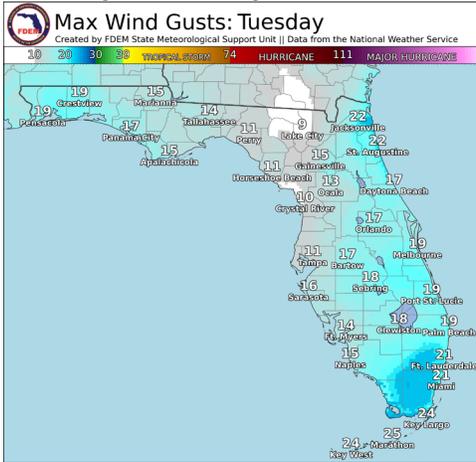




... Moist Onshore Flow to Bring Daily Isolated Chances for Showers and Embedded Thunderstorms this Week... Greatest Chance of Rain Expected Thursday Across the Peninsula... Breezy Winds Persist Along the I-95 Corridor... Ongoing Drought to Keep at Least Sensitive Wildfire Conditions in Place... Elevated Surf and Onshore Flow Bring a High Risk for Rip Currents to Panhandle and East Coast Beaches Through the Week... Uncertainty in Next Frontal System Heading into the Weekend...

**Tuesday – Saturday:**



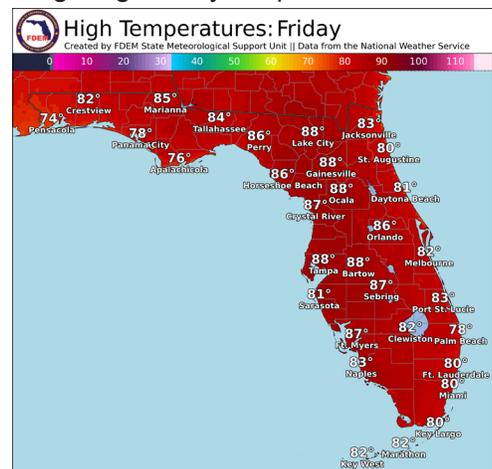
A large area of high pressure sitting over the western Atlantic waters, which has hardly budged over the last few days, is dominating the local weather pattern with persistent moist onshore flow on the southern periphery of the circulation. Looking ahead, very little changes are expected through the end of the week. A very summer-like pattern will take hold over the Sunshine State as a result with warm temperatures and daily chances of isolated showers or thunderstorms as the afternoon sea breeze boundaries help to spark activity each day. The biggest difference each day will be the magnitude of rain chances as a result of where the locally greatest moisture sets up in the atmosphere. A predominate east coast sea breeze will take shape throughout the Peninsula where breezy winds with gusts upwards of 20-25 mph will send the sea breeze inland each afternoon. As a result, east to west moving activity is expected. Along the West Coast, the Gulf sea breeze will

remain mostly pinned to the coastline which may lead to some activity developing right along the coast. Southerly flow across the Panhandle and Big Bend will favor the I-10 corridor and northern Panhandle for activity on days where enough moisture is present.

Today and Wednesday, drier air aloft in the atmosphere will help to limit shower and thunderstorm coverage across the Peninsula, though still some isolated activity is expected to develop (15-25% chance of rain). The greatest area of moisture will reside over the Panhandle where isolated to widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms are expected. Coverage will not be widespread by any means, though some of this activity could still become **locally strong** and capable of producing occasional lightning and a brief **locally heavy downpour**. Drier air will filter into the Panhandle on Thursday, though moisture pushing onshore over the Peninsula will bring the greatest chances of rain through the end of the week across the Peninsula (35-55% chance of rain). Thursday will present the greatest chance for a few **locally strong thunderstorms** across the Peninsula capable of producing occasional lightning and a few **locally heavy downpours** that could drop a quick **1-3" of rain**. Isolated shower or thunderstorm activity is expected on Friday and Saturday throughout the Sunshine State during the afternoon hours (20-35% chance of rain). Activity will largely dissipate each evening after sunset, though some lingering activity will persist across the Southeast Florida coastal waters (15-25% chance of rain).

A frontal system will attempt to approach the Southeast U.S. on Friday and Saturday this week, though uncertainty remains in computer forecast guidance regarding the timing of this system. As of now, guidance is favoring this system approaching the Florida Panhandle Saturday night and Sunday, with some increasing southerly flow and rain chances ahead of the system. However, trends in model guidance will continue to be monitored regarding the timing and strength of this system as we head through the week.

High temperatures will climb into the middle to upper 80s throughout the interior portions of the state each afternoon this week. Temperatures will remain a few degrees cooler along the East Coast and Panhandle where breezy winds will be most felt. A



few locations throughout the Suwannee River Valley and I-75 Corridor may reach the **90-degree** mark Friday and Saturday. Low temperatures will only fall into the 60s for most locations each night with coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys remaining in the lower to middle 70s. These warm temperatures and calm conditions will promote areas of **fog and low clouds** to develop each night, especially throughout North and West-Central Florida. The greatest chances for **locally dense fog** reside across the western Panhandle and Northeast Florida Tuesday and Wednesday nights and **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant.

### Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days; however, daily chances for isolated showers and embedded thunderstorms will pose a threat for a few **locally heavy downpours** within the strongest activity. The greatest chance exists across the northern Panhandle Tuesday and Wednesday, shifting to the Peninsula on Thursday. While flash flooding is not expected, areas of **ponding of water** and **localized flooding** cannot be ruled out if any areas receive a slow-moving heavy thunderstorm or repeated rounds of heavy downpours. Urban areas and low-lying/poor drainage locations will be the most favored and susceptible to any nuisance flooding. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" for most locations, however localized totals **upwards of 3-4"** cannot be ruled out. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. While recent onshore flow along the East Coast has brought elevated surf and dangerous beach conditions, any instances of **minor beach erosion** will remain confined to vulnerable Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches near and during times of high tide. Water levels may rise upwards of 0.5 feet above normally dry ground. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.02 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.30 feet below normal for this time of year.

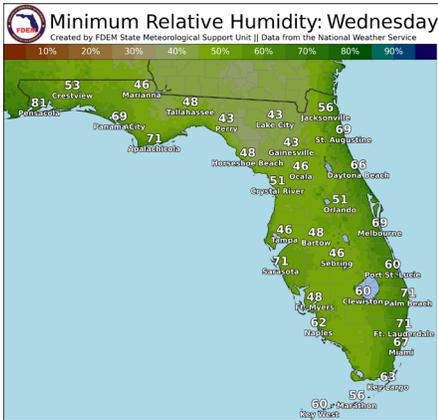
### Drought & Fire Weather:

Last week's Drought Monitor update featured very little to no positive changes as beneficial or meaningful rainfall was nowhere to be found unfortunately. 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. However, recent rainfall over the past weekend and early this week across South and East-Central Florida may bring some slight drought relief on the next drought update. Rainfall totals since the last update have tallied up to 1-2" for much of South Florida, with localized totals upwards of 3-5" across Palm Beach County. Although this might put a small dent in the rainfall deficits, it will certainly not be enough for any serious drought category reductions. Mostly dry conditions throughout much of Central and North Florida will bring at least persistence of drought conditions, with potential for some expansion.

Looking ahead, a widespread drenching rainfall is not expected over the next week. Mostly dry conditions will be the predominant story, though isolated rain chances will bring spotty coverage in totals. Still, even areas that receive a heavy thunderstorm or two will struggle to see any real drought relief given just how dry the background conditions have become.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **477** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **31** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Moist south and easterly flow will keep enough moisture entrenched across the Sunshine State for relative humidities to remain above critical thresholds through the week. Still, ongoing drought with very dry vegetation/grounds will encourage at least **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** each afternoon. The lowest relative humidities will reside across Northeast Florida on Tuesday and Wednesday (35-45% values), though the breeziest winds will stick to the I-95 corridor and Southeast Florida through the end of the week where gusts **upwards of 25 mph** will be possible. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will be possible throughout the state each afternoon; thunderstorms may be capable of producing lightning strikes and gusty winds which may lead to new ignitions or erratic spread, respectively. Additionally, areas of patchy to locally dense fog are

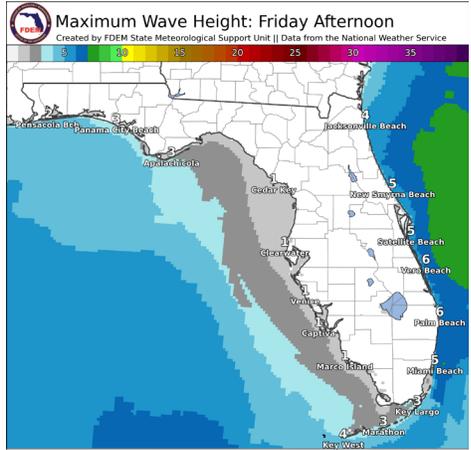
possible throughout the western Panhandle and Northeast Florida which may significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 59 wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,003 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).

**Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

Persistent onshore easterly flow will continue to bring a **high risk for rip currents** to all East Coast beaches through the end of the week. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected today for Panhandle beaches before increasing to a **high risk** through the rest of the week starting Wednesday. Dangerous beach and swimming conditions are expected to continue. A low risk for rip currents is expected along the West Coast given the offshore winds and relatively calmer surf.

The sea state will be rather persistently elevated through the end of the week along the East Coast as onshore flow continues and an offshore ocean swell remains. Waves near **4-6'** will last through Saturday, with some surf **upwards of 8'** possible in the surf zone for Treasure Coast beaches. For the Panhandle, waves near **2-4'** are expected each day with calmer surf near 1' for all West Coast beaches.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 71 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed at the Blue Cypress Lake, Lake Thonotosassa, Lake Hancock, and Lake Killarney in the upper St. Johns River. **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 Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)
- [NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)
- [NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)
- [NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)
- [NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)
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Have a wonderful rest of the week!  
Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)



FDEM Statewide 5-Day Weather Outlook  
3.31.26

