



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, April 8, 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	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Lauren Warfield	(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	Jacob Caprioni	(448) 229-2173	jacob.caprioni@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	EMPA/G Grant Meetings / Region 1 T&E Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	DEP Site Visit
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Bradford, Union	County EM Visits / Forestry Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Office Admin
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	FFCA Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Martin, Palm Beach	Equipment Drop off
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	MGT-475 Course

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	Out of Region	Leave
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon	HQ Equipment Pick Up
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Leadership Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hillsborough	Tampa Bay Integrated Team Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	F-ROC TA Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	MGT-475 Crowd Mgt. for Sports and Special Events

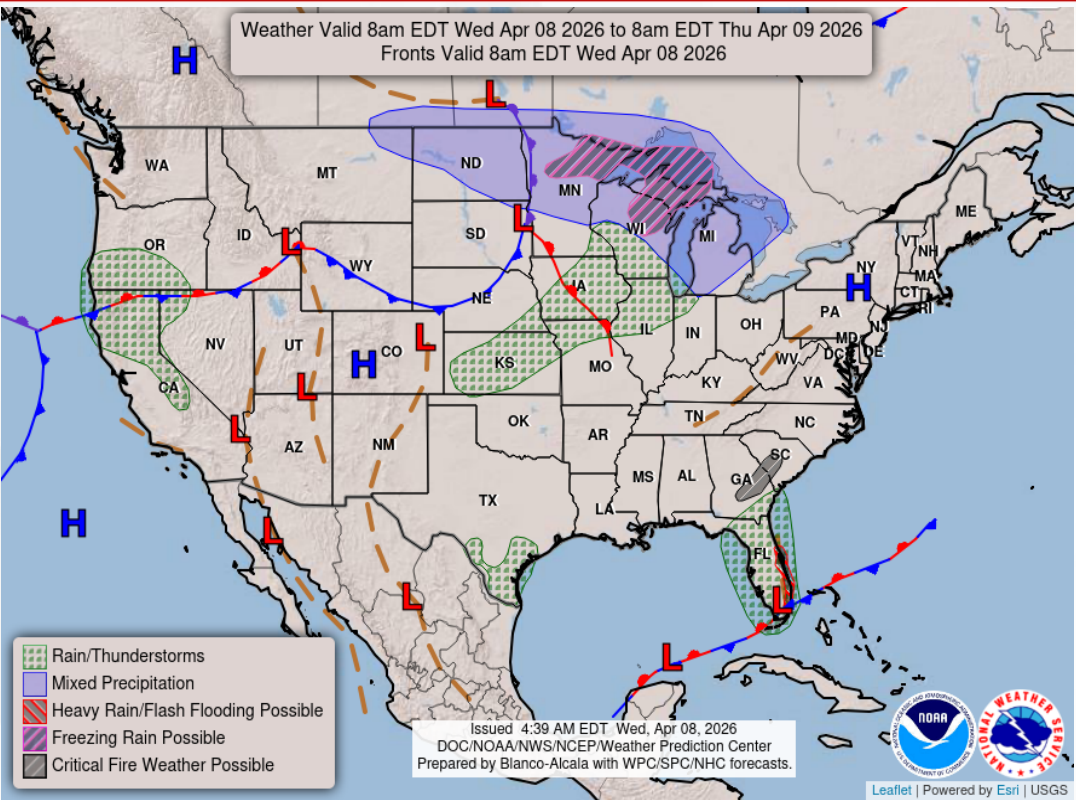
Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

Region 7/9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinators 6/8

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

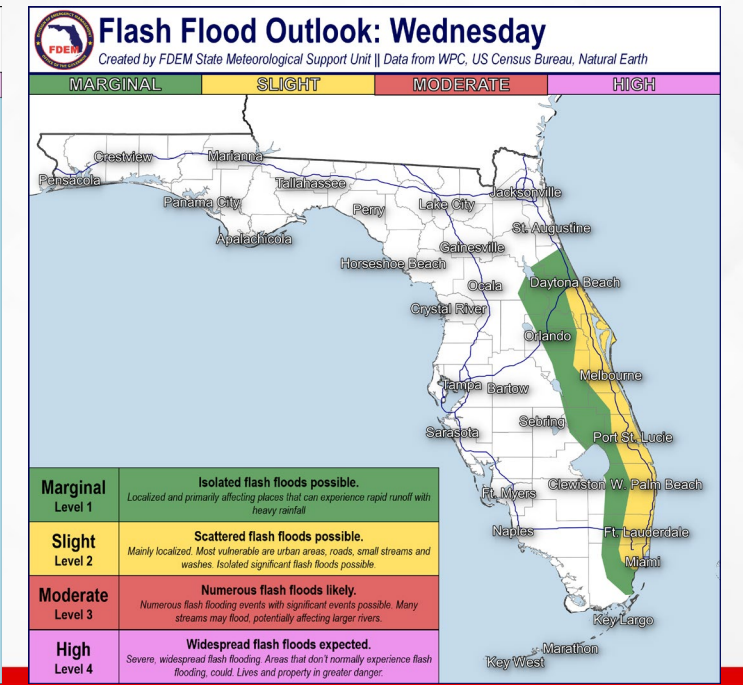
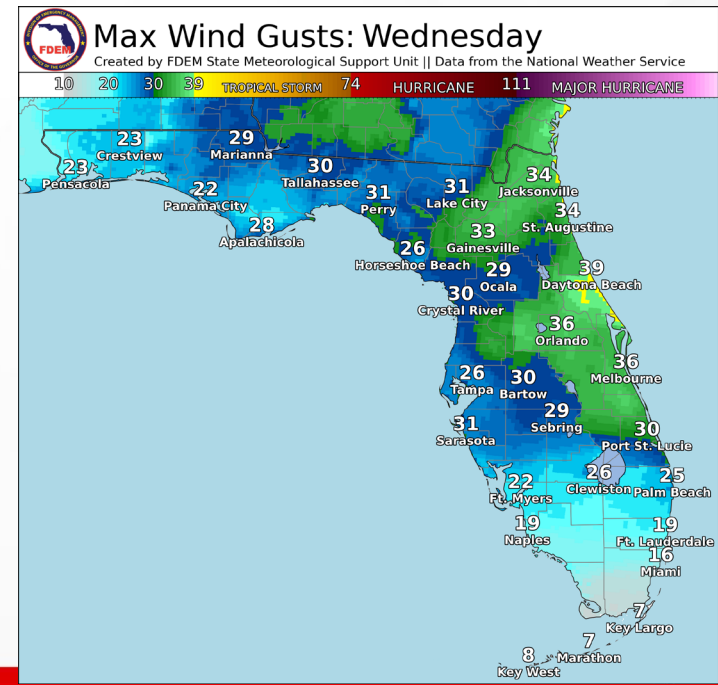


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning				L	L	L	M	M	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind								L		L
Hail										
Flash Flooding				L	M	L	L	M	L	M
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.11 ft. (2.05 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	450 (-41) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





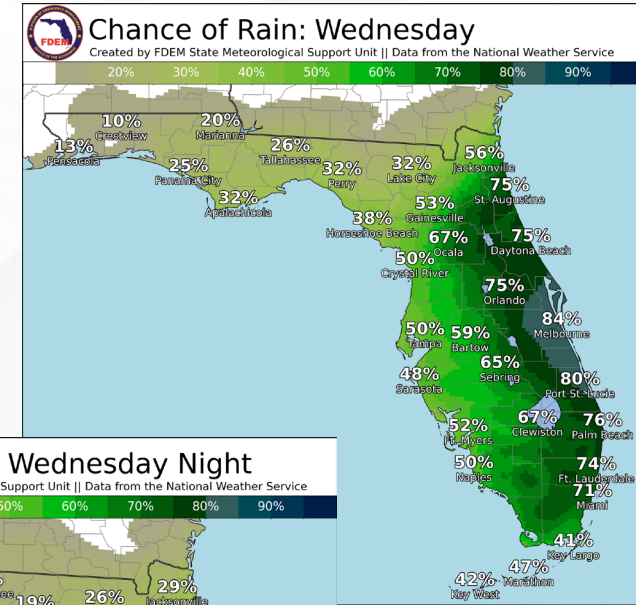
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

The slow-moving cold front that has lingering across the Peninsula in recent days has finally settled near the Florida Straits this morning, though ample tropical moisture and onshore northeasterly winds will continue to bring scattered to widespread showers and embedded thunderstorms to the Peninsula today. The greatest chance of rain will reside along the East Coast (75-90% chance of rain) where a **Marginal** to **Slight (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked. Although widespread flooding is not anticipated, additional rounds of **heavy downpours** on already saturated soils may lead to instances of **urban flooding** and **ponding of water**. A **Flood Watch** is in effect today from coastal Volusia to coastal Miami-Dade County for isolated instances of **flash flooding**. Rainfall totals will generally remain between 1-3" along the East Coast, though localized amounts **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out. Scattered showers are expected elsewhere throughout the Peninsula today (50-65% chance of rain), with isolated activity across Northeast Florida and the Panhandle (20-35% chance of rain).

Windy conditions will persist today with **Wind Advisories** remaining in effect along much of the East Coast. Wind gusts **upwards of 30-35 mph** will spread throughout North and Central Florida, with locally greater gusts **upwards of 40-45 mph** along the immediate East Coast. Drier air and **near critical relative humidities (35-45%)** will overlap with these breezy winds across the Panhandle and Big Bend, which will promote **locally elevated wildfire conditions**. High temperatures will remain the coolest across Northeast and East-Central Florida today, only reaching the lower to middle 70s. Middle 70s to lower 80s can be expected elsewhere across the state.

Tonight, scattered onshore moving showers will continue along the I-95 corridor as breezy winds persist (50-70% chance of rain), with isolated activity lingering across the rest of the Peninsula and Panhandle. Low temperatures will dip into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida and middle 60s to lower 70s in Central and South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy to windy conditions and increasing choppy surf will bring a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** to all East Coast and Panhandle beaches today. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is also expected along Charlotte and Lee County in Southwest Florida where surf will begin to increase later this afternoon. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Very dangerous beach and marine conditions will continue today along the East Coast with local nor'easter conditions bringing very high surf. Waves near **10-14'** are expected for all First Coast to Treasure Coast beaches and a **High Surf Advisory** is in effect through the night. Waves will be slightly less across Southeast Florida beaches, though still reach the **5-8'** range. Panhandle beaches will also see an increase in wave action today, with surf nearing **5-8'** for western Panhandle beaches where additional **High Surf Advisories** are in effect. Forgotten Coast and West Coast beaches can expect waves near **2-5'** today.

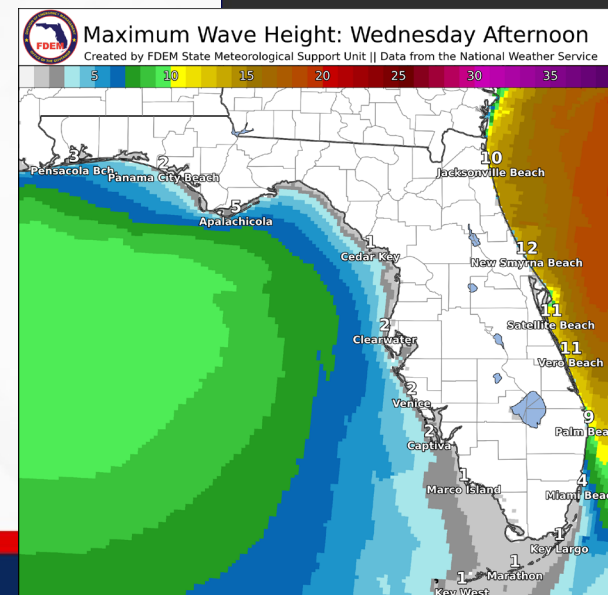
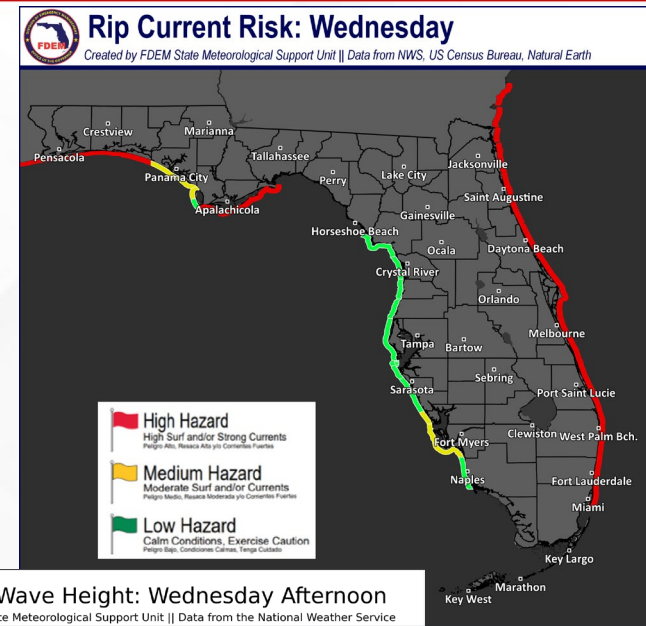
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe County (valid 4/3/26).

Coastal Flooding: Strong northeasterly onshore winds and high surf along the East Coast may lead to instances of **minor beach erosion** near and during times of high tide. Areas of **nuisance coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out along vulnerable beaches of the First and Space Coast near and during times of high tide as well.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Florida East Coast from Volusia County to Miami-Dade County for a heightened risk of **flash flooding**. Recent heavy rainfall has saturated the soil and additional rounds of **heavy downpours** today may lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. A **Flood Watch** is also in effect along the East Coast from Volusia to Miami-Dade for this flood risk. Rainfall totals across East-Central and Southeast Florida will generally add up to 1-3 inches for most locations, however locally greater amounts **upwards of 3-5 inches** cannot be ruled out.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.11 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.05 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



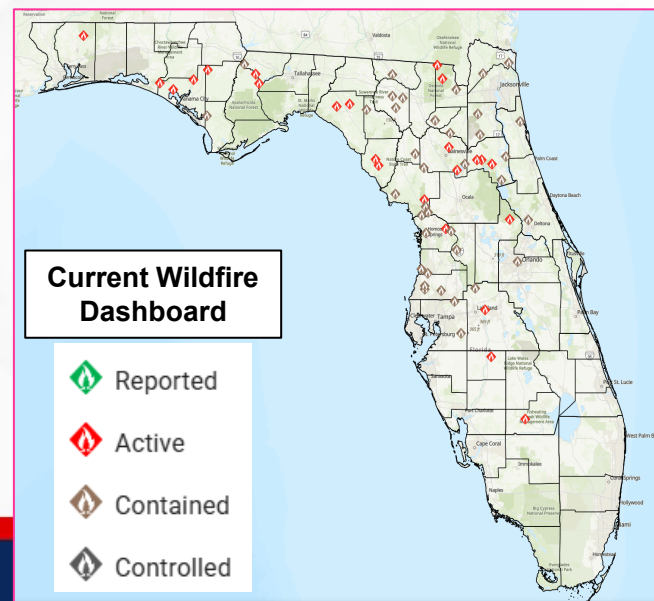
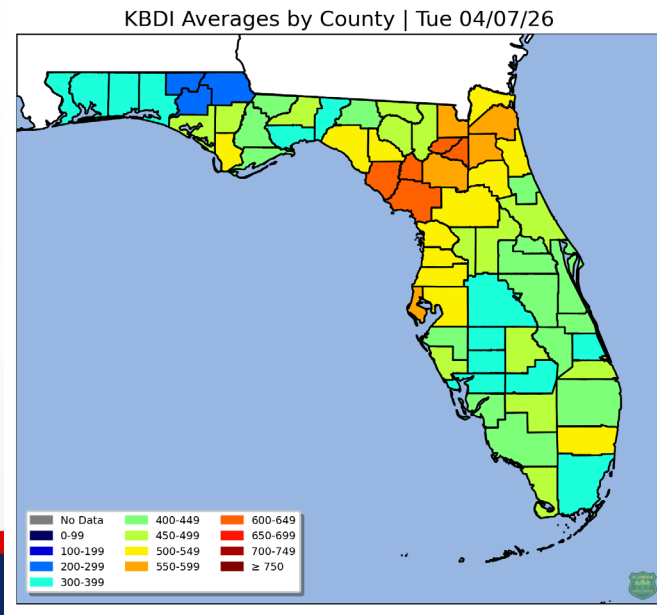
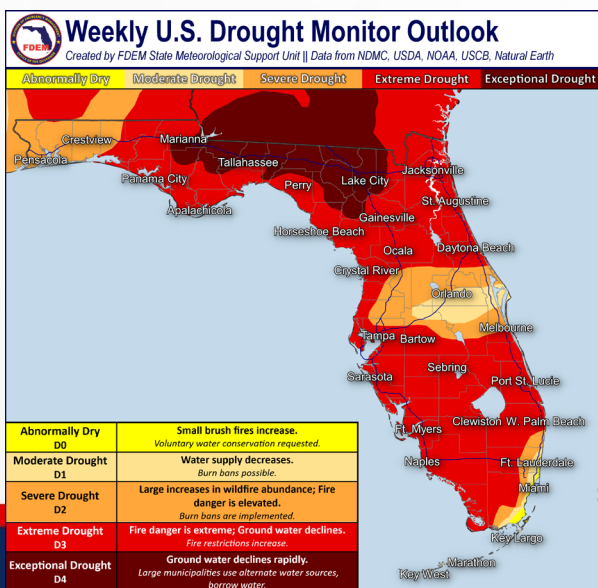


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout the Peninsula today as a stalled frontal boundary and strong northeasterly winds help to focus abundant moisture throughout the Peninsula. Relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds here, however a surge of fresh northeasterly winds is expected later this afternoon across North and Central Florida. Winds will gust between **25-35 mph** for most locations, however coastal locations of Northeast and East-Central Florida may gust **upwards of 40-45 mph** and a **Wind Advisory** is in effect through tonight for much of the East Coast. These windy conditions, along with thunderstorm activity, may lead to erratic wildfire spread in any active wildfire areas. Throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend, a ribbon of drier air is expected to filter into the area where relative humidities will dip **near critical thresholds (35-40 RH values)**. Paired with the breezy conditions, **elevated wildfire conditions** are expected. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 61 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5,685 acres.

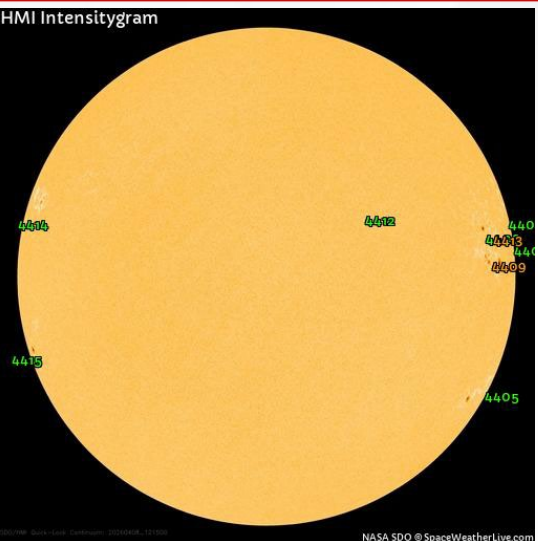
Drought (4/2/26): Over the past week, mostly dry conditions were observed throughout much of the state which has resulted in very little improvements on the latest Drought Monitor update. In fact, outside of immediate coastal Southeast Florida where a cold front brought widespread rainfall of 1-3" this past weekend (3/28-3/29), there was no beneficial rainfall to be found. The last remaining area of moderate drought (level 1 of 4) across the western Panhandle has been upgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** due to recent dryness and worsening soil moisture levels. One of the biggest changes this week was additional expansion of the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** across the Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley, and eastern Panhandle. Now, additional areas of Columbia, Baker, Union, Lafayette, Wakulla, and Jackson counties are under this level 4 of 4 drought. Over the past 6 months (October 1 – March 31), Tallahassee has seen record dryness with a total rainfall departure over that time reaching **13.51 inches below normal**. Areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** have remained throughout the rest of Northeast Florida and North-Central Florida, including a new area along the coast of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties. Jacksonville has also seen record dryness over the past 6 months, with the rainfall deficit of **9.98 inches below normal** in that time. The area of **moderate to severe drought** along the I-4 corridor continues to shrink as well as the area rainfall deficits continue to worsen. **Extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** also persists across much of South Florida, outside of the immediate Southeast coastline where rainfall has brought some drought relief. Throughout the state, streamflows remain significantly low and soil moisture levels deep into the ground have also worsened with water management districts statewide remaining under some water shortage advisory or warning. Looking ahead, a widespread drenching rainfall is not expected over the next week. Mostly dry conditions will prevail, though afternoon spotty showers and embedded thunderstorms will be possible each day. Any areas that see the heaviest activity could see a quick 1-3" of rain, though will not be enough to put much of a dent in the drought. There remains some uncertainty regarding a possible Gulf low-pressure system developing next Tuesday, which could bring some beneficial rains to the state. Trends in that system will continue to be monitored.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **450 (-41)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **22** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

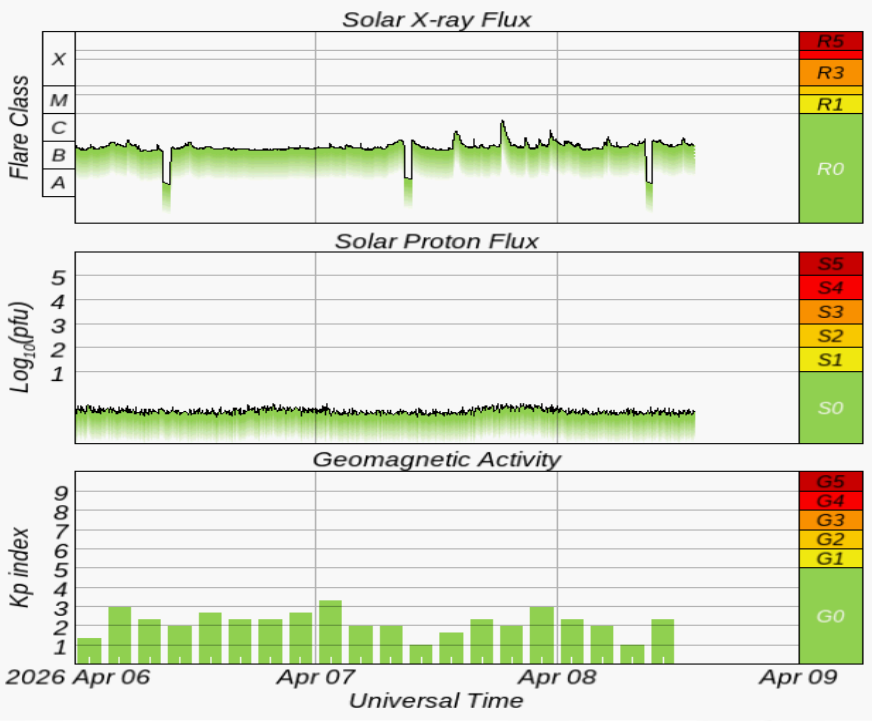




Space Weather

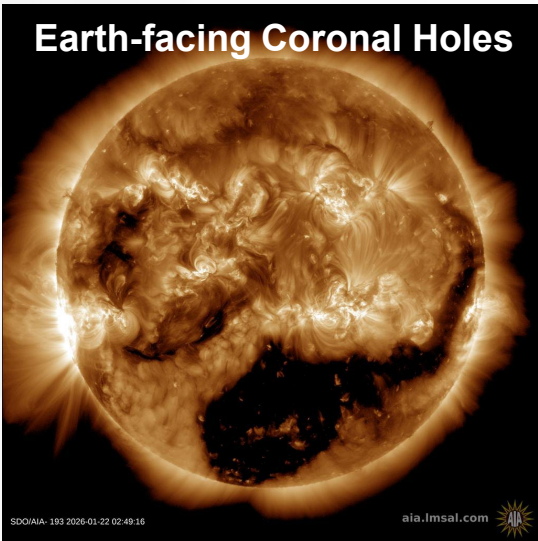


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/8	4/9
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity is likely to be at low levels through the end of the week, with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares, primarily driven by sunspot region #4409 and #4413. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any strong solar flare activity. The solar wind environment will return to nominal conditions through Thursday before becoming enhanced again by Friday due to recurrent coronal hole influences. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at mostly quiet levels with isolated unsettled levels through Thursday. The arrival of the coronal hole influences will bring a return of Minor (G1) storming conditions on Friday. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains very low.



SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

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

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