able to maintain any low-level moisture from the easterly onshore flow.

Saturday:

Rounding out our forecast period with another active weather pattern, but not necessarily in terms of rain and thunderstorm activity. Another frontal system makes its southward progression this weekend. Rain chances do look to incrementally build along the eastern Florida Peninsula late Saturday and into Sunday (25-35% chance of rain); however, the primary weather headline will be the likely issuance of **Wind Advisories** once again along Florida's East Coast as strong northerly to northeasterly **wind gusts of 35-45 mph** develop through the Saturday afternoon and evening hours. Contrary to today's Wind Advisory activity, I do see this weekend's wind potential extending further through the Florida Peninsula. Afternoon high temperatures remain warm in the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide; several West Florida locations will rise into the upper 80s. Breezy conditions continue overnight, with northeasterly flow ushering in cooler and drier air to the northern portions of the state. Saturday night low temperature dip back into the middle 50s across North Florida, the upper 50s to middle 60s throughout Central Florida, but still remain near the 70-degree mark across Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys.

Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts – Saturday Evening

*** Computer Forecast Model Only ! ***



Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding across Florida during the next 5 days. Two frontal systems will pass through the state, with little to no fanfare for the most part. **Locally heavy rainfall rates** will be possible within shower and thunderstorm activity later this afternoon and evening along the Northeast

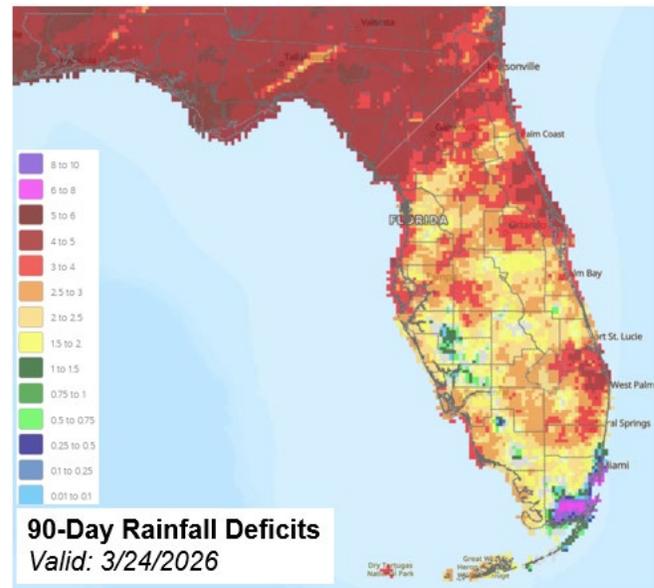


Florida coastal and urban corridors; while certainly a welcomed sight to the drought-stricken region, instances of **nuisance ponding water and flooding** cannot be ruled out. Isolated pockets of 2-4" of rainfall look to accompany showers and thunderstorms today. Otherwise, most dry conditions prevail statewide. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

While there is no organized risk for coastal flooding, strong onshore flow and increasing wave action may lead to periods of **isolated coastal flooding** along Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches; however, this will be heavily dependent upon the duration of northeasterly winds. Intense, pounding surf may result in pockets of **coastal beach erosion** especially for vulnerable Northeast Florida beaches. There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#). Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.04 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.32 feet below normal for this time of year. Lake water levels have fallen nearly 0.5' over the past month given the prolonged extreme drought and lack of rainfall.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Slight changes were made to this most recent Drought Monitor update (3/19/2026), 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. With these two fronts passing with little to no fanfare, it is likely to see not only drought expansion but further degradation likely – especially for portions of North Florida where 90-day rainfall departures are now approaching **10" below normal for this time of year** and streamflows are now less than the 5th percentile along portions of the Suwannee and Ochlockonee Rivers. The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **452** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **26** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



A slight pattern change can be expected, courtesy of a weak frontal boundary moving through North Florida this morning. Improving relative humidity values can be expected across much of North and Central Florida as rain chances increase through the forecast period; however, dry conditions persist along the western Florida Panhandle and southern Florida Peninsula today, with **relative humidity values** falling to **near critical thresholds (30-45%)** this afternoon. While the breezy to windy conditions will remain concentrated over Northeast Florida, prolonged drought and extremely dry soils/vegetation will maintain a **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire** threat. Areas of patchy to

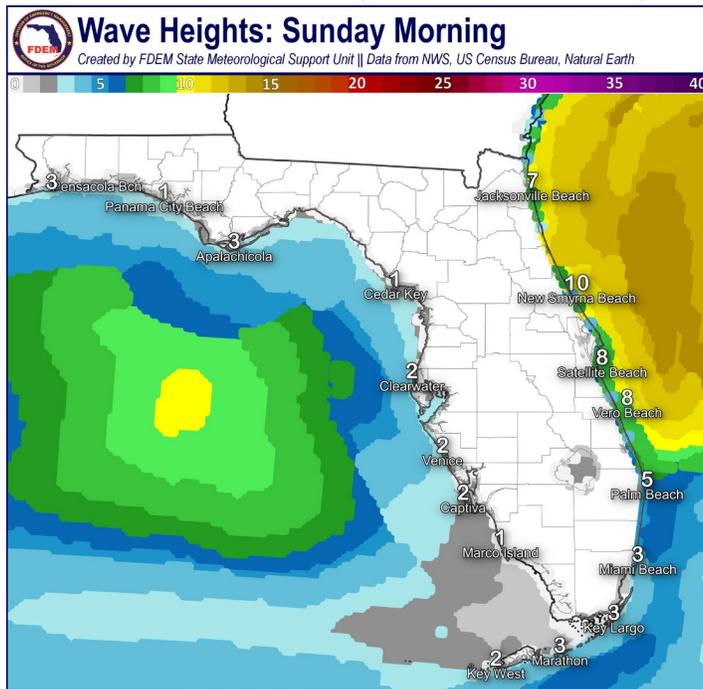


locally dense fog can be expected tonight throughout the southern Florida Peninsula; a *further reduction in visibility can be expected where fog develops near any ongoing wildfires or burns*. Relative humidity will continue to rise above critical thresholds Wednesday and Thursday, with only localized pockets of dry air (40%) remaining through the interior Central Florida Peninsula. Winds will gradually ease through this 36-hour period of transition; however, isolated **wind gusts of 10-20 mph** will remain possible during the afternoon hours and lead to **sensitive wildfire** conditions. Light winds on Friday will result in our lowest wildfire threat during our 5-day forecast period; however, **relative humidity values between 40-45%** can be expected through the interior Florida Peninsula. Saturday marks yet another pattern change and cold front where a breezy to windy regime returns to the Sunshine State, leading to extremely high levels of dispersion (*potential spread*). Widespread **wind gusts of 10-20 mph** can be expected statewide, with locally higher **wind gusts of 30-40 mph** along the Florida Northeast Coast; combined with overall **low relative humidity values (35-45%)** will lead to **elevated wildfire concerns** through much of the state. Additional rounds of **fog and low clouds** can be expected through the end of the work week across the Florida Peninsula and Gulf Coast. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 71 wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,615 acres (as of 12:10 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Unsettled marine conditions will maintain a **high risk of rip currents** along Northeast Florida and East-Central Florida Coast beaches, largely through the entire forecast period. The rip current risk will gradually build midweek along Southeast Florida beaches, reaching **moderate to high risk** levels Thursday and into the weekend. A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected for most Florida Panhandle beaches today, with brief periods of **high risk** conditions possible on Saturday due to increased surf. Similarly, along the Florida West Coast, low risk conditions persist through the work week with degrading beach conditions (**moderate risk**) arriving with the frontal system this weekend.

While wave heights remain at 1-2' along the Florida Gulf Coast, northerly to northeasterly winds quickly reintroduce **dangerous beach and boating conditions** along the Northeast Florida Coast today. **High Surf Advisories** will go into effect today until early Wednesday afternoon for breaking waves of **6-8'** within the surf zone at Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, and Flagler County beaches. The long-period ocean swell will migrate southward along the Florida East Coast this evening and tonight,



bringing **wave heights of 4-6'** to all Atlantic beaches by Wednesday morning. **Localized breakers of 7'** cannot be ruled out within the surf zone at Florida East Coast beaches on Wednesday. An area of high pressure temporarily allows winds and seas to ease Thursday and Friday, with **wave heights** receding back to 2-4' along the Florida East Coast. Yet another frontal system and strong winds will lead to **elevated wave heights**, this time also producing **wave heights of 3-6'** along Florida Gulf Coast beaches. Additional issuances of **High Surf Advisories** (potentially **High Surf Warnings**) will be likely for the Florida East Coast Saturday night into Sunday as breakers in the surf zone reach **7-11'**. Locally higher **wave heights** just offshore may exceed **12'**; there is time to monitor the trend within forecast computer models in regard to the evolution of this frontal system as associated wave action.



The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 65 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed at Lake Killarney in the upper St. Johns River, Lake Thonotosassa, and the Peace River off Lake Branch Road. **Moderate levels** have been observed in numerous locations along the edge of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River (both upper and lower). **Moderate levels** have also been observed within the Caloosahatchee River, Whitaker Bayou in Sarasota Bay, and Lake Avalon in the Big Cypress Swamp.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful rest of the week!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

