



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 26, 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	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	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	Gadsden	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	Baker Rd Wildfire Response
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Grants Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	SRT Assessment (Clay County FR)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Osceola	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Polk	Healthcare Coalition Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee, Hillsborough	Response Coordinators Meeting / Travel to Region 6
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	G-386 Course/ Ingestion Pathway Workshop

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	Santa Rosa	Community Outreach Event
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Calhoun	Wildfire Recovery Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Taylor	LMS Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Not Available
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Instructing FL 601 & 603
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	Web EOC Webinar
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	EM Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Mass Fatalities Incident Responses

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

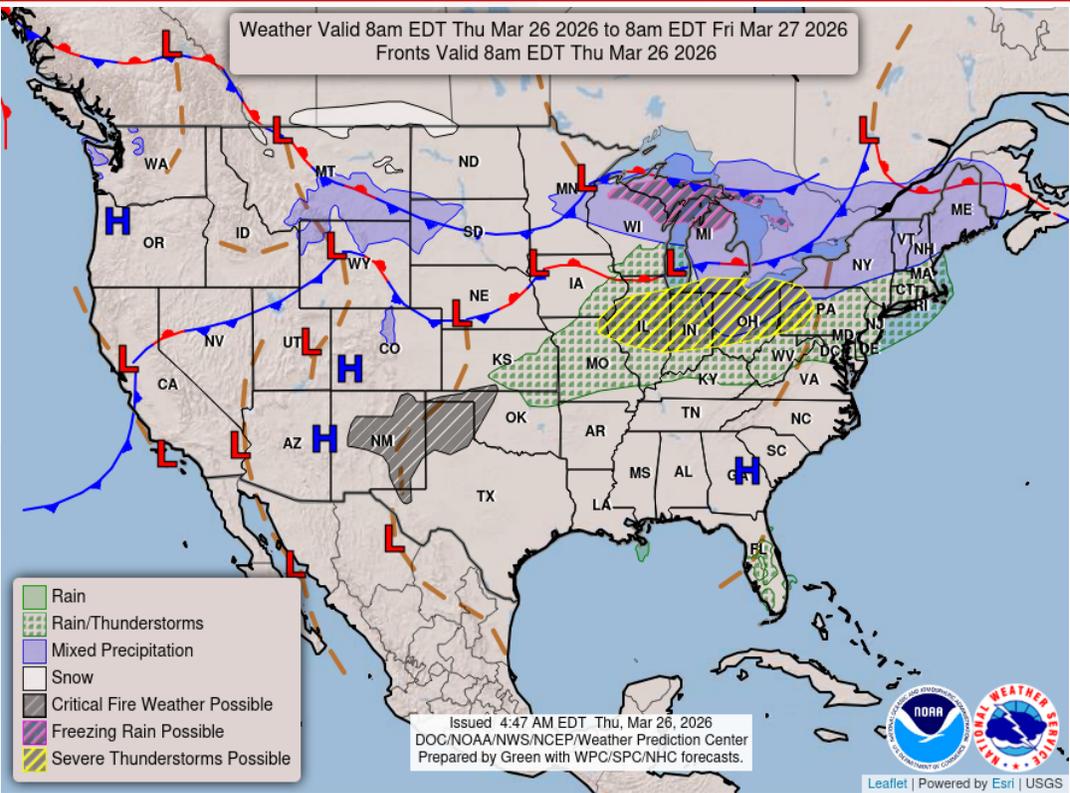
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

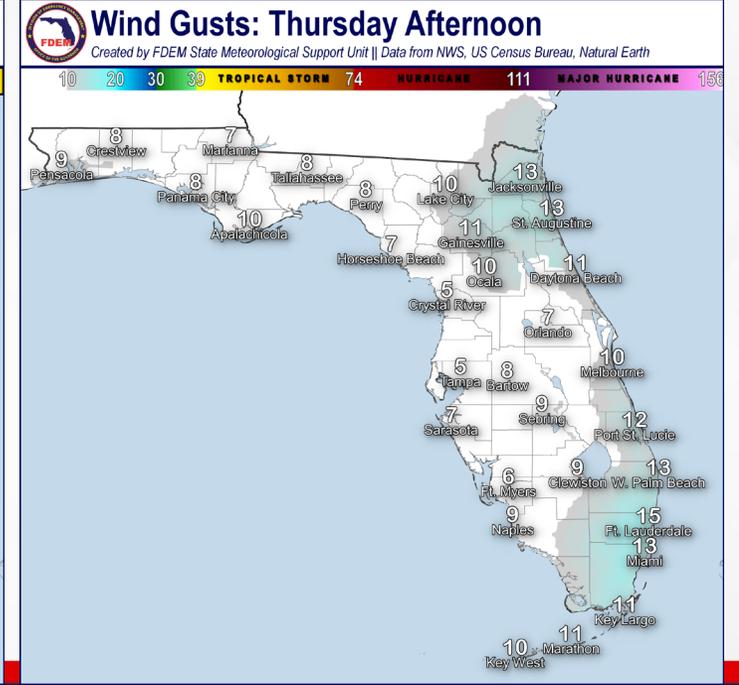
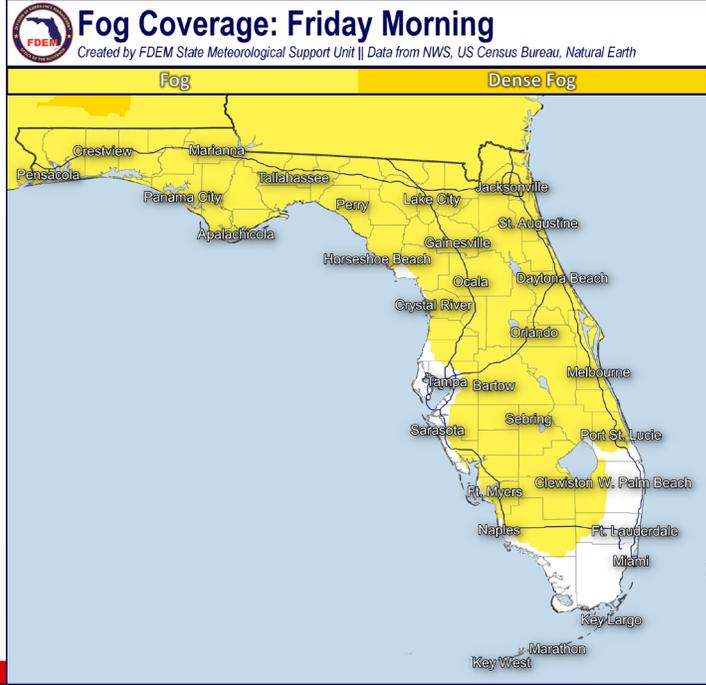


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning					L	L	L	L		
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	M	M	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	12.00 ft. (2.34 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	465 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

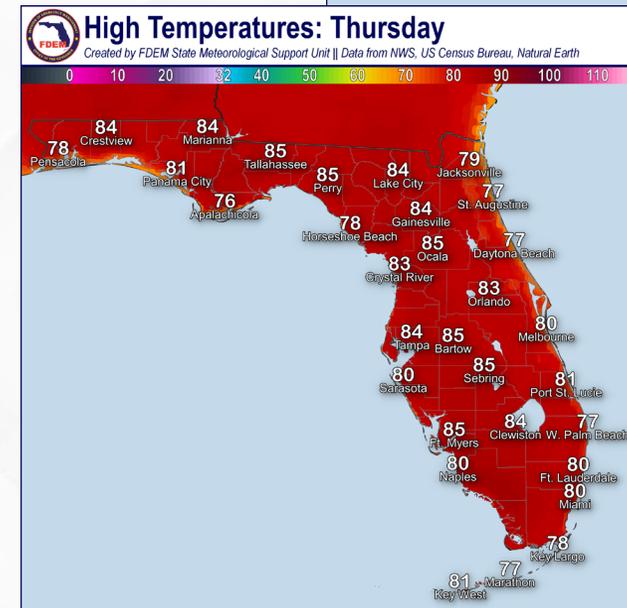
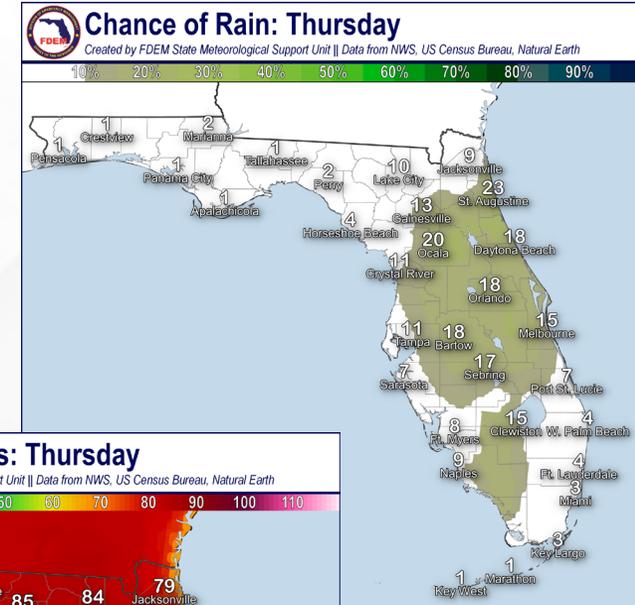
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A few coastal showers remain mainly offshore across Northeast Florida this morning with areas of **dense fog** throughout the Panhandle, Suwannee River Valley, and interior South Florida. These areas of fog will be slow to lift through the morning hours with **Dense Fog Advisories** set to expire by mid-morning, though may be extended if conditions warrant. Otherwise, partly to mostly sunny skies will prevail statewide today with only a slight chance for an isolated afternoon shower or storm across Central Florida along the afternoon sea breeze boundary (15-20% chance of rain). Activity will remain mostly light and brief in nature, though a **locally heavy downpour** and subsequent quick 1-2" of rain cannot be ruled out.

Center of high pressure will begin to settle across the Peninsula today which will bring an upward trend in temperatures. Highs this afternoon will reach the lower to middle 80s throughout much of the state, the exception being along the immediate East Coast and Panhandle where breezier **wind gusts of 15-20 mph** at times will keep temperatures a few degrees cooler.

Any lingering showers will quickly dissipate after sunset bringing mostly clear and calm conditions overnight. However, plentiful low-level moisture alongside these calm conditions will promote **fog and low cloud** development statewide tonight. **Periods of dense fog** are most likely across North and interior South Florida and **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant.

Lows in the upper 50s to middle 60s are expected for much of the state, with upper 60s to lower 70s for Southeast Florida and the Keys.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds and lingering 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: Seas will gradually subside throughout the day today after a prolonged period of persistent easterly onshore winds and elevated surf. Waves of **3-4'** are expected for most East Coast beaches today, with a few waves **upwards of 5'** possible in the surf zone. Waves of 1' are expected for all beaches along the Florida Gulf Coast.

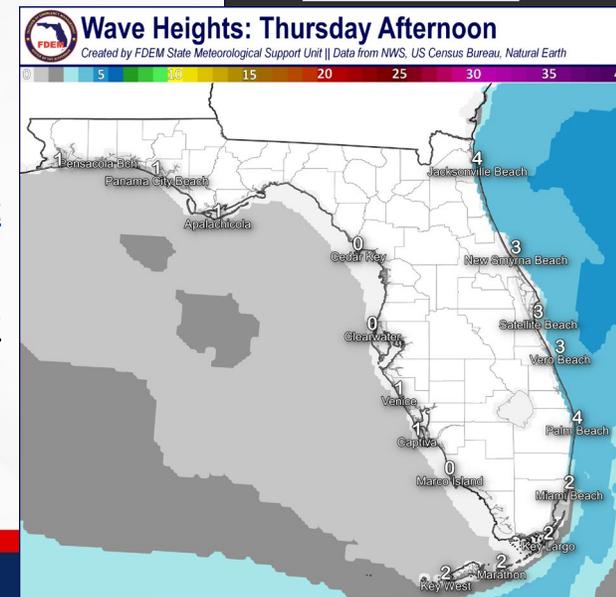
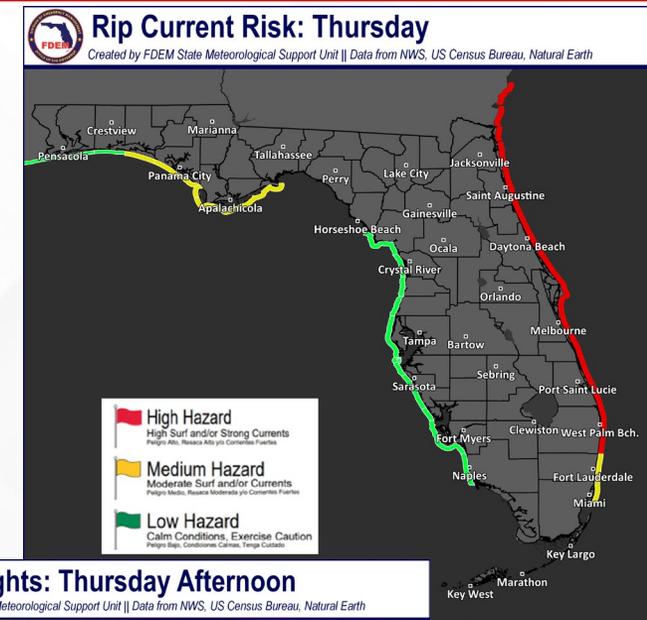
Red Tide was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 3/20/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida today. A few isolated showers throughout Central Florida this afternoon may bring a **locally heavy downpour** or two capable of producing a quick 1-2" of rainfall. However, most activity will be light and brief in nature.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.00 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.34 feet below normal for this time of year.



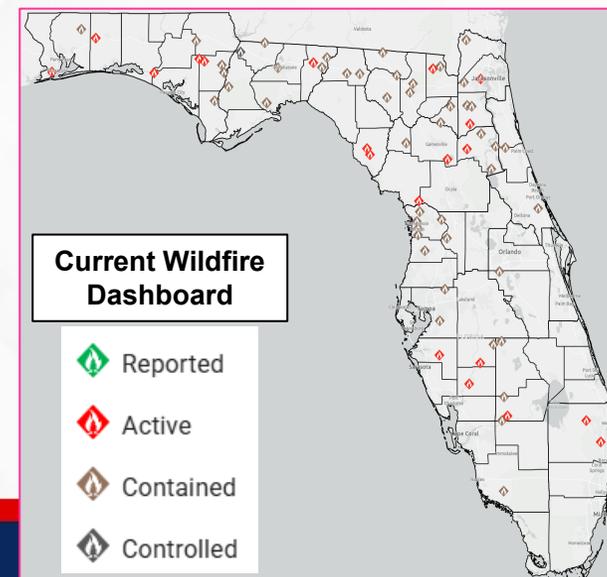
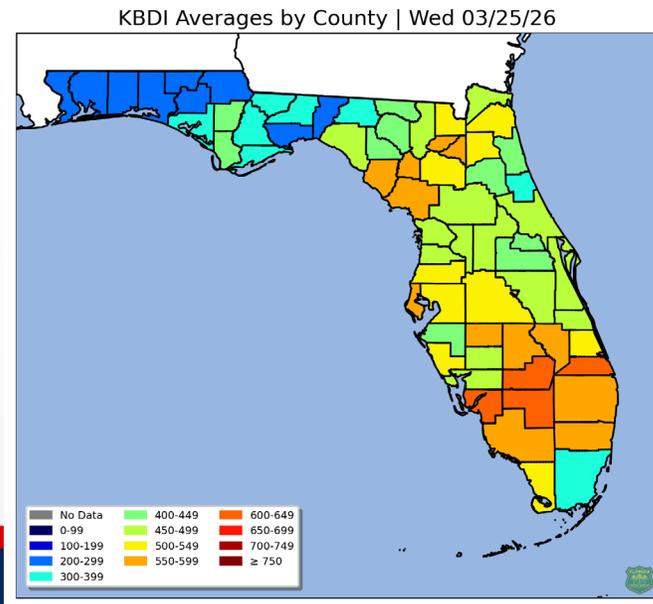
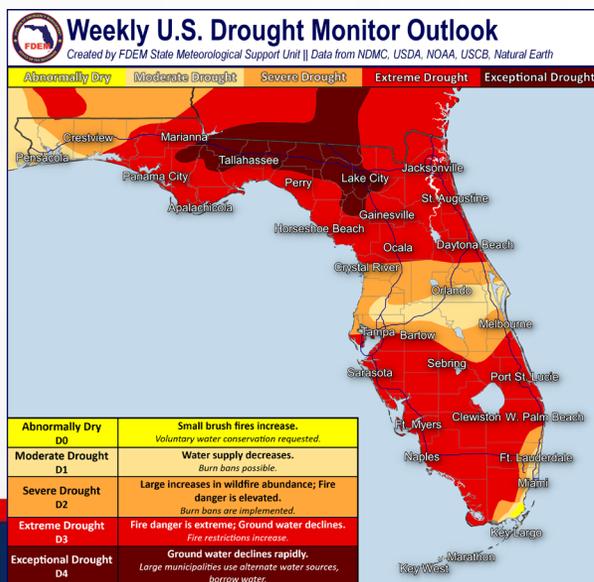


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Only a few isolated showers are expected across Central Florida today, triggered by the afternoon sea breeze boundary (15-20% chance of rain). Activity will be mostly light and brief in nature, though an isolated lightning strike cannot be ruled out. 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 along the I-95 corridor. 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 North and interior South Florida; *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 68 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,134 acres.

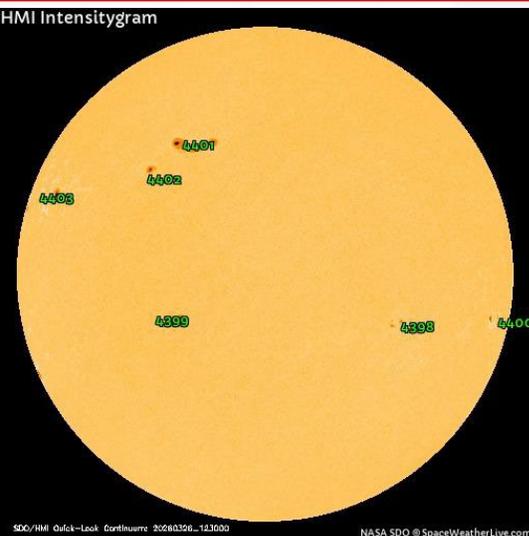
Drought (3/26/26): Very little in the way of any beneficial or meaningful rainfall was observed over the past week across the state with status quo drought conditions continuing. The heaviest rainfall over the past week was observed along the immediate Southeast Florida coastline and portions of East-Central Florida with totals upwards of 1-3". However, these totals were very localized with many locations seeing little to no rain. Widespread **severe (level 2 of 4) to extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** continues nearly statewide, with the largest change occurring across the Big Bend region. **Exceptional (level 4 of 4) drought** has been expanded across much of the I-10 corridor across the Big Bend and into the eastern Panhandle throughout northern Calhoun, Liberty, Gadsden, northern Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Columbia, and Union counties. Record low streamflows and precipitation **deficits of 5-8"** persist. Soil moisture levels deep into the ground have also worsened and water management districts statewide remain under some water shortage advisory or warning. Looking ahead, a widespread drenching rainfall is not expected over the next week. Mostly dry conditions will continue throughout North Florida where the afternoon sea breezes will have less of an influence. Throughout the Peninsula, daily shower or thunderstorm activity may return starting this weekend, though activity will be scattered in coverage and drought conditions are not expected to improve.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **465 (+5)** 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).

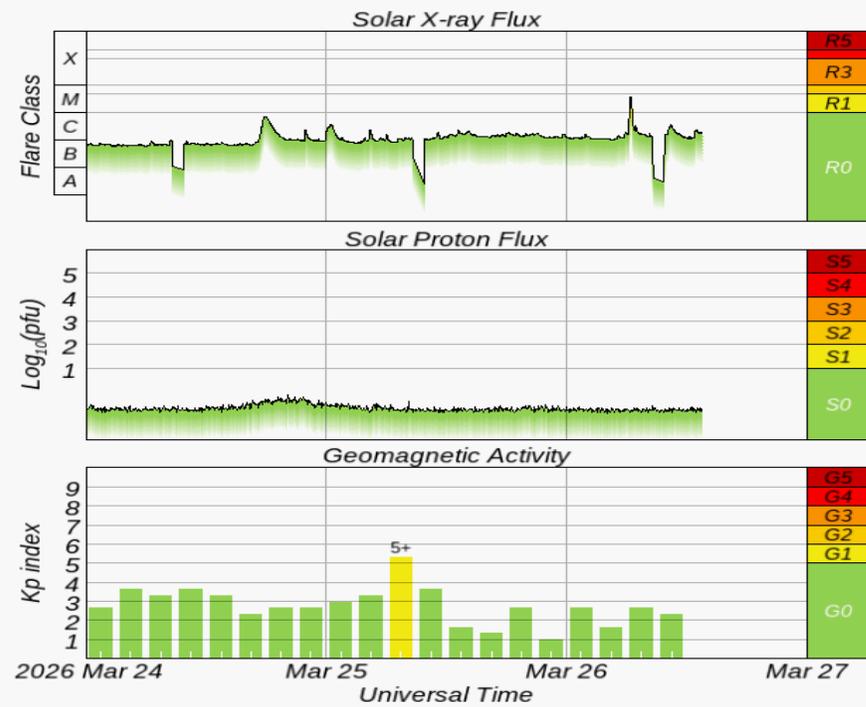




Space Weather

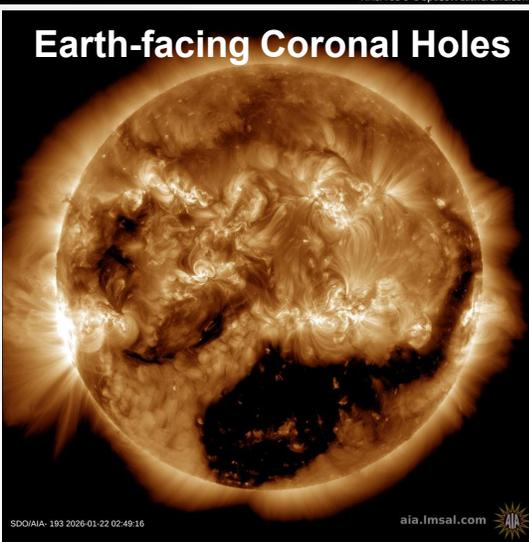


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M4 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/26	3/27
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity is forecast to remain low, with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily from sunspot #4400 and #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 mildly enhanced as current coronal hole influences diminish. Additional enhancements are expected later today and tomorrow with the arrival of a portion of the March 22 Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). The geomagnetic field is expected to reach unsettled to active levels with isolated G1 (Minor) storming periods possible on Thursday. Conditions will slowly wane through the end of the week back towards mostly quiet levels on Saturday. 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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