



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, March 25, 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	Jim Lawhon	(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	Washington	Region 1 Quarterly Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	Baker Rd Wildfire Response
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	SRT Assessment (Clay County FR)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia, Seminole	County EM Meeting / Structurally Unsound Bldg Response
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Polk	Equipment Install/Maintenance/Training Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Healthcare Coalition Meeting

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3
 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	Washington	Quarterly Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	LEPC Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	IS 300 Training
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Not Available
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Leadership Training
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	EM Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Admin Duties
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	BCBH Meeting

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

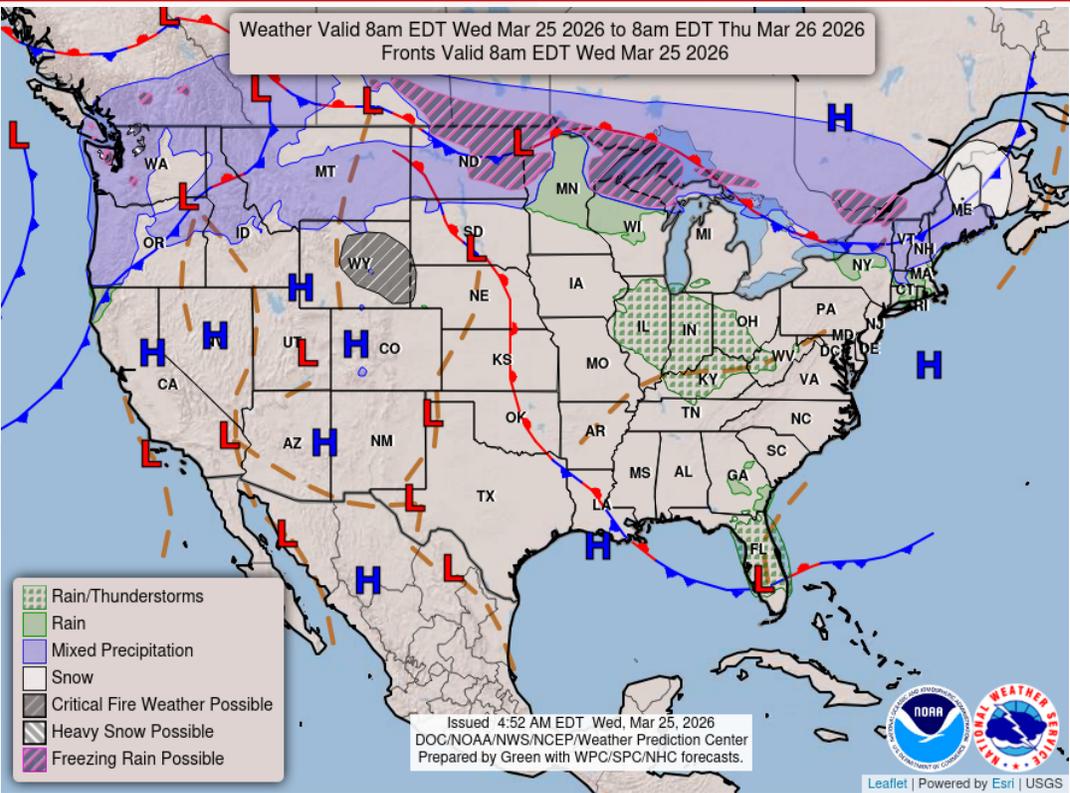
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

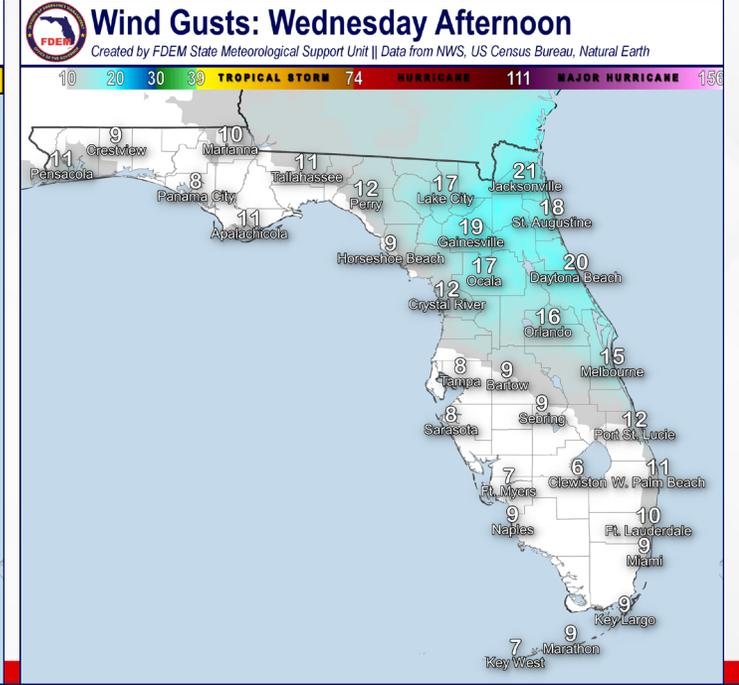
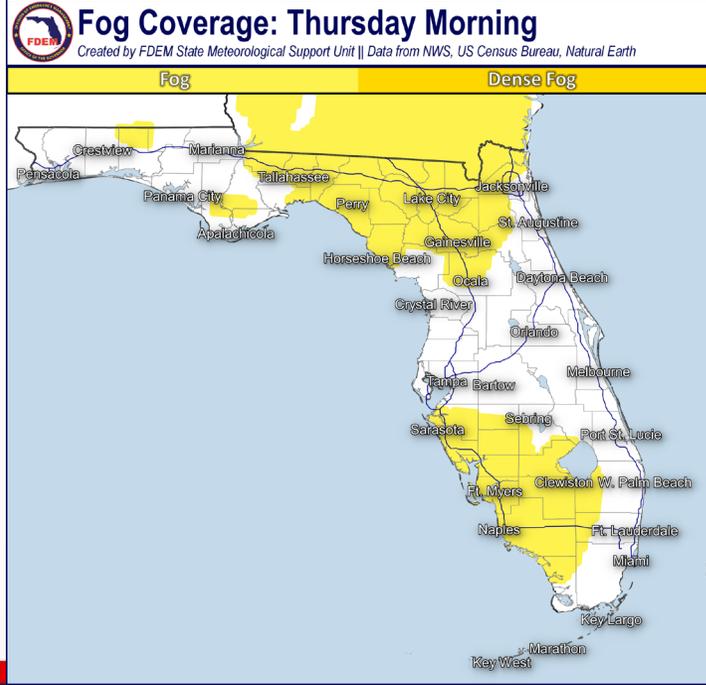


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning				L	L	L	L			
Tornado										
Damaging Wind					L	L				
Hail										
Flash Flooding					L	L				
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	M	M	L	L	M	M	M	M
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.02 ft. (2.33 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	460 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



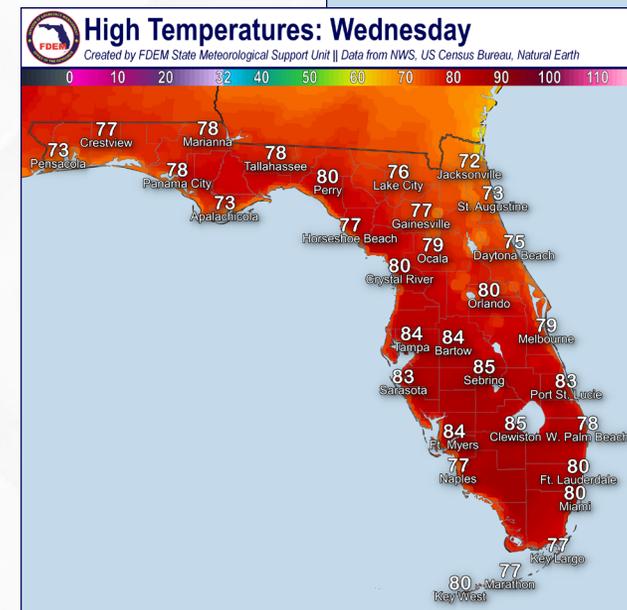
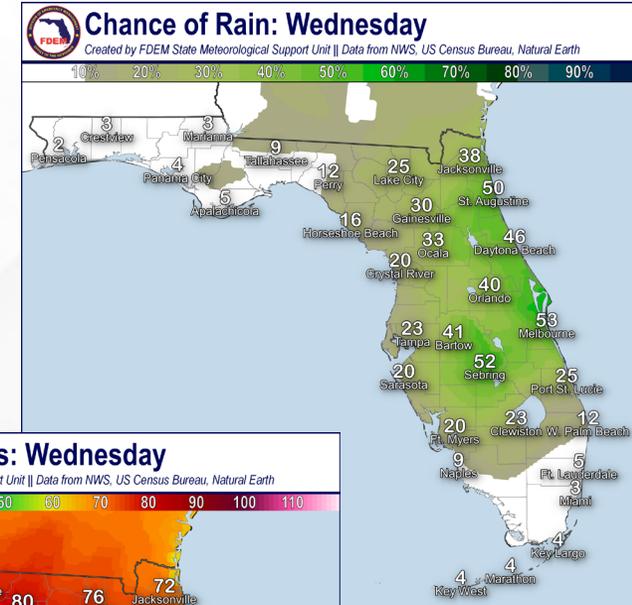


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Our frontal boundary from yesterday has stalled across Central Florida and will continue to support elevated rain chances throughout the day. Ongoing showers over the adjacent waters of the Space Coast will help initiate additional scattered showers and thunderstorms, with activity expected to progress inland through the afternoon (40-60% chance of rain). Computer forecast models show shower and thunderstorm activity reaching portions of the Central Florida I-4 corridor and West Florida just before sunset. While there is no organized threat for severe weather or flash flooding, a few thunderstorms during the peak heating hours of the day may become **strong**. The more organized activity will be capable of producing locally gusty winds, lightning, small hail, and **heavy downpours**. Similar to yesterday's activity, rainfall rates will likely become quite efficient this afternoon, and any slower-moving or more robust thunderstorms could produce localized rainfall totals of 2-5" and instances of **ponding water or urban flooding**. Outside of shower and thunderstorm activity, partly to mostly sunny skies can be expected with afternoon high temperatures rising into the upper 70s to middle 80s. Slightly cooler temperatures along the immediate eastern Florida coastline can be expected due to increased cloud coverage and breezy onshore winds, with **wind gusts of 15-20 mph** likely this afternoon.

Rain chances largely diminish after sunset, giving way to partly cloudy skies overnight. Lingering moisture will promote the development of **patchy fog and low clouds** across Florida tonight and Thursday morning, with the potential for **periods of dense fog** across the Suwannee River Valley and southern Florida Peninsula. Low temperatures remain mild in the middle 50s to upper 60s statewide.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds and elevated surf will maintain a **high risk of rip currents** along nearly all Florida East Coast beaches, with a **moderate risk of rip currents** residing along the Southeast Florida coastline. **Moderate risk** conditions continue for the Florida Panhandle, with low risks persisting for Northwest Florida and West Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Persistent easterly to east-northeasterly flow will maintain **dangerous beach and marine conditions** along the Florida East Coast today, with **wave heights** reaching **4-7'** within the surf zone. A **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect for Northeast Florida beaches until 2:00 PM ET this afternoon. Waves of 1-2' expected for all beaches along the Florida Gulf Coast.

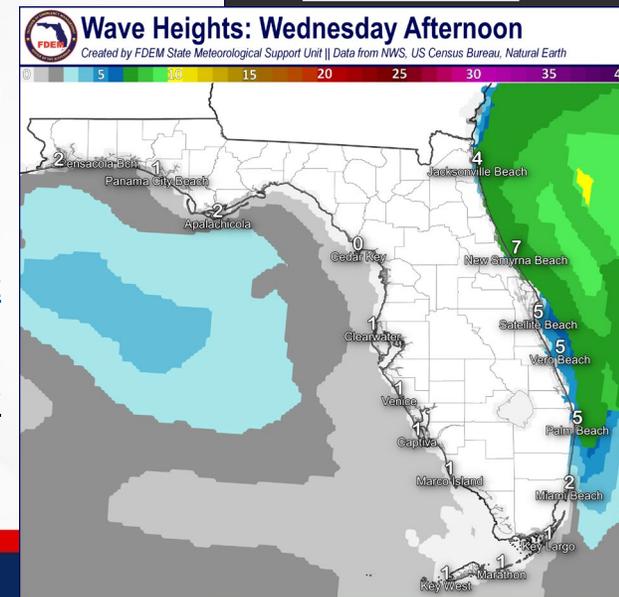
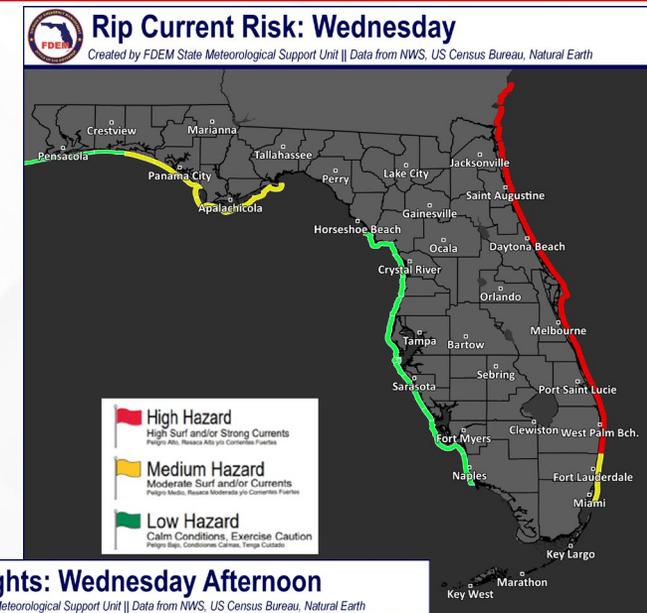
Red Tide was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 3/20/26).

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida today. **Locally heavy rainfall rates and downpours** will be possible within shower and thunderstorm activity this afternoon and evening across the central Florida Peninsula; while certainly a welcomed sight to the drought-stricken region, instances of **ponding water and street flooding** cannot be ruled out. Similar to yesterday's activity, any slower-moving or more organized thunderstorms may produce localized rainfall totals upwards of 2-5".

Riverine Flooding: There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.02 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.33 feet below normal for this time of year.



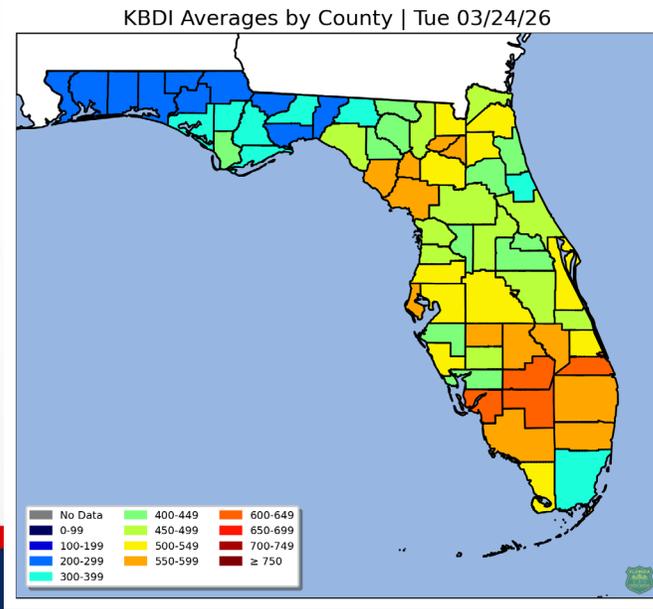
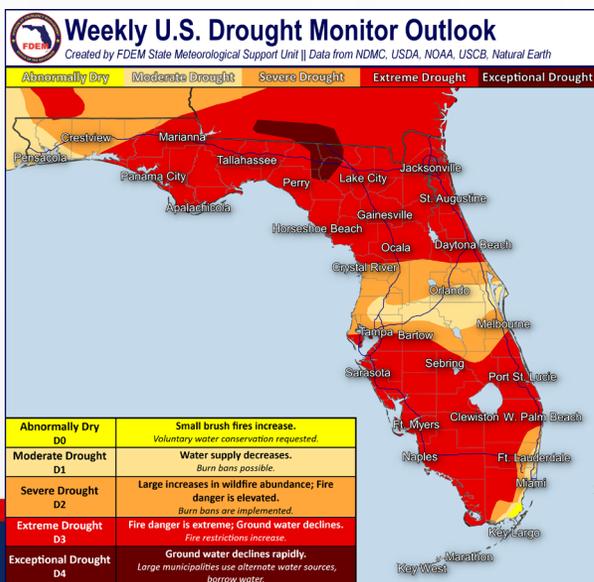


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A stalled frontal boundary over Central Florida will support elevated rain chances throughout the day, with additional shower and thunderstorm activity forecast to move inland across the Florida Peninsula through the afternoon hours (40-60% chance of rain). A few of these thunderstorms during the peak heating hours of the day may become strong and capable of producing locally gusty winds and lightning which may lead to more erratic spread or new ignitions, respectively. Relative humidity values will remain well above critical thresholds statewide; however, the combination of persistent drought and extremely dry soils/vegetation will maintain an overall **low wildfire threat** statewide today. Outside of thunderstorm activity, winds generally out of the east to east-northeast between 5-10 mph can be expected with **wind gusts** reaching **15-20 mph** at times across North and Central Florida. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** can be expected again tonight across Florida, with the greatest chance for periods of reduced visibilities residing across the Suwannee River Valley and portions of the southern Florida Peninsula; *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 78 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,496 acres.

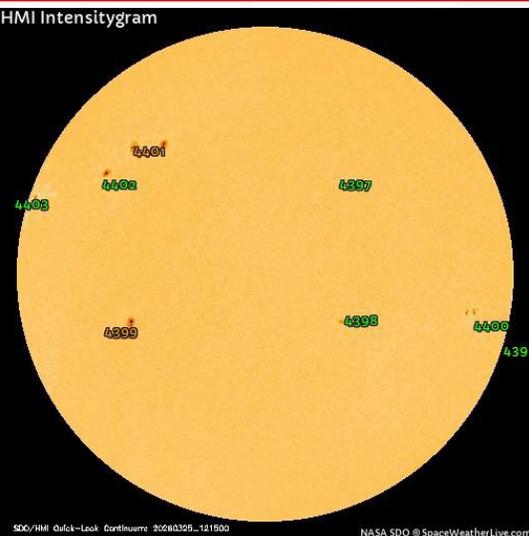
Drought (3/19/26): Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. As previously mentioned, the rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front helped Florida locations in the 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 **460 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **27** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

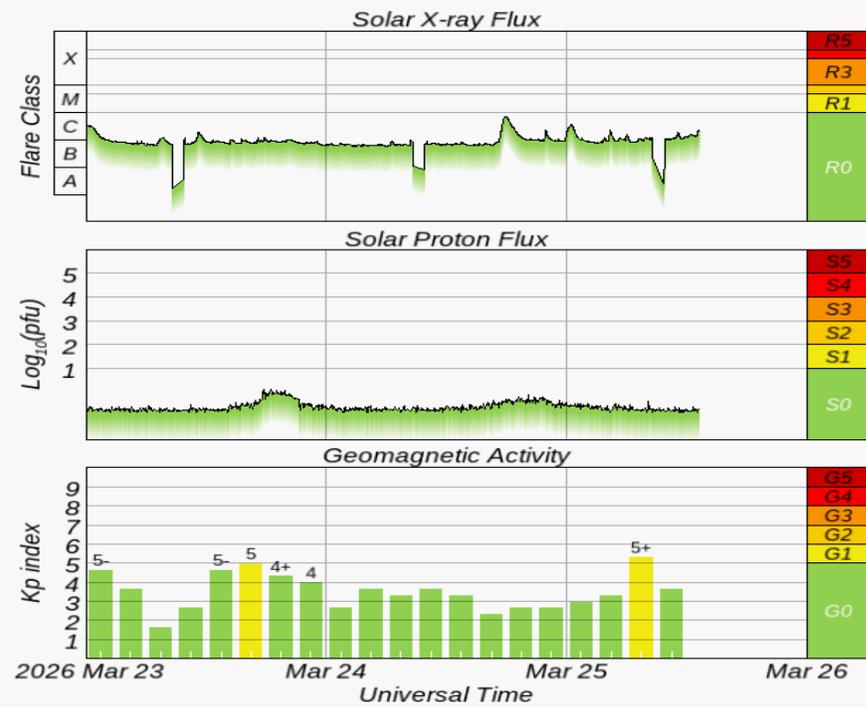
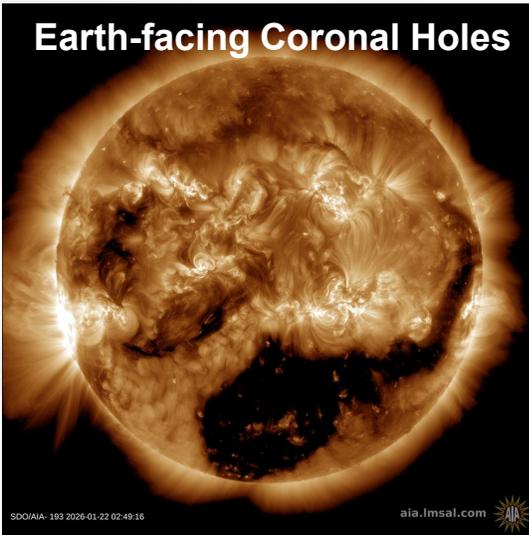




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C7 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/25	3/26
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is forecast to remain low, with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily from sunspot #4401. 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 continue a downward trend today. Additional enhancements will be possible later Thursday as a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from 3/22 is forecast to pass in close proximity to Earth. Periods of minor (G1) 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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