



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Thursday, April 16, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@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	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	Santa Rosa	County EM Meeting/NWS Mtg/LMS Meeting/Response Coordinators Mtg
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Franklin	EM Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Taylor, Madison	Fire Dept Meeting / County EM Visits / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Response Coordinators Meeting / G-300 Course Instruction Prep
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	County Hurricane Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	County Em Partners Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6  
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton / Santa Rosa	Admin Duties / LMS
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Internal Meeting / Admin Duties
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Bradford	LMS Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Internal Stakeholders
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Instructing FL Courses
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hillsborough	EM Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Not Available	Leave
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	Emergency Coordinating Council General Meeting

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

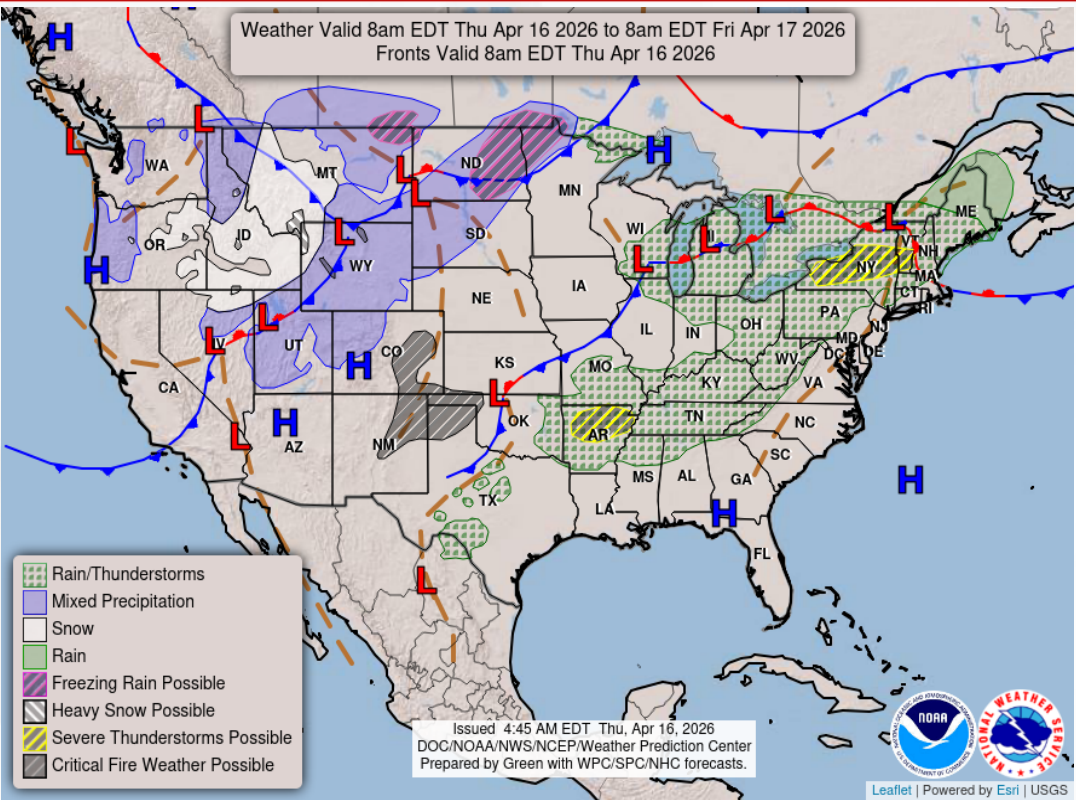
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Taniesha Taylor

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

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

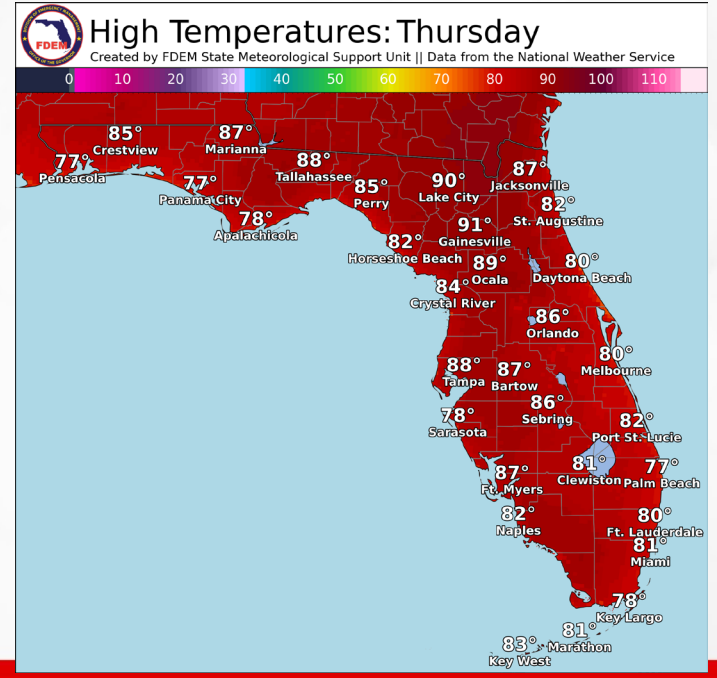
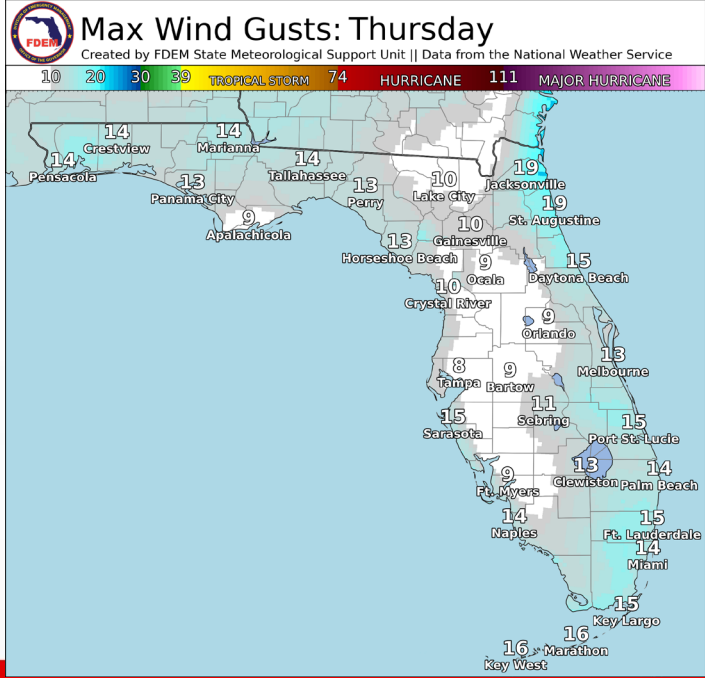


# Meteorology Summary



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	12.06 ft. (1.93 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	453 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





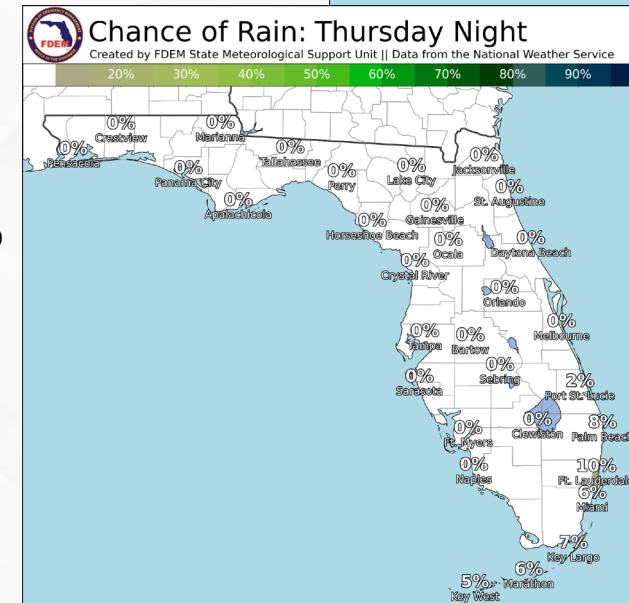
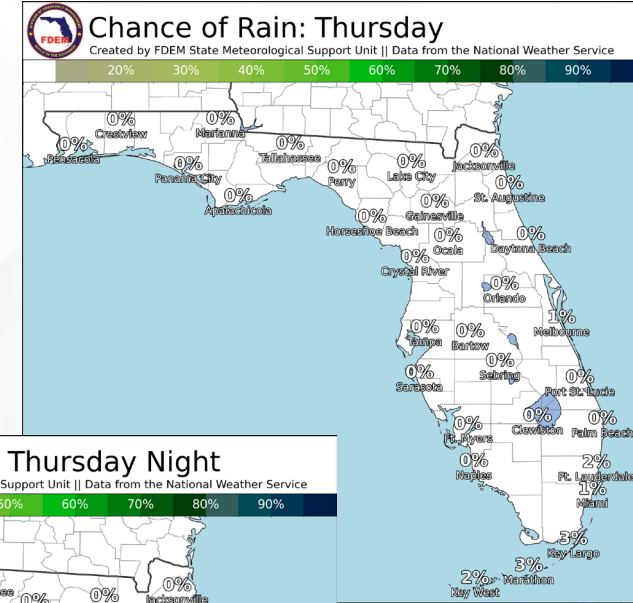
# Meteorology Summary

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. Chances of rain will remain near zero statewide.

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 are expected to remain on the lighter side throughout much of the state today, though may gust upwards of 15-20 mph along the East Coast. 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 middle 60s to lower 70s in South Florida. Areas of **patchy dense fog** are expected to develop throughout North and Central Florida 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 Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://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. Waves near 1-2' can be expected for all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today.

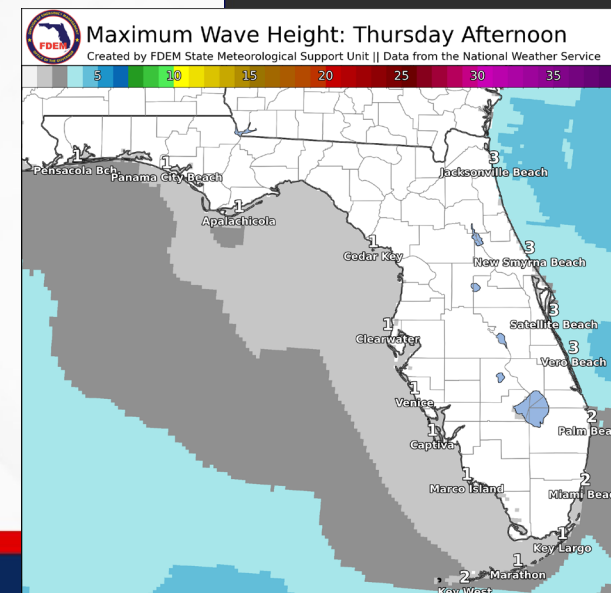
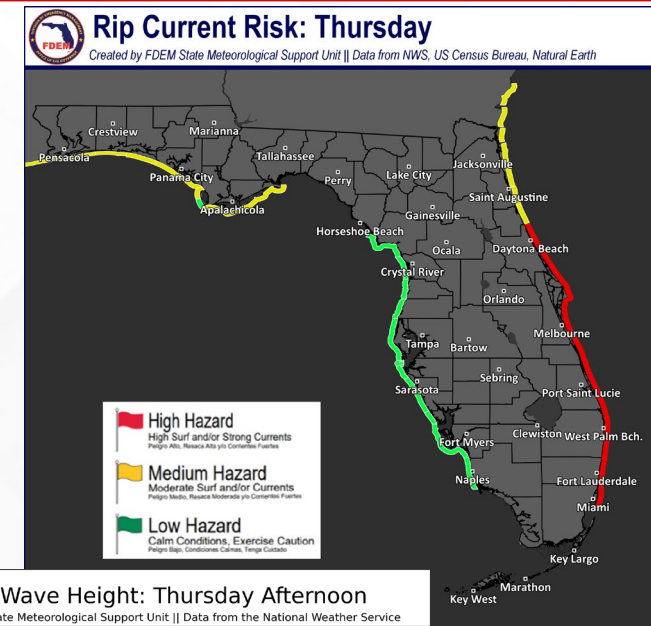
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Bay and Gulf County (valid 4/10/26).

**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 12.06 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.93 feet below normal for this time of year.



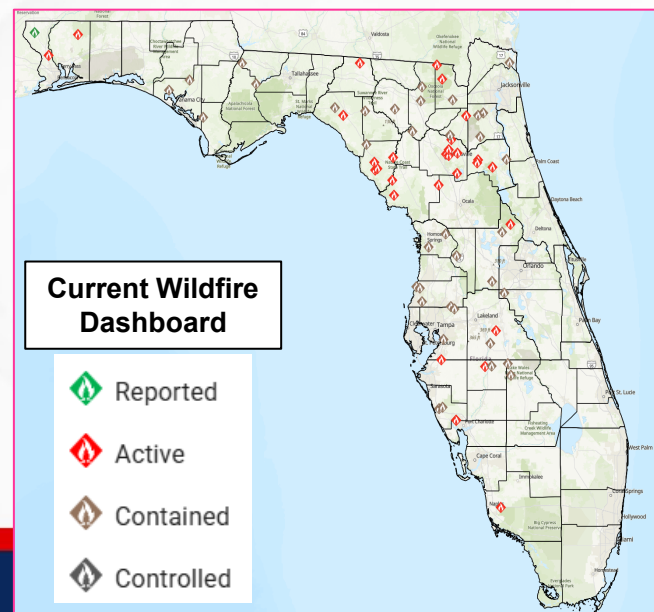
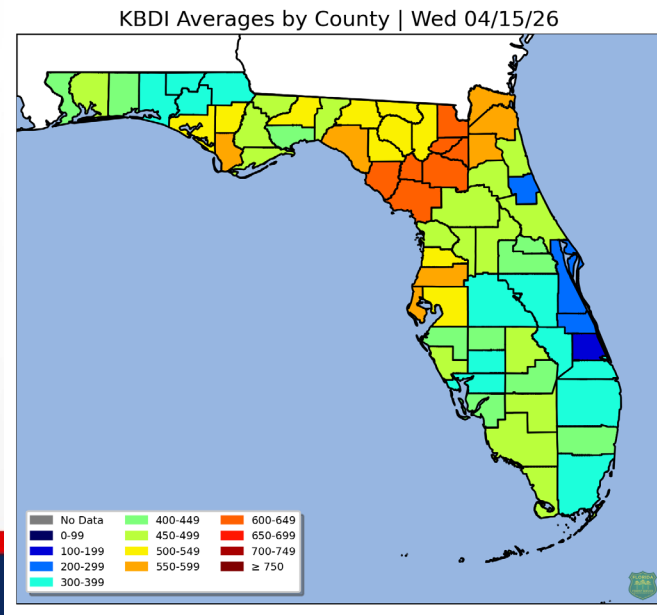
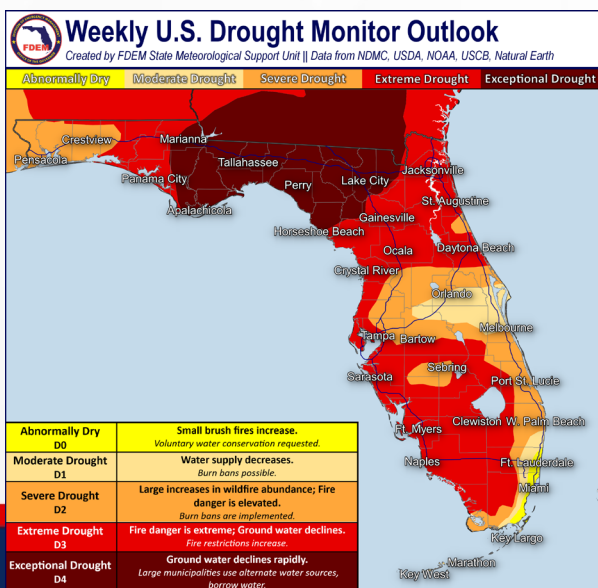


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** A dry airmass will remain entrenched across much of the state as high pressure anchors 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 **15-25 mph** expected. These winds may promote **blowing smoke** of any active wildfires. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop tonight across North and Central Florida, 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 69 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,813 acres.

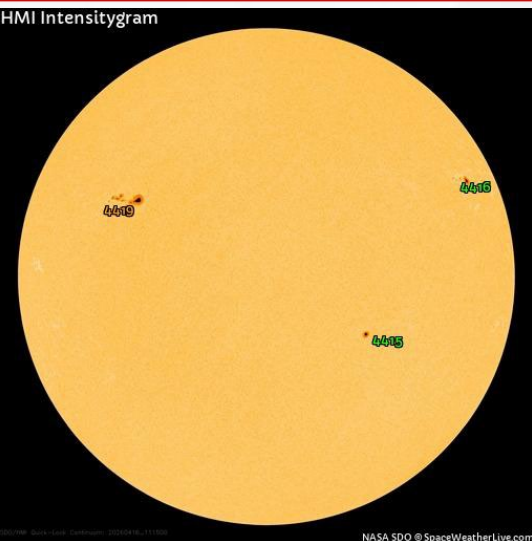
**Drought (4/16/26):** Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to South and Central Florida. Rainfall totals across coastal East-Central Florida during the middle of last week added up to 3-6", with some localized areas exceeding 6". Additionally, across Southeast Florida, a general 1-3" of rainfall was observed with localized amounts upwards of 5". This has resulted in the extreme drought being reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** across the Treasure Coast and much of the severe drought along the southeast coast reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Across interior South-Central Florida, a pocket of locally heavier rainfall over Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands counties has brought a return of a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. Much of the I-4 corridor saw rainfall amounts between 0.5-2", which was enough for some severe drought across the Space Coast to be reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Otherwise, there were no observed changes on this week's update across Southwest or West-Central Florida where an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place. North Florida continues to experience the worst drought due to severe and record low precipitation deficits. An **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** is still observed throughout much of the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley with **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** elsewhere. The Big Bend region remains one of the hardest hit locations, such as Tallahassee that has neared a 20-inch rainfall deficit dating back to September 1, 2025 (about 8 months ago). This has resulted in extremely low streamflows within all river basins, streams, lakes, and ponds. Looking ahead, very dry and near record warm conditions over the past week will continue through at least the beginning of next week. This will result in additional drought expansion throughout much of North Florida, with potential for worsening drought across Central and South Florida. Additionally, a dry cold front will sweep through North Florida on Sunday and Monday, bringing increasing winds and low relative humidities which will further dry out sensitive fuels.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **453 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **24** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

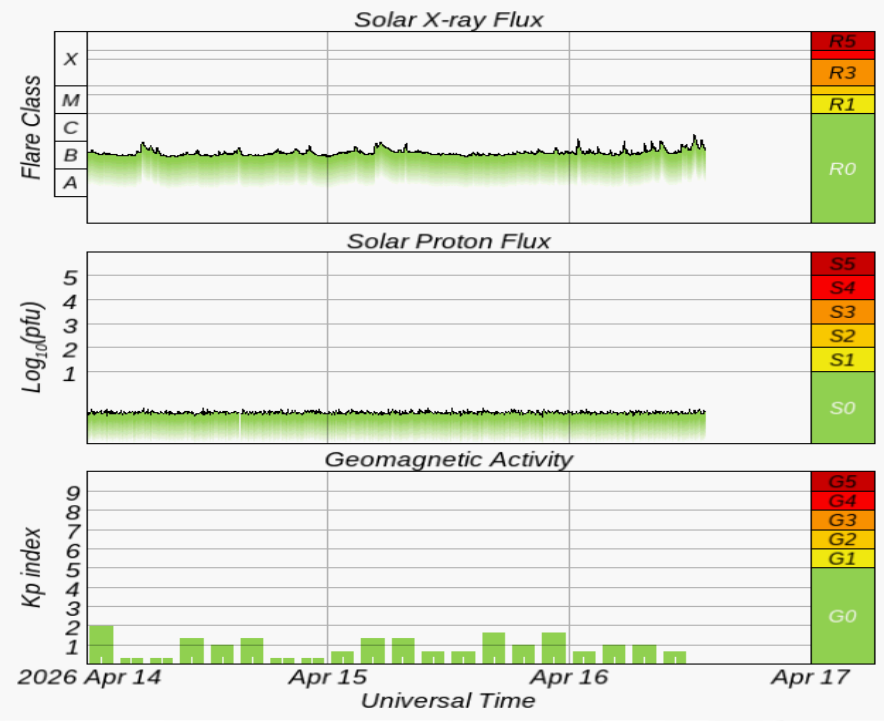
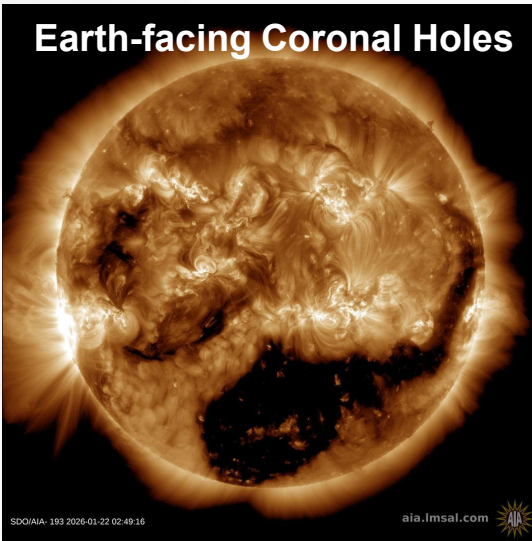




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/16	4/17
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily due to sunspot region #4419. The solar wind is expected to become enhanced by late Friday with the arrival of recurrent coronal hole influences, of which will cause unsettled to active geomagnetic storming periods with Minor to Moderate (G1-G2) periods likely. Unsettled to Moderate (G2) levels are expected to continue through Saturday. 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	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://floridadisaster.org">https://floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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