



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, April 9, 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 | Ahnaya Benjamin | (850) 815-4001 | SWP@em.myflorida.com |
| Operations Officer- Swing | Cody Nowak | (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 | Calhoun | Baker Rd Wildfire AAR / Response Coordinators Meeting |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston | Calhoun | Baker Rd Wildfire AAR / Response Coordinators Meeting |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | Baker, Hamilton | Executive Director Support |
| Region 4: Tara Kostich | Clay | Training Task Force Meeting / LEPC Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Orange | MCI Full Scale Exercise |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | Polk | MCI Full Scale Exercise |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 8: Amber Durden | Palm Beach, Indian River | Response Coordinators Meeting / County EM Visit |
| Region 9: Brittany Bremer | Lee | Reunification Task Force Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Miami-Dade | EM Meetings |

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 | Calhoun | Wildfire AAR & Debris Meeting |
| Region 3: Kevin Blom | Hamilton | ED/EM Meeting |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | Baker | COAD Meeting |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Seminole | MCI Exercise |
| Region 6: Rick Rogers | Orange | Mass Casualty Exercise |
| Region 7: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |
| Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller | Indian River | MCI Exercise |
| Region 9: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |
| Region 10: Brian Lee | Miami-Dade | Professional Development / Admin |

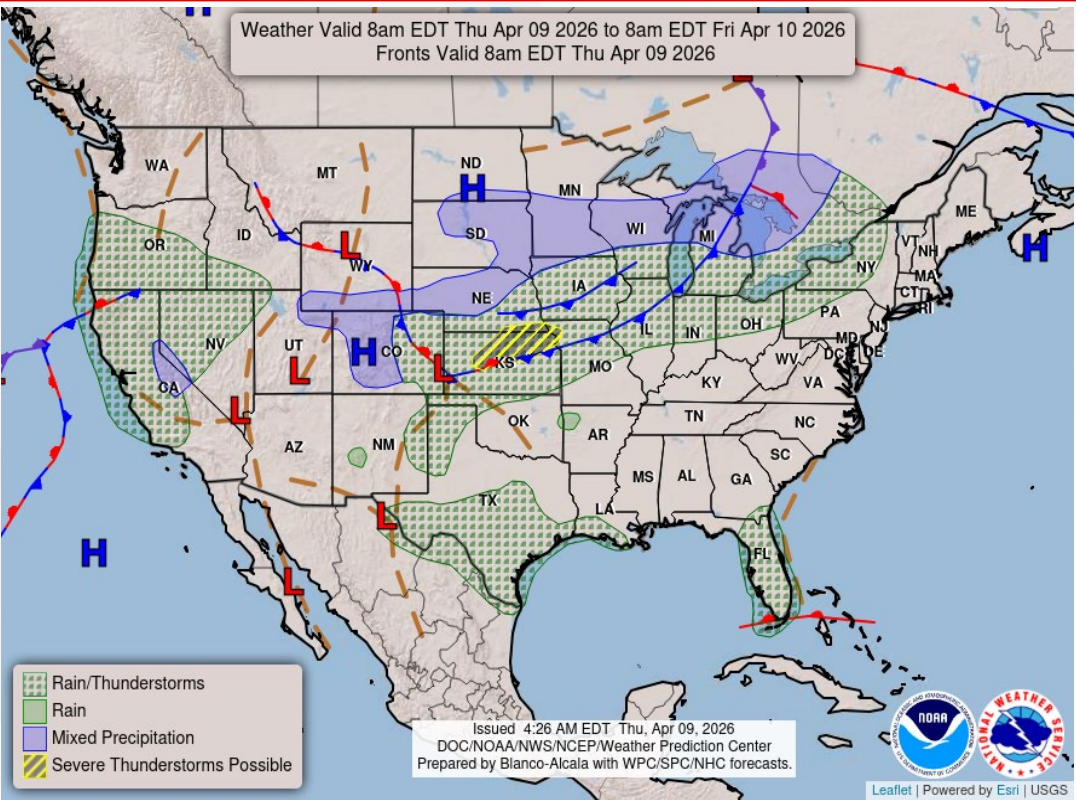
Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

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

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

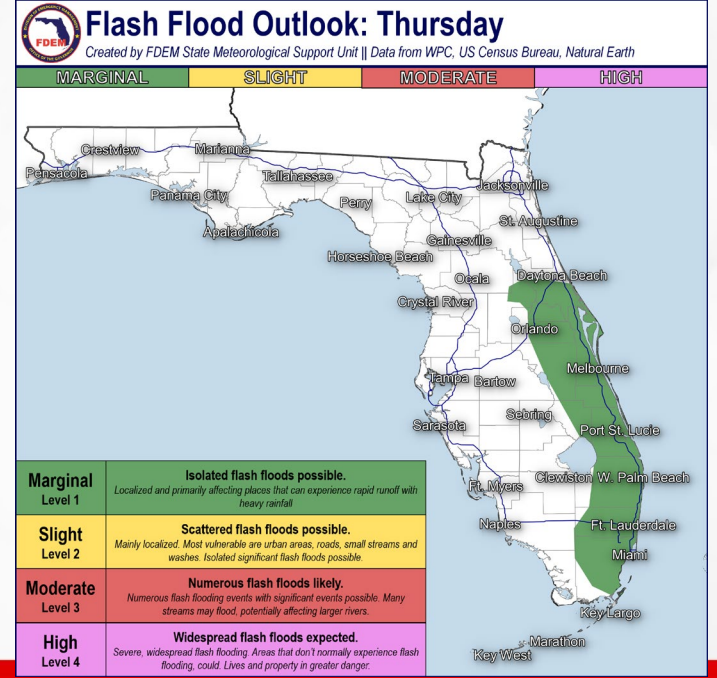
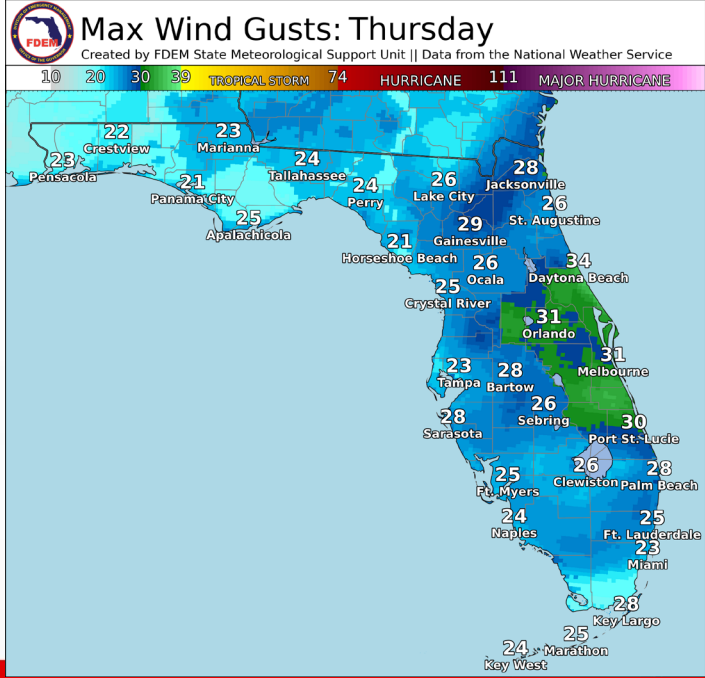


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning | | | | L | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Tornado | | | | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | | | | | L | | | | L | L |
| Hail | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flash Flooding | | | | | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Extreme Heat | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fog (Overnight) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wildfire | M | M | M | L | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Rip Currents | H | H | L | H | H | L | | H | L | H |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation | 12.12 ft. (2.02 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal) | | | | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 431 (-19) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | | | | |



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Marginal Level 1 | Isolated flash floods possible. <i>Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.</i> |
| Slight Level 2 | Scattered flash floods possible. <i>Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.</i> |
| Moderate Level 3 | Numerous flash floods likely. <i>Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.</i> |
| High Level 4 | Widespread flash floods expected. <i>Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.</i> |



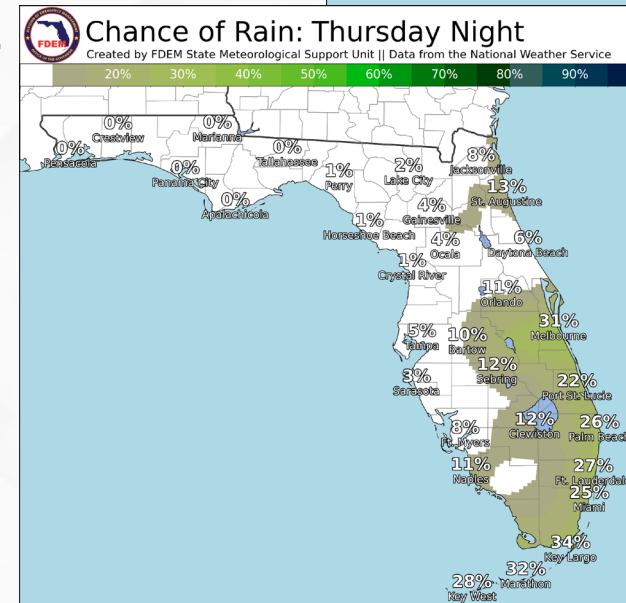
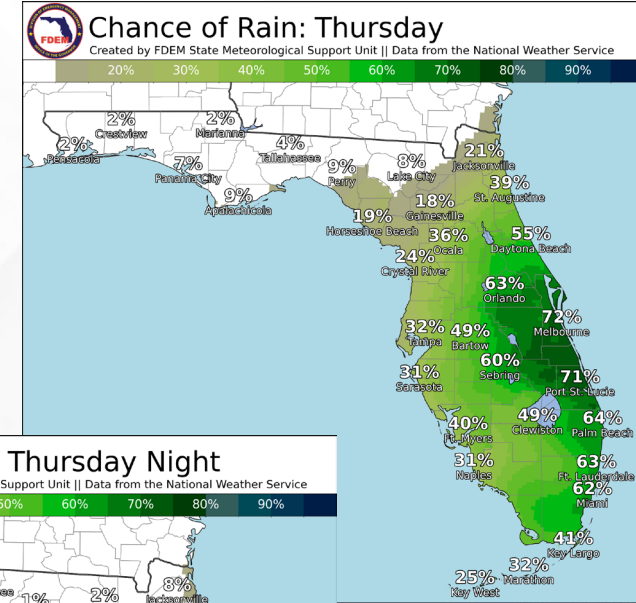
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms are ongoing across East-Central Florida this morning as northeasterly winds continue to send rounds of activity onshore. Additional scattered activity is expected to develop and push inland across the Peninsula this afternoon (40-70% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the coast of East-Central and Southeast Florida where additional rainfall on saturated soils may lead to **localized flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. Rainfall totals will generally remain between 1-2" along the I-95 corridor today, though localized amounts **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out. A mostly dry day is expected throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend.

Windy conditions will persist across East-Central Florida today, with gusts **upwards of 30-35 mph** expected and a **Wind Advisory** is in effect along the immediate coast. Breezy winds with **gusts of 25-30 mph** will spread across the remainder of the state today. Relative humidities will **approach critical thresholds (35-40%)** across the Panhandle and Big Bend this afternoon which will encourage **elevated wildfire conditions**, especially given the ongoing drought. High temperatures will remain cooler in the lower to middle 70s across Northeast and East-Central Florida today, with upper 70s to lower 80s elsewhere across the state.

Moisture will finally begin to pull away from Florida overnight, with just a few light showers lingering across Southeast Florida (20-30% chance of rain). Dry conditions will prevail elsewhere throughout the state. Lows will fall into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida, lower to middle 60s in Central Florida, and middle 60s to lower 70s in South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy to windy conditions and high surf will bring a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** to all East Coast and Panhandle beaches today. A low risk is expected for all West Coast beaches. 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 **8-12'** are expected for all First Coast to Treasure Coast beaches and a **High Surf Advisory** is in effect. Waves will be slightly lower across Southeast Florida beaches, though still reach the **5-8'** range. Panhandle beaches will also see increased wave action today, with surf nearing **4-6'** 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. Instances of **minor beach erosion** cannot be ruled out along the East Coast along vulnerable beaches near and during times of high tide.

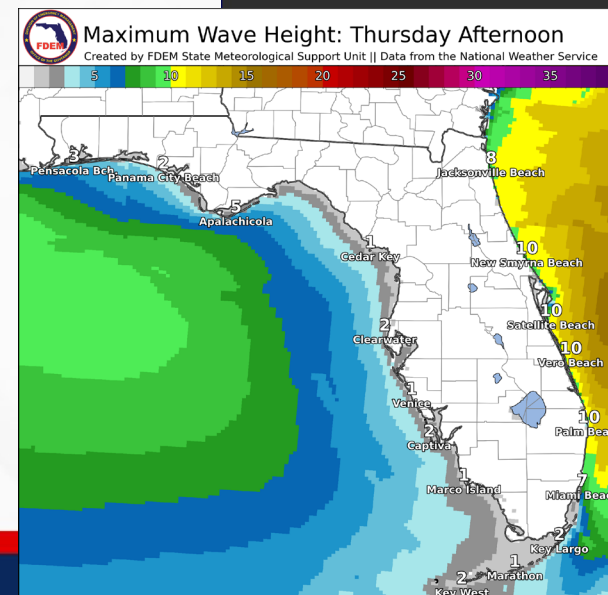
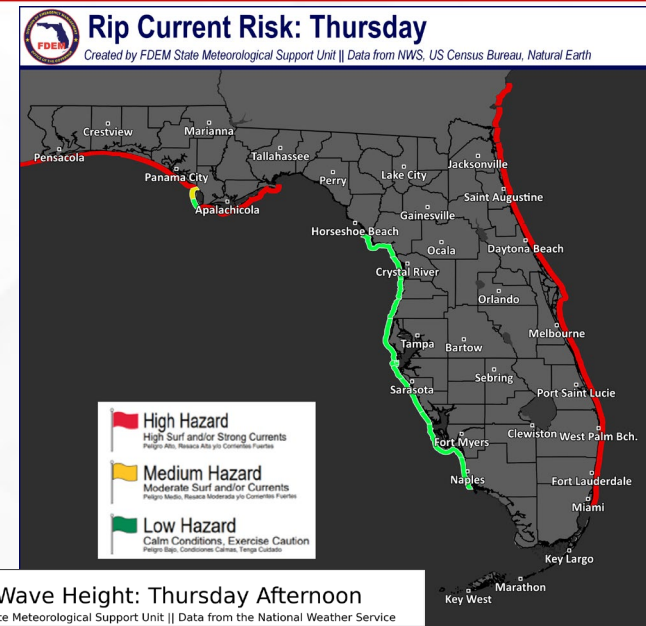
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Monroe County (valid 4/3/26).

Coastal Flooding: Persistent strong onshore winds have backed up water levels throughout tidal portions of the St. Johns River. A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect for the middle St. Johns River basin until 11:00 AM this morning for **nuisance tidal flooding** during this morning's high tide. Tidal levels may reach upwards of 1.5-2 feet above normally dry ground. A **Coastal Flood Statement** is in effect for the Middle and Upper Florida Keys through late tonight for **minor saltwater flooding** of low elevation streets and lots.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **Marginal Risk (level 1 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. 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.weather.gov/river).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.12 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.02 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



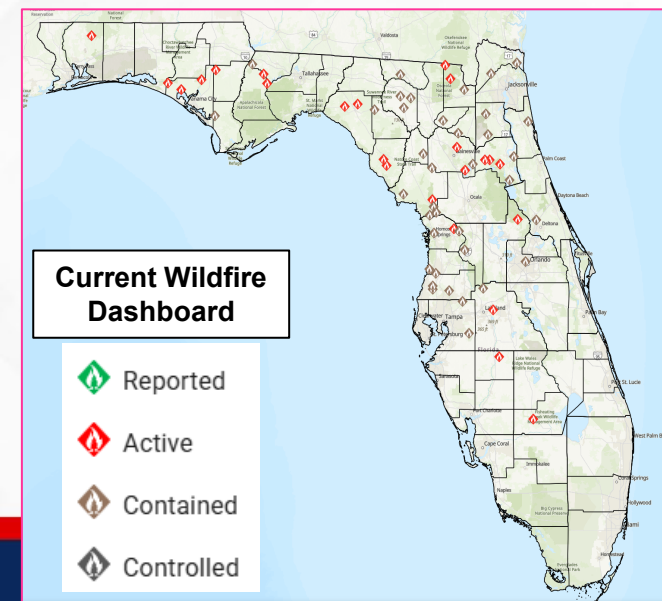
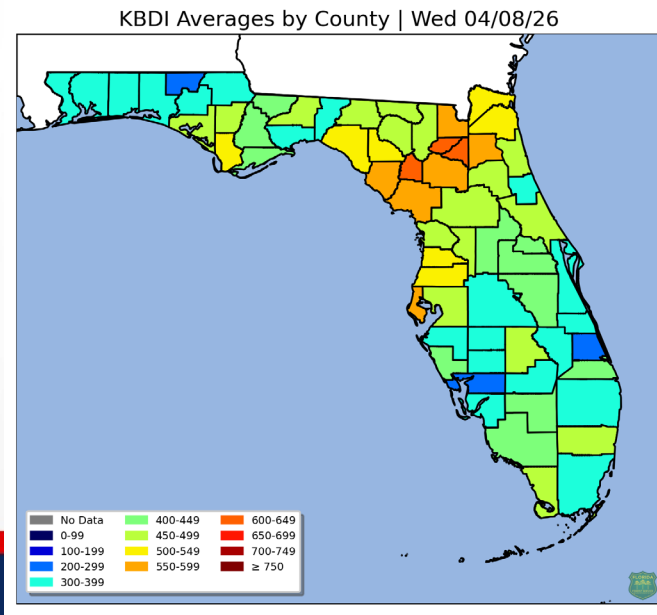
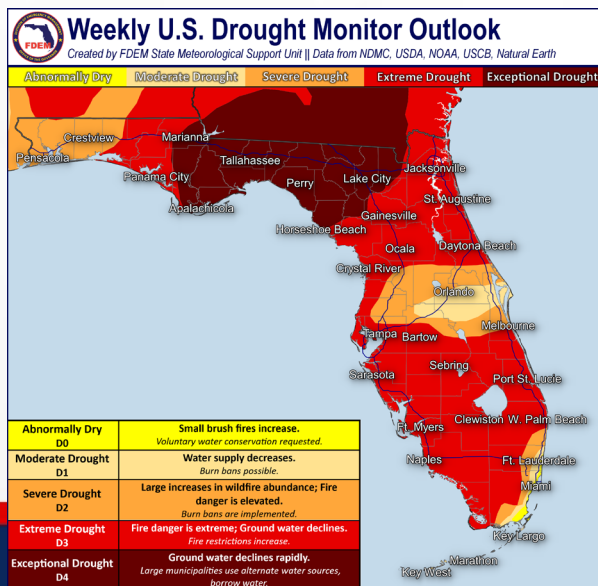


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout the Peninsula today as strong northeasterly winds help to focus abundant moisture throughout the Peninsula. Relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds here, however breezy to windy conditions are expected. Winds will gust between **25-35 mph** for most locations throughout the Peninsula, however coastal locations of East-Central Florida may gust **upwards of 35-40 mph** and a **Wind Advisory** is in effect through this afternoon. These windy conditions, along with isolated 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 56 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5,654 acres.

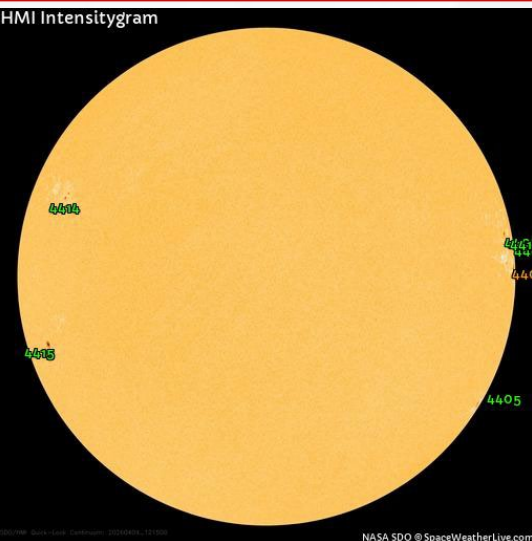
Drought (4/9/26): Although it was a rather wet start to the week across much of the Florida Peninsula, very little improvements were introduced on this week's Drought Monitor update. A general 1-3" of rainfall fell throughout Central and South Florida since last update, with some localized areas picking up 5-8" of rainfall, especially along the immediate East Coast. These rainfall totals have improved some of the short-term drought indicators, such as KBDI and 30-60 day rainfall departures, though were not enough to provide real relief to the long-term drought and seriously dry soil moisture conditions. An **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place throughout much of South Florida, the exception being the immediate Southeast coastline where a general **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** are found. There were no additional changes throughout Central Florida where a **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** remains along the I-4 corridor and through the Orlando metropolitan area and **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** elsewhere. Throughout North Florida, **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** expanded to include the remainder of the Big Bend region and much of the Suwannee River Valley. Although there were some light rain totals throughout North Florida, it was only in very localized pockets that exceeded 2"+. Rainfall departures over the past 90 to 120 days (3-4 months) or longer are really driving the persistent drought throughout North Florida. In fact, since September 1 (8 months ago), Tallahassee has found itself in a rainfall deficit nearly 20 inches below normal! About 11 inches of rain has been tallied up since Sept 1 2025 in Tallahassee, which is 5 inches below the previous record over a similar stretch. Record low streamflows and bone dry soils/grounds have resulted in the additional exceptional drought expansion this week. Looking ahead, unfortunately a very dry and warm stretch of weather is expected through at least the next week as high pressure settles overhead and allows for mostly sunny skies. Additional drought expansion is expected throughout North Florida on next week's update, though there could be some drought reduction throughout Central and South Florida given lots of rainfall since the Tuesday cutoff time for this week's update.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **431 (-19)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **16** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

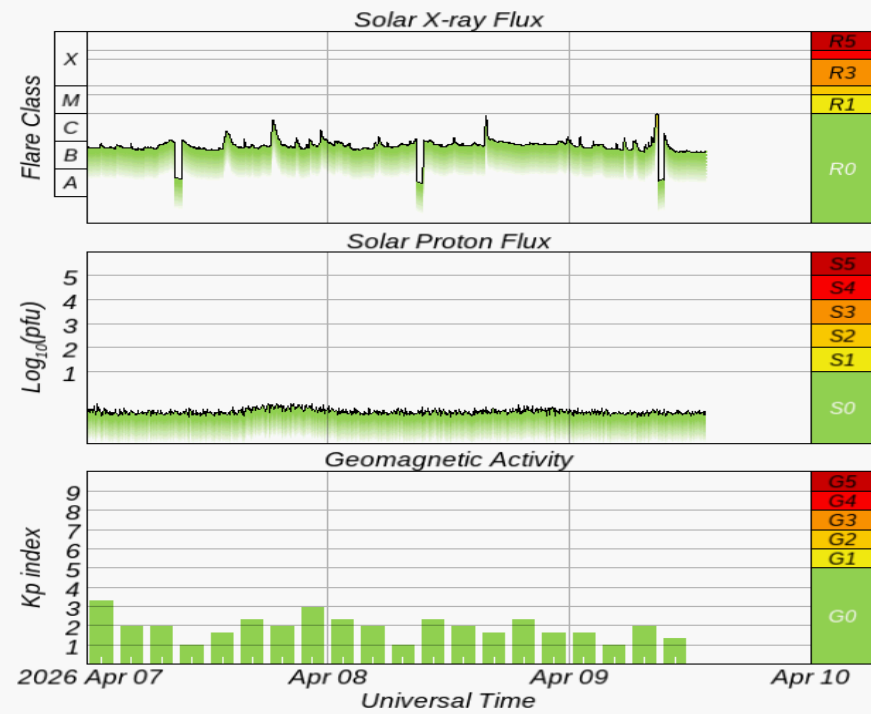
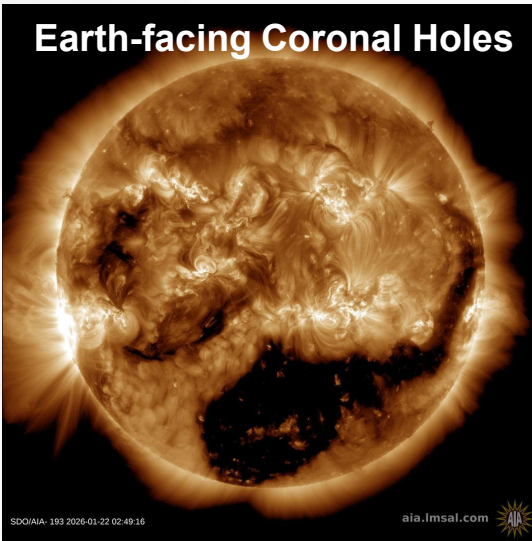




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| M-class: 35% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | M1 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 10% | Radiation Storm: None | R1 Radio Blackout |

| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast | |
|---|--|
| 4/9 | 4/10 |
| Max Kp= 3 (G0) | Max Kp= 5 (G1) |
| Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 25% 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 and a slight chance for a significant (X-class) solar flare, primarily driven by sunspot region #4409 and #4414. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any strong solar flare activity. The solar wind environment will return to nominal conditions through today before becoming enhanced again on Friday due to recurrent coronal hole influences. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at mostly quiet levels with isolated unsettled levels through today. The arrival of the coronal hole influences will bring a return of Minor (G1) storming conditions by 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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