



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Saturday, March 28, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Branch Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services Branch Director	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com">Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
ESF 14: Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Finance Chief	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team



Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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	Not Available
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

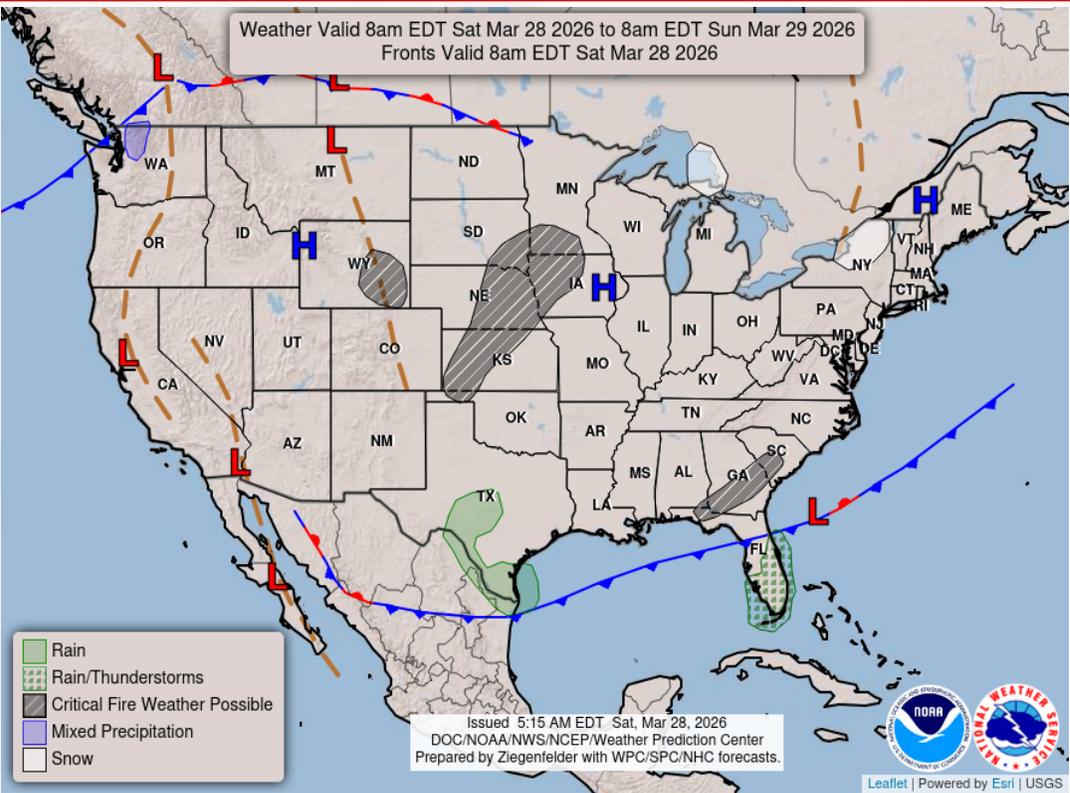
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & 8

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

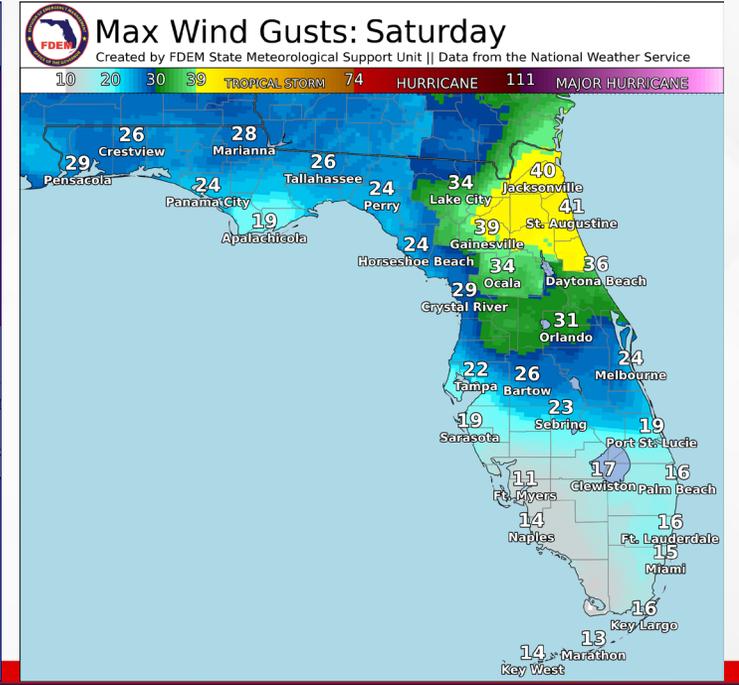


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning					L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding								L	L	L
Freeze (Overnight)								L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)								L	L	L
Wildfire	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.95 ft. (2.39 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	475 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

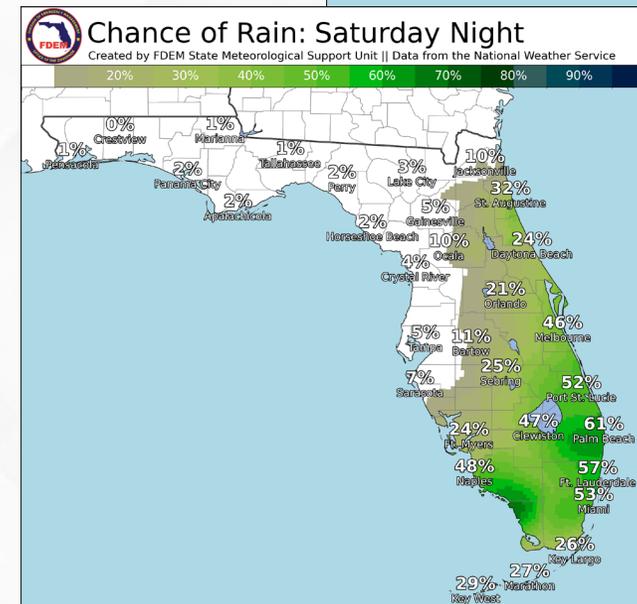
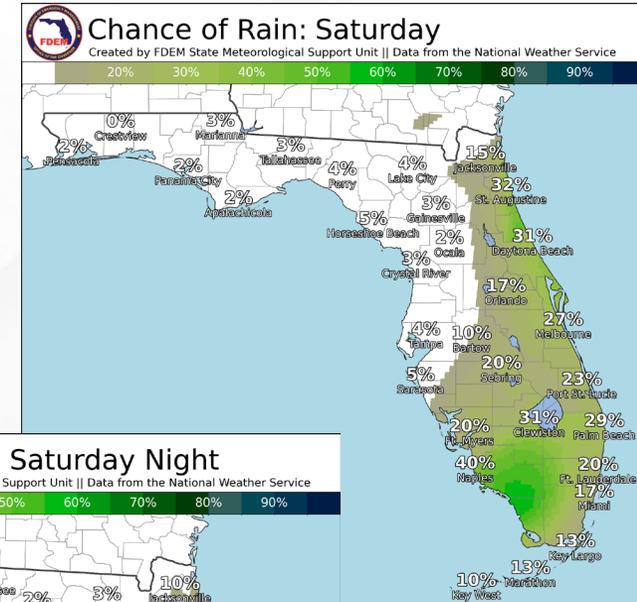
A few areas of **patchy fog** throughout the lower Suwannee River Valley will begin to slowly lift and dissipate this morning ahead of our next frontal passage. This frontal boundary is currently draped across North Florida as it sags southward into the Peninsula. Sufficient moisture along the I-95 corridor and throughout interior Central and South Florida will allow for isolated to widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to develop this afternoon ahead of and along this front (25-40% chance of rain). Breezy winds with gusts of **15-25 mph** will bring this activity onshore from east to west along the East Coast and throughout South Florida.

To the north of this front, a much drier and windy airmass will begin to filter into the Panhandle and Big Bend region. North to northeasterly winds will increase to **15-20 mph** later this morning and early afternoon with wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** possible. Paired with **critically low relative humidities (20-30%)**, conditions will become favorable this afternoon for significant wildfire development and spread throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect until 8 PM EDT/7 PM CDT for all of the Panhandle and much of the Big Bend for this **critical fire weather risk**. Further east, even stronger winds are expected throughout Northeast and East-Central Florida, especially along the immediate coastline, where sustained winds of **25-30 mph** are expected with gusts **upwards of 35-45 mph**. A **Wind Advisory** is in effect for much of the East Coast into tonight for these windy conditions. Relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds across Northeast Florida, though given the extreme drought, **elevated wildfire conditions** can still be expected.

High temperatures will reach the middle to upper 70s throughout much of North Florida this afternoon. Cooler conditions in the middle to upper 60s can be expected along the Northeast Florida coast given the windier conditions. Highs in the 80s will spread throughout the rest of Central and South Florida today.

Winds will begin to gradually subside throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend into the evening and overnight hours, though some gusts **upwards of 20 mph** may linger. The cold front passing through the Peninsula will begin to stall tonight across South Florida, which will encourage multiple rounds of scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms throughout the nighttime hours (40-60% chance of rain). Although there is no organized risk for flash flooding, some of this activity could bring a few **locally heavy downpours** capable of producing **localized flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations of the Southeast Florida metro region. A few isolated showers may also linger along the Northeast and East-Central Florida coast overnight where wind gusts of **25-35 mph** will continue to push activity onshore (25-40% chance of rain).

Low temperatures tonight will cool off into the lower to middle 50s throughout interior North Florida and upper 50s to lower 60s along the North Florida coasts. Lows in the middle 60s to lower 70s are expected throughout Central and South Florida tonight.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Windy conditions developing later today will bring increasing surf and dangerous swimming conditions to most Panhandle and East Coast beaches. A **high risk for rip currents** is expected for the entire East Coast with a **moderate risk** for most Panhandle beaches. A local **high risk** is expected for Gulf County beaches. A low risk persists for Northwest Florida and West Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Seas will begin to significantly increase later today along the East Coast in the wake of our frontal passage. Windy conditions and a building ocean swell will bring surf of **5-8'** for all Northeast Florida and Space Coast beaches this afternoon. Waves near **2-4'** can be expected for the Treasure Coast, with surf of 1-3' at all other Florida beaches. Tonight, the high surf will continue to push southward across the remainder of the East Coast. Waves near **9-12'** are expected along all Northeast to Treasure Coast beaches, with Southeast Florida beaches seeing surf of **3-6'**. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect from Nassau County through Palm Beach County along the East Coast beginning later afternoon and evening and through the weekend. Waves will also begin to increase to **2-4'** for all Gulf facing beaches tonight.

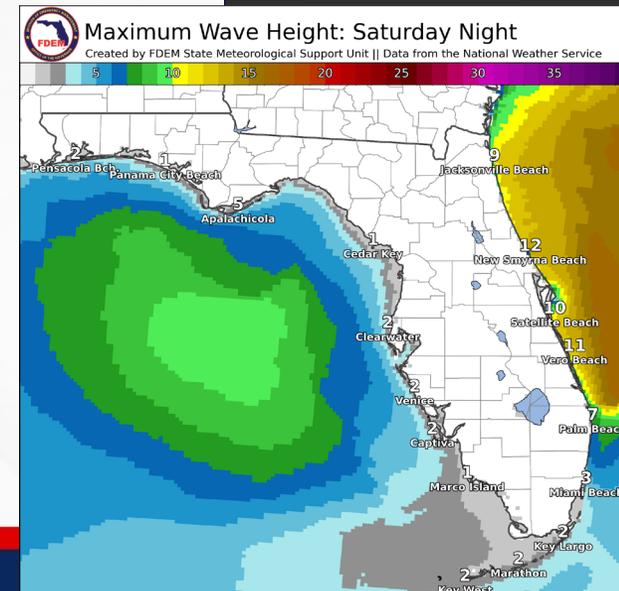
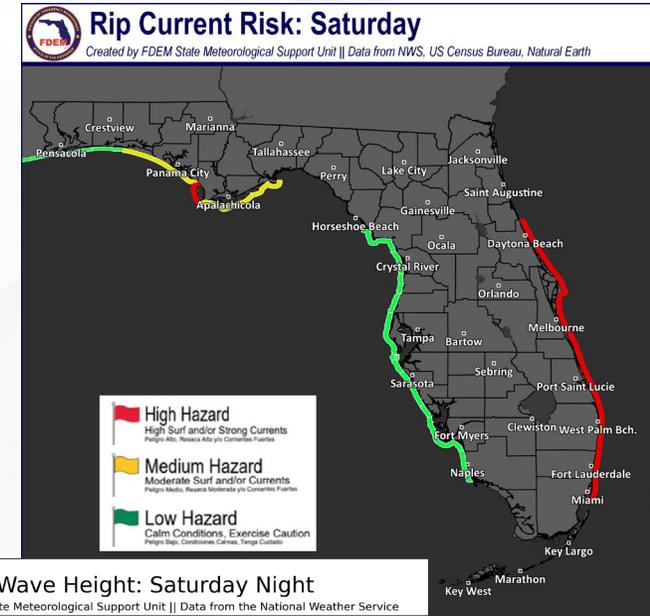
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in and offshore Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties. It was also observed at very low concentrations in Brevard County (valid 3/27/26).

**Coastal Flooding:** Strong onshore winds and high surf along the East Coast may allow for **minor tidal flooding** and **beach erosion** during the late Saturday night/early Sunday morning high tide cycle.

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida today. A cold front will sag into Central and South Florida through the day today, eventually stalling across South Florida later tonight. Sufficient moisture will allow for isolated to widely scattered showers to develop this afternoon ahead of and along this front. Activity will mainly move onshore from east to west along the East Coast with the Treasure Coast and Southeast Florida favored for numerous rounds of showers and embedded thunderstorms. A few **locally heavy downpours** cannot be ruled out and any areas that receive repeated rounds of heavier activity could see **localized flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor-drainage areas of Southeast Florida. Rainfall totals will generally remain between 1-2" through tonight, though locally heavier totals **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 11.95 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.39 feet below normal for this time of year.

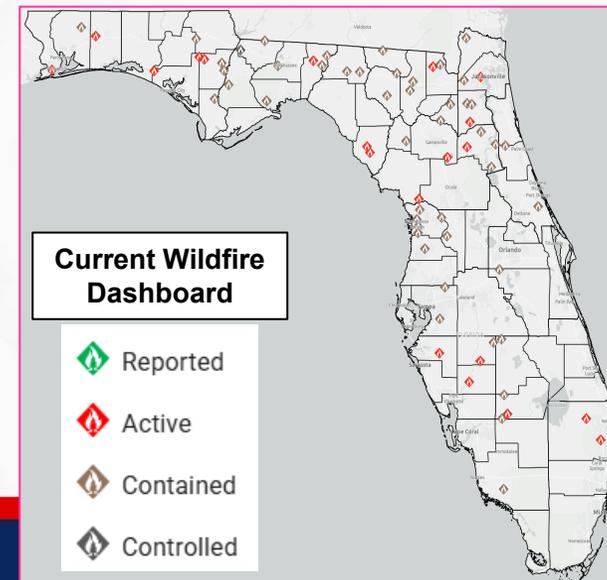
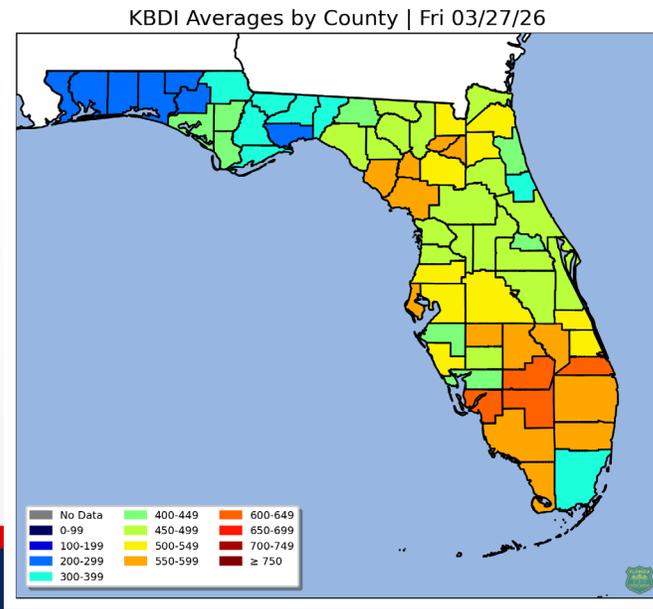
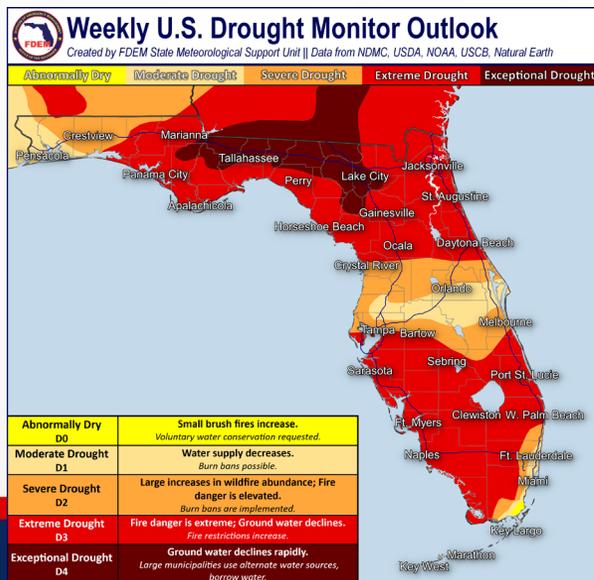




# Drought & Fire Weather

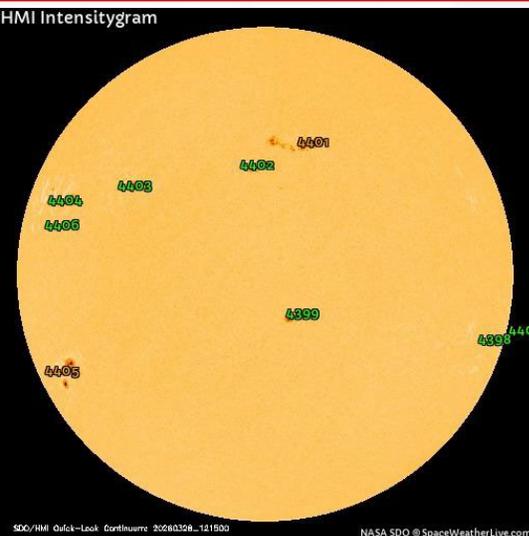
**Fire Weather:** A dry frontal passage is ongoing this morning across North Florida with a much drier and windy airmass beginning to filter into the Panhandle and Big Bend region in its wake. North to northeasterly winds will begin to increase to **15-20 mph** later this morning and early afternoon with wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** possible. Paired with **critically low relative humidities (20-30%)**, conditions will become favorable this afternoon for significant wildfire development and spread throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect until 8 PM EDT/7 PM CDT for all of the Panhandle and much of the Big Bend for this **critical fire weather risk**. Recovery in relative humidities are expected overnight, back above critical thresholds, though some breezy conditions will linger which may keep any wildfire suppression efforts more difficult. Further east, even stronger winds are expected throughout Northeast Florida, especially along the immediate coastline, where sustained winds of **25-30 mph** are expected with gusts **upwards of 35-45 mph**. Relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds here, though given the extreme to exceptional drought, **elevated wildfire conditions** can still be expected. Breezy winds with gusts of **15-25 mph** will spread throughout the rest of Central and South Florida today, though the frontal passage will tap into enough moisture in these areas promoting isolated to widely scattered shower activity (25-50% chance of rain). An isolated lightning strike or two cannot be ruled out with this activity this afternoon. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 60 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,048 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 **475 (+7)** 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).

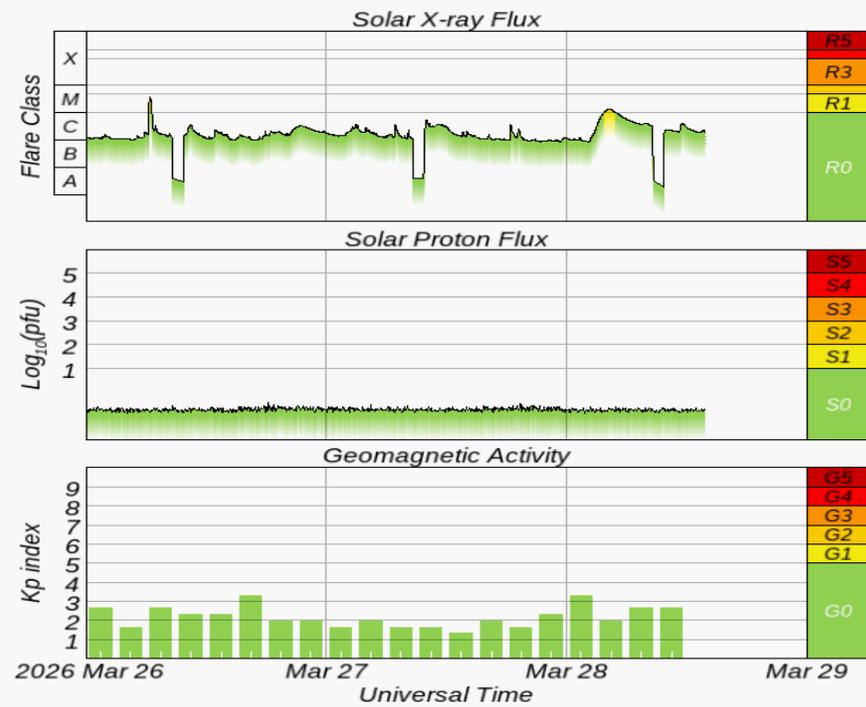




# Space Weather

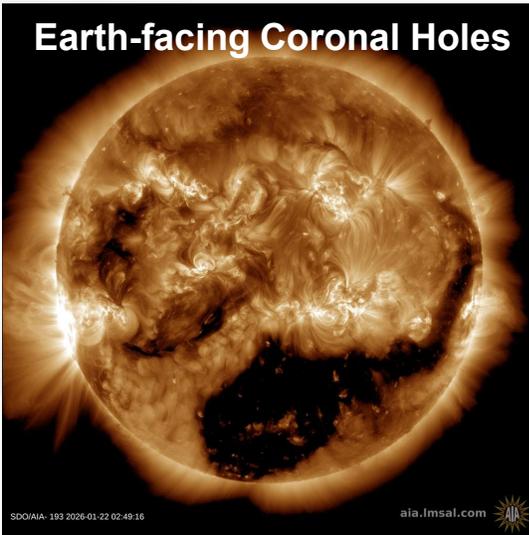


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 45%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/28	3/29
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



**Space Weather:** Solar activity is forecast to remain low through the weekend with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily from sunspot #4401. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any stronger flare activity should they develop. Near background solar wind conditions are expected to persist through Saturday before coronal hole influences return on Sunday bringing enhancements to the solar wind field. Primarily quiet geomagnetic field levels are also expected on Saturday before unsettled to active levels return later this weekend. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
<b>Phone:</b>	850-815-4001; 800-320-0519; 850-591-0071	Operational	
<b>Fax:</b>	850-815-4979	Operational	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
<b>SWO Tracker:</b>	<a href="https://swo.floridadisaster.org">https://swo.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	
<b>SLERS:</b>	DEM Statewide	Operational	
<b>FNARS:</b>	WGY974	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Federal NAWAS:</b>	State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Message:</b>	FL.000 - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Voice:</b>	FL SWP - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>IPAWS:</b>	300006 - FL Florida Division of Emergency Management	Operational	
<b>FIN:</b>	SOFEOC	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Satellite Phones:</b>	MSAT 888-890-5178; Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	System in Transition
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://floridadisaster.org">https://floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=Morning\\_SITREP](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP)