



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, April 15, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@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	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	Brandon Gore	(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	Bay	Statewide Exercise
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon, Jackson	Statewide Exercise
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafayette, Taylor, Levy	Statewide Exercise
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	JIA Airport Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Statewide Exercise
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Sheriff Aviation Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	St. Lucie, Indian River	Statewide Exercise
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Collier	Newman Drive Wildfire Response
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Meeting

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	Jackson	State EX
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Levy	State EX
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	State EX/JIA Tabletop
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	State EX
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	State EX
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Not Available	Leave
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	State EX/FIFA Full Scale Exercise

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2 / Justin Lazzara

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Tenisha Taylor

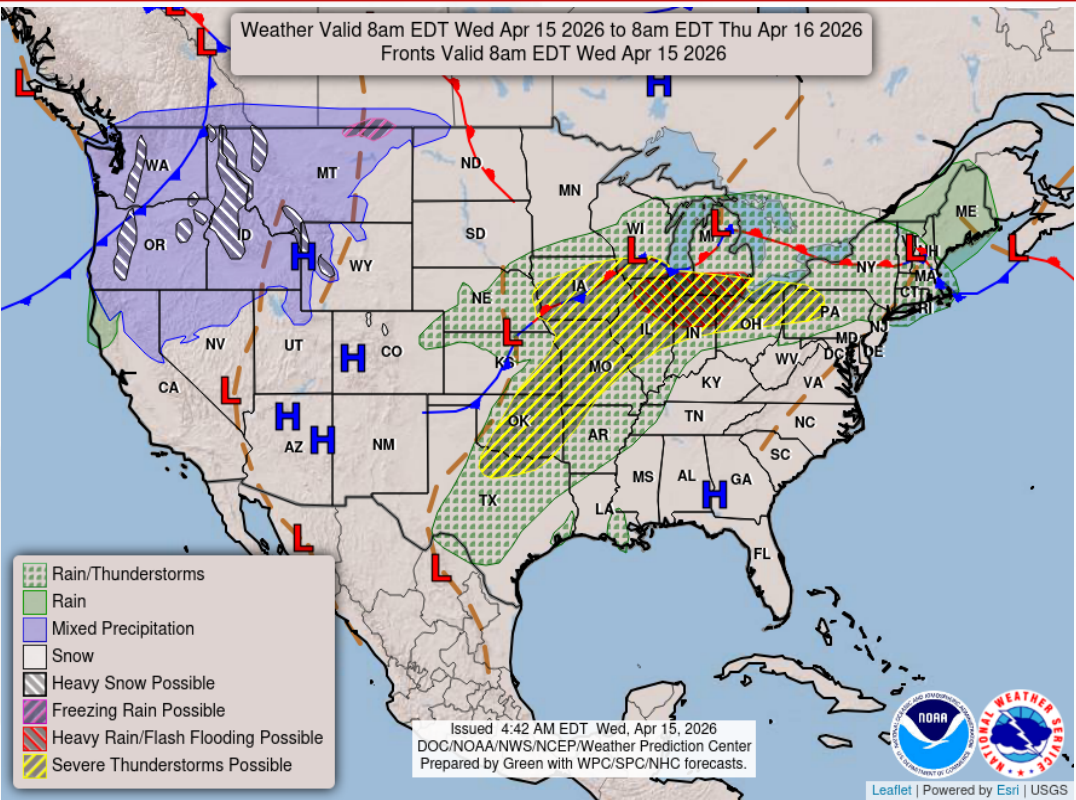
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Tenisha Taylor

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Tenisha Taylor

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

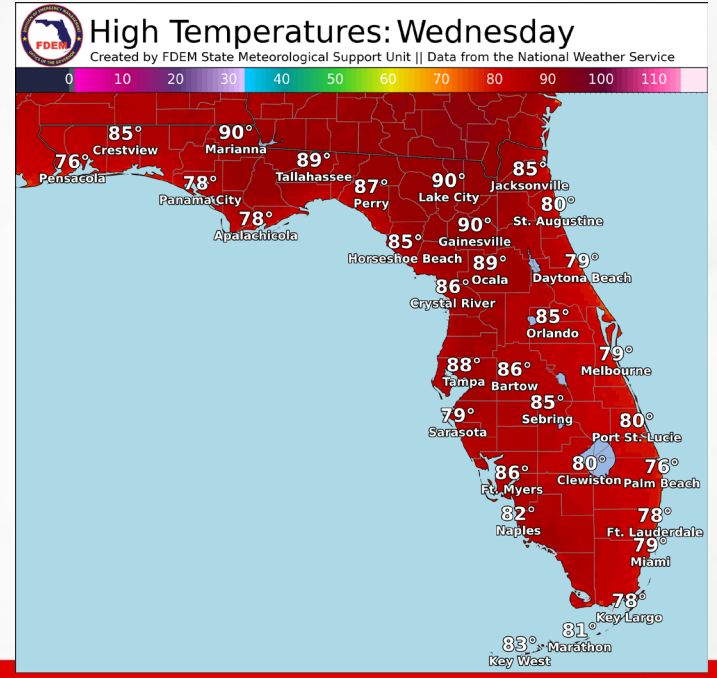
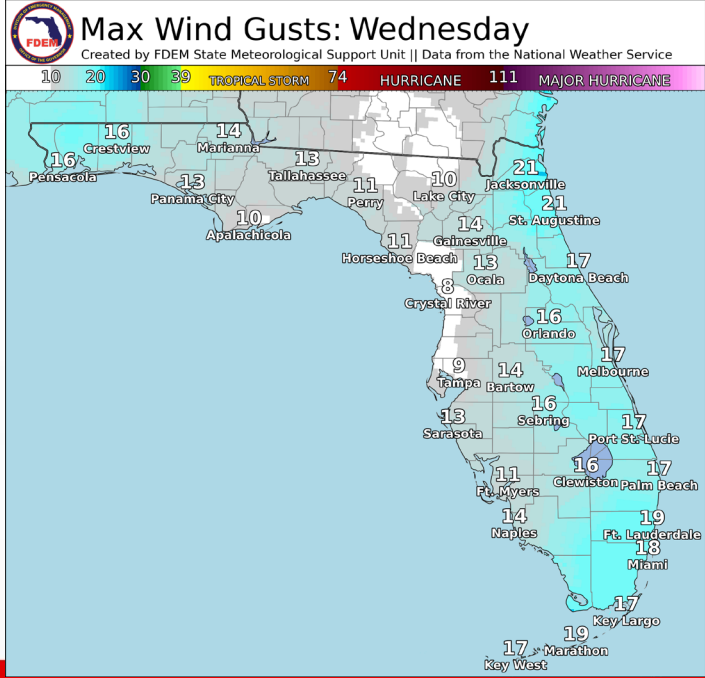


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L		
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	L	M	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.07 ft. (1.94 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	444 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





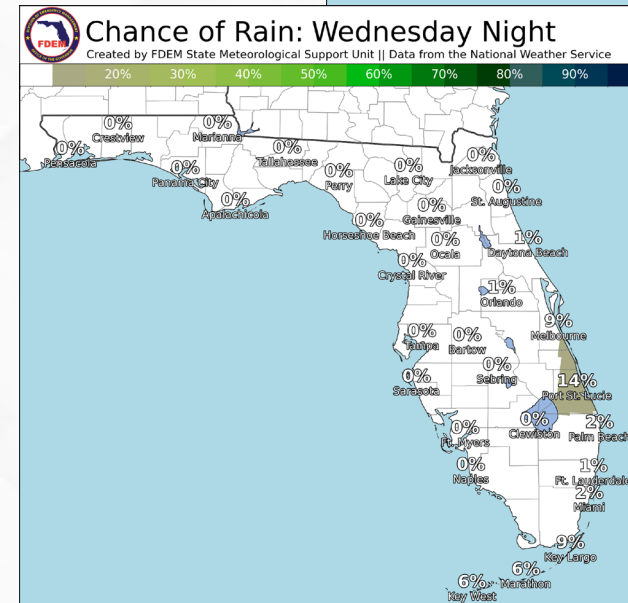
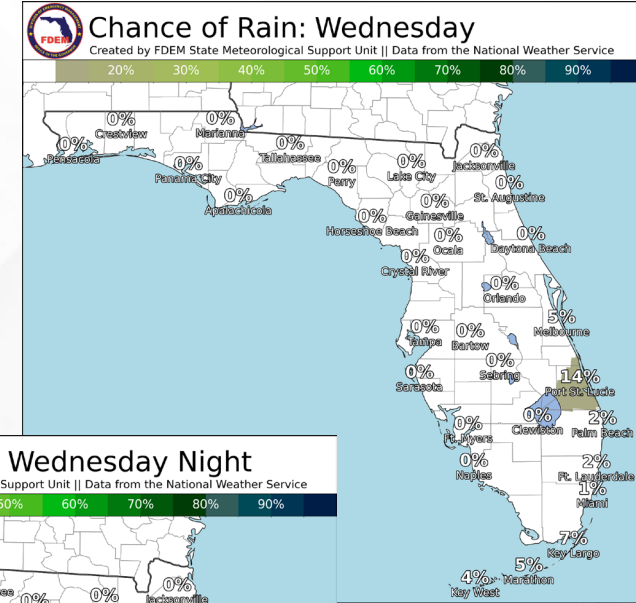
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Dense Fog Advisories are in effect across the Panhandle this morning and will remain in effect until mid-morning as the fog slowly burns off after sunrise. Otherwise, yet another sunny and dry day is expected statewide today with high-pressure firmly anchored across the Gulf states.

Relative humidities will dip to **near or below critical thresholds (25-35%)** throughout interior portions of the Panhandle and Northeast Florida this afternoon. **Elevated wildfire conditions** are likely to persist given these dry conditions and ongoing **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)**. Winds will finally begin to subside across the Peninsula today, though may still gust **upwards of 20 mph** across the eastern Peninsula. Any active wildfires may experience **blowing smoke** as a result. Highs will climb well into the middle 80s to lower 90s across interior portions of the state, with the coastal Panhandle and East Coast remaining a few degrees cooler.

Clear and calm conditions will prevail overnight. Low temperatures will dip into the middle to upper 50s in North Florida, upper 50s to middle 60s in Central Florida, and lower 60s to lower 70s in South Florida. Areas of **patchy dense fog** are expected to develop throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend tonight, which may prompt additional **Dense Fog Advisories** as warranted. Fog development near active wildfires can result in significantly reduced visibilities.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Beach conditions will begin to relax across the Panhandle and Northeast Florida today where a **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected. A **high risk for rip currents** is still expected to persist for all other East Coast beaches. A low risk is outlooked along all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current City Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: The sea state will continue to diminish today along the East Coast with surf of **2-4'** expected for all beaches. A few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out for the Treasure Coast. Waves near 1-2' can be expected for all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today.

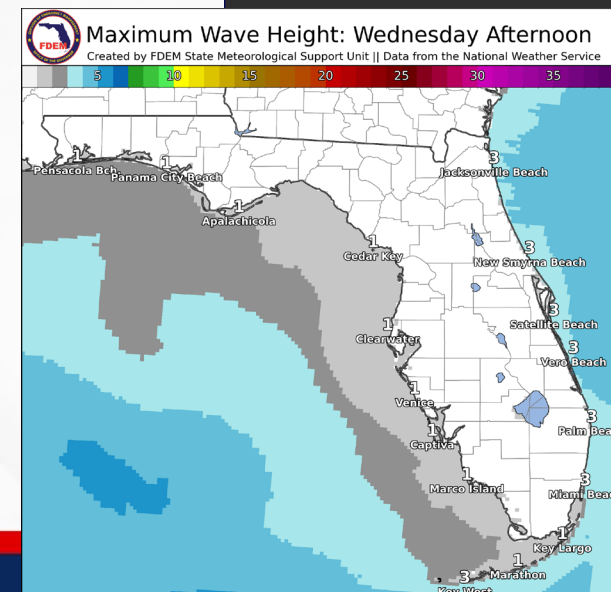
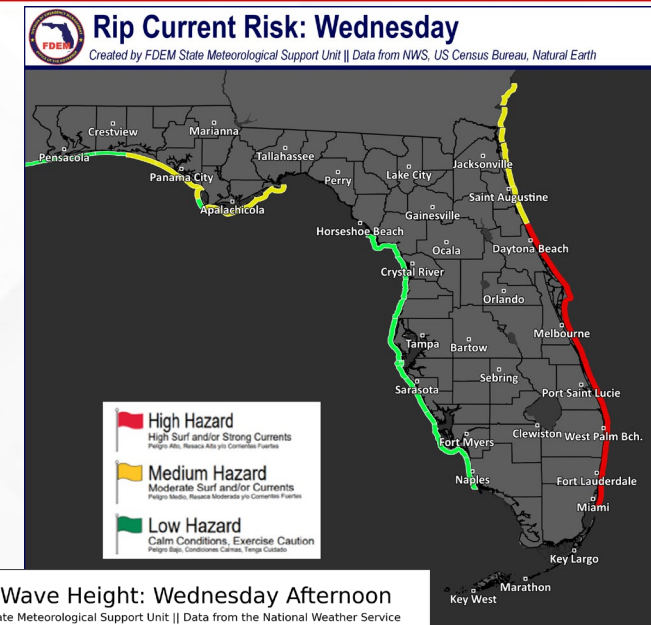
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Bay and Gulf County (valid 4/10/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today across Florida.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.07 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.



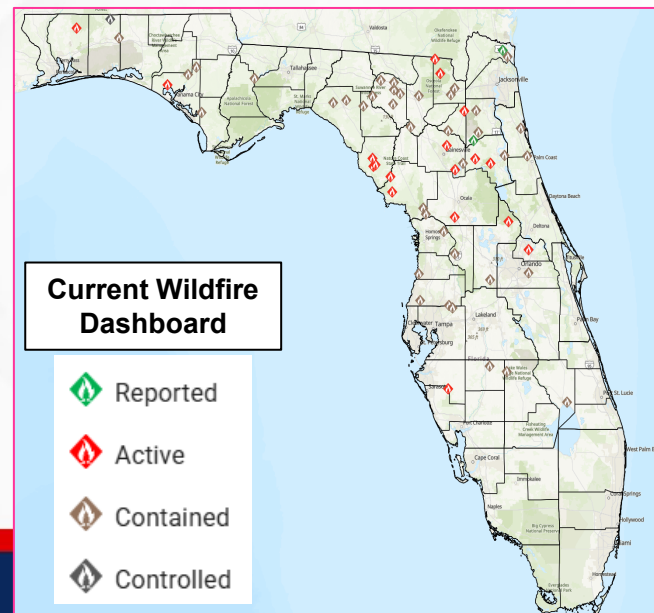
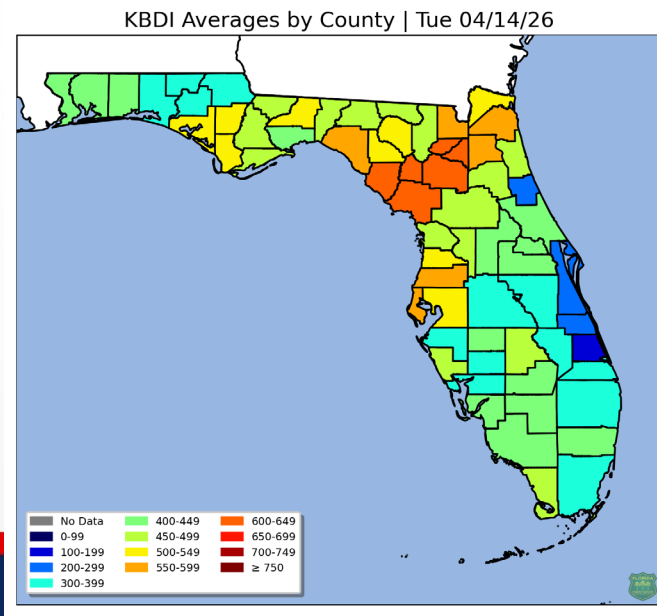
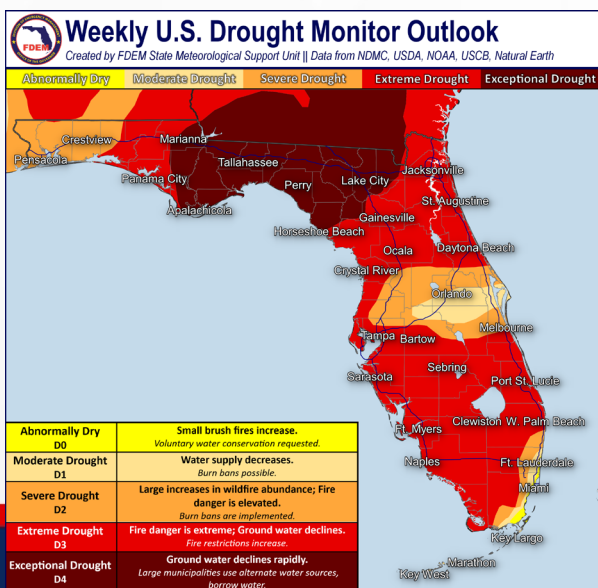


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A dry airmass will remain entrenched across much of the state as high pressure settles overhead. A mostly sunny and dry day is on tap throughout the Sunshine State. Relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds throughout the eastern Peninsula, though will reach **near critical thresholds (25-40%)** across interior North and West-Central Florida. Given the ongoing **extreme** to **exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)**, **elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected today. Stronger winds will reside across the eastern Peninsula today, with easterly to east-northeasterly gusts of **20-25 mph** expected. These winds may promote **blowing smoke** of any active wildfires, including the Newman Dr Wildfire in Naples. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop tonight across Northeast Florida and the western Panhandle, some of which could become **locally dense**. *Areas of fog may further reduce visibilities in areas experiencing active wildfire smoke.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 63 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,381 acres.

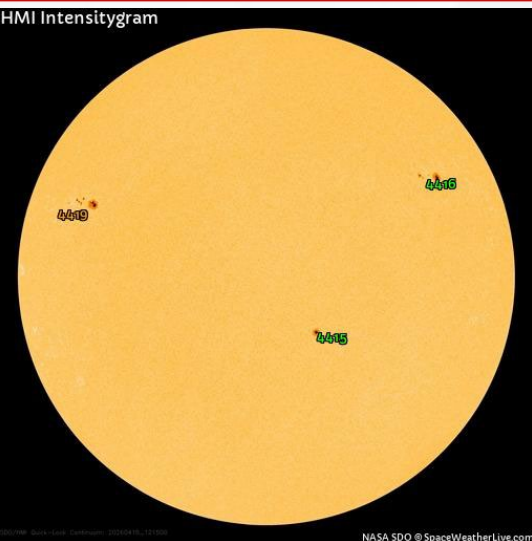
Drought (4/9/26): Although it was a rather wet start to the week across much of the Florida Peninsula, very little improvements were introduced on this week's Drought Monitor update. A general 1-3" of rainfall fell throughout Central and South Florida since last update, with some localized areas picking 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 **444 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **21** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

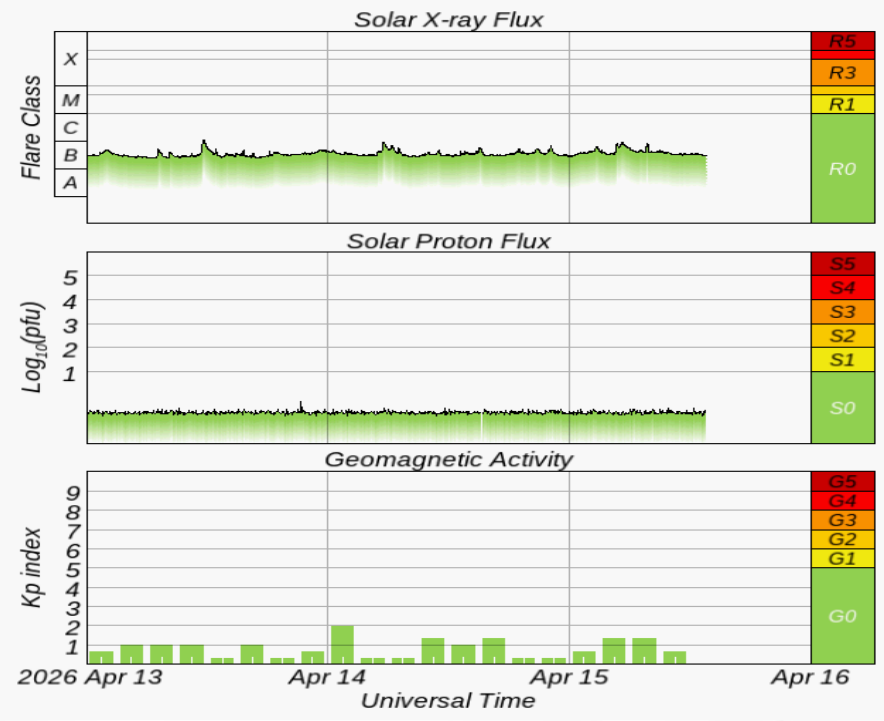
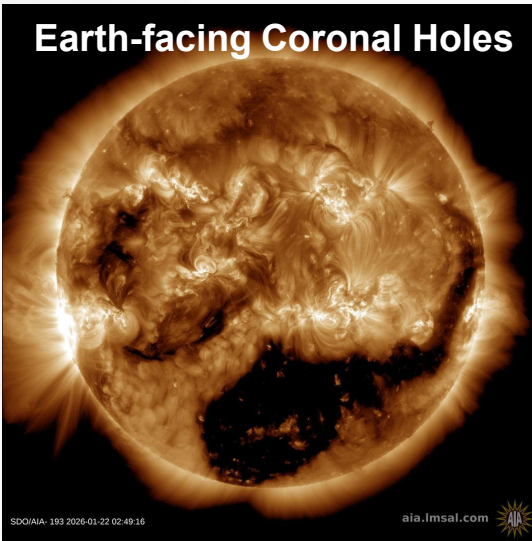




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	B9 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/15	4/16
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is likely to be at low to very low levels with only a slight chance for strong (M-class) solar flares. Should a strong solar flare develop, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany. The solar wind environment will remain mostly nominal through Thursday before recurrent coronal hole influences return on Friday. The geomagnetic field may reach periods of unsettled to active levels on Friday as a result. 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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