



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, April 17, 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	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Gadsden	Office Admin / Response & Finance Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Office Admin / Response & Finance Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon, Madison	HQ Visit / County EM Visit / Response & Finance Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	Jax Ready Fest
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin / Response & Finance Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas	County Hurricane Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Polk	Apparel Pick up / Office Admin / Response & Fincance Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin / Response & Finance Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Response & Finance 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	Washington	EM Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	LMS Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Duval	Jax Ready Fest
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	Jax Ready Fest
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Duval	Jax Ready Fest
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	TTX
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	Miami-Dade	Admin Duties

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

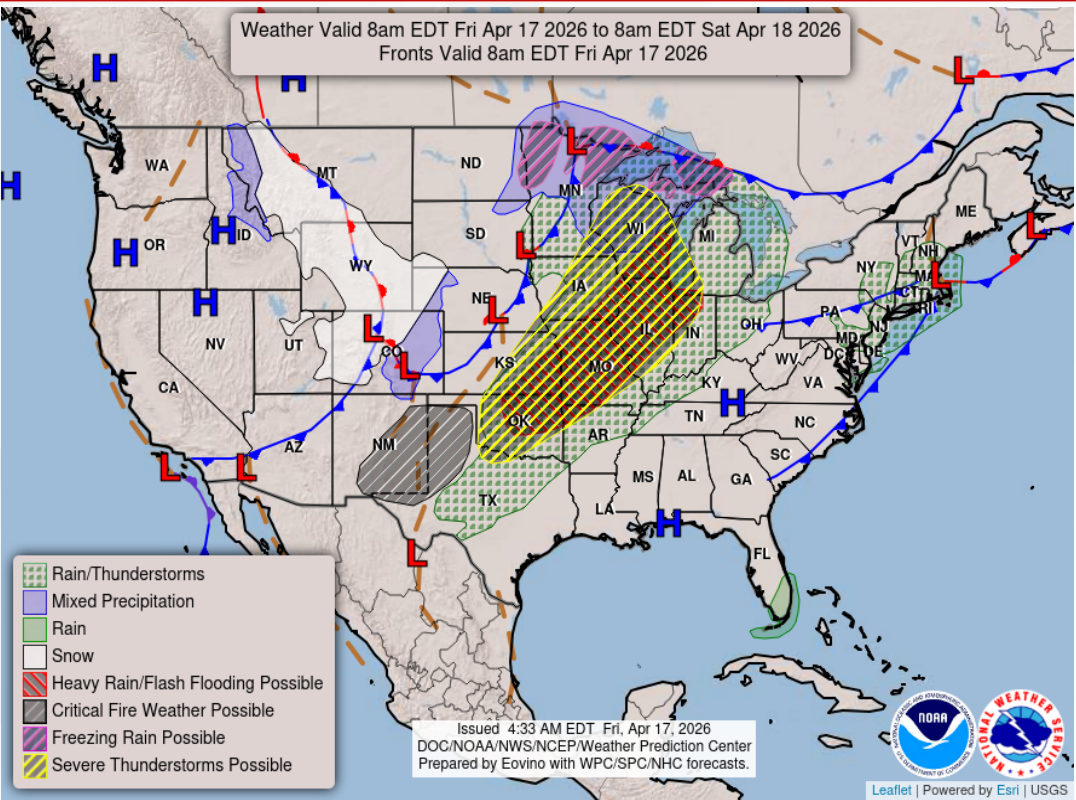
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Taniesha Taylor

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

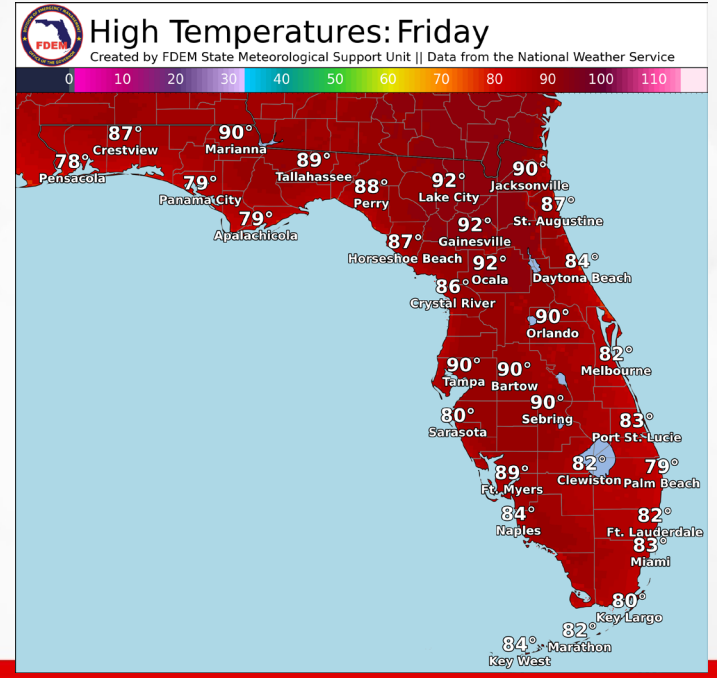
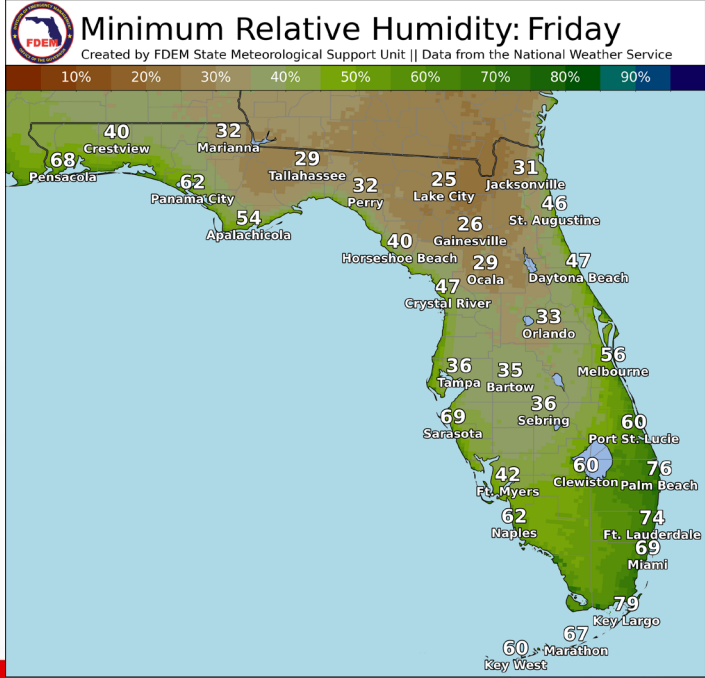


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat				L	L					
Fog (Overnight)	M	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	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.03 ft. (1.94 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	461 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





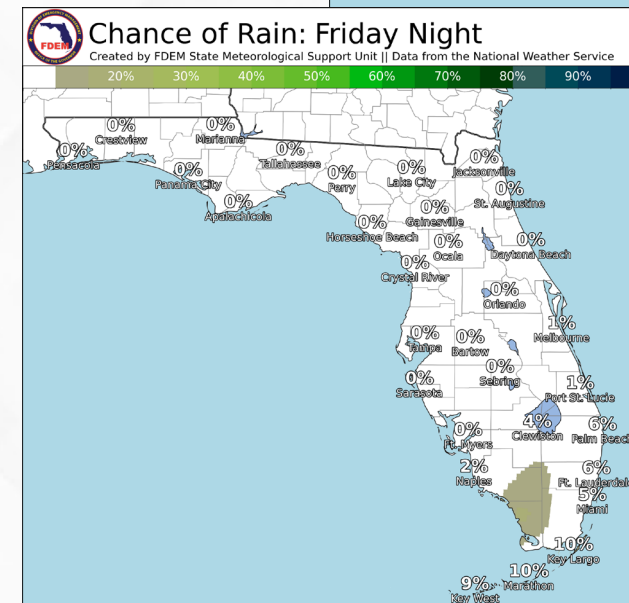
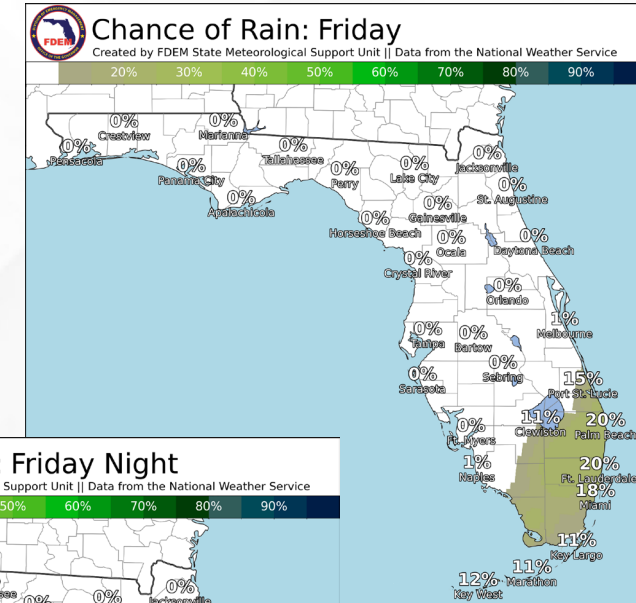
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Any areas of **patchy fog** throughout North and Central Florida this morning will dissipate by mid-morning as the sun rises. 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, the exception being coastal Southeast Florida where an isolated sprinkle or brief shower cannot be ruled out (15-20% chance of rain).

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 upper 80s to **middle 90s** across interior portions of the state, with the coastal Panhandle and East Coast remaining cooler in the 70s and lower 80s due to breezier onshore winds.

Clear and calm conditions will prevail overnight. Low temperatures will dip into the upper 50s to lower 60s in North Florida, middle to upper 60s in Central Florida, and upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop throughout North and Central Florida tonight, some of which could become **locally dense**. Fog development near active wildfires can result in significantly reduced visibilities.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Beach conditions will improve along the East Coast today with diminishing surf and calmer winds. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected for all East Coast and most Panhandle beaches today. A low risk is outlooked along all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: The sea state will continue to diminish today along the East Coast with surf of 2-3' expected for all beaches. Waves near 1' can be expected for all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today.

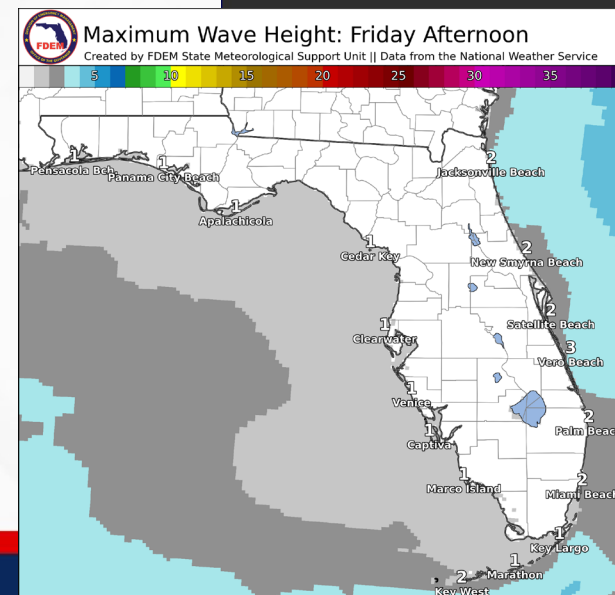
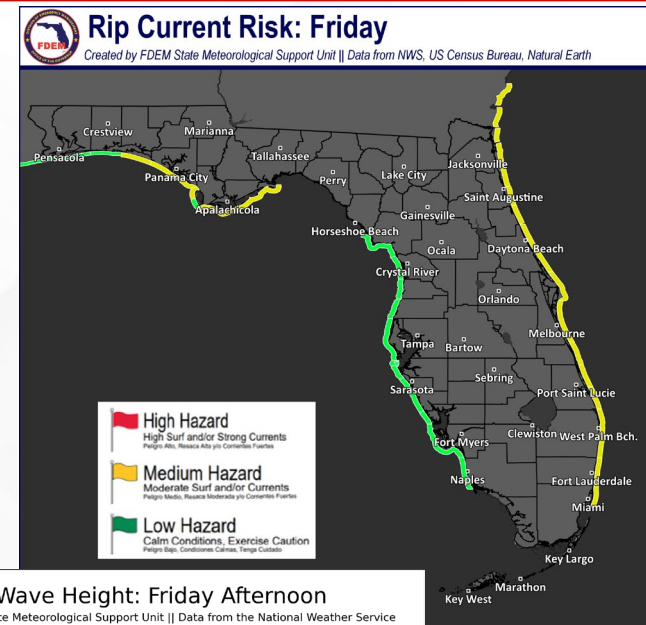
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Bay and Gulf County (valid 4/10/26).

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 12.03 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.



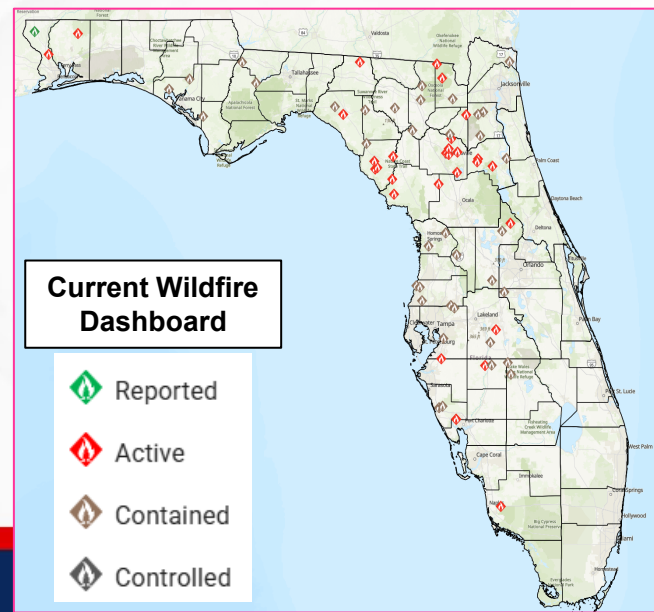
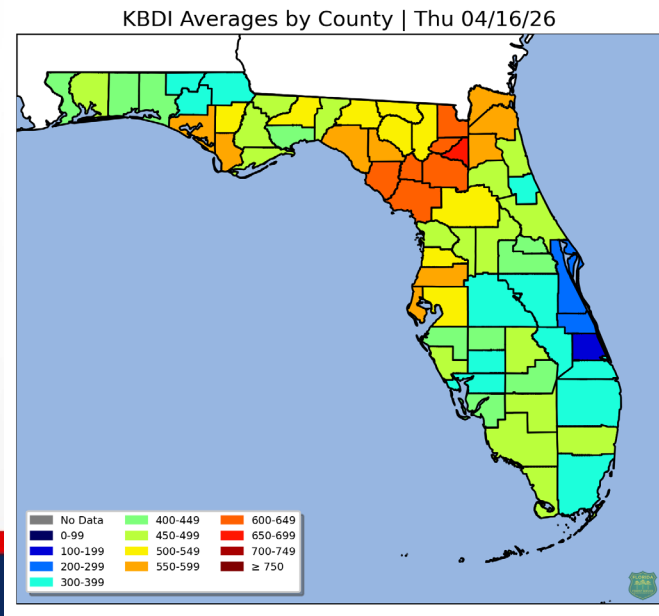
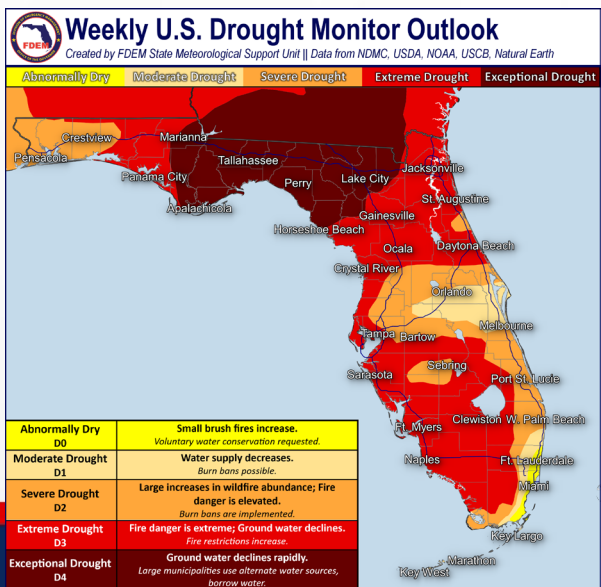


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A dry airmass will remain entrenched across much of the state as high pressure 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 85 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,744 acres.

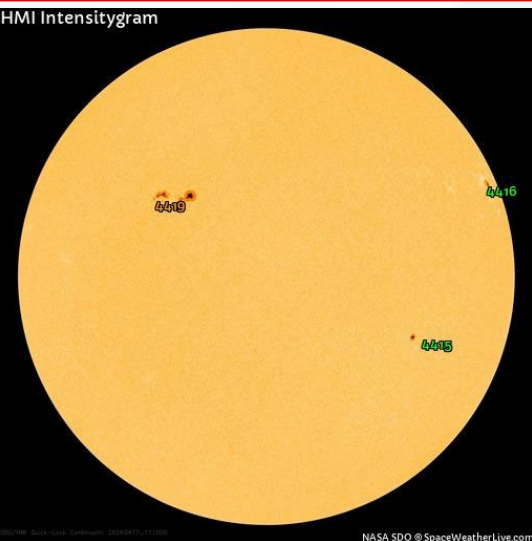
Drought (4/16/26): Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to South 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 **461 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **25** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

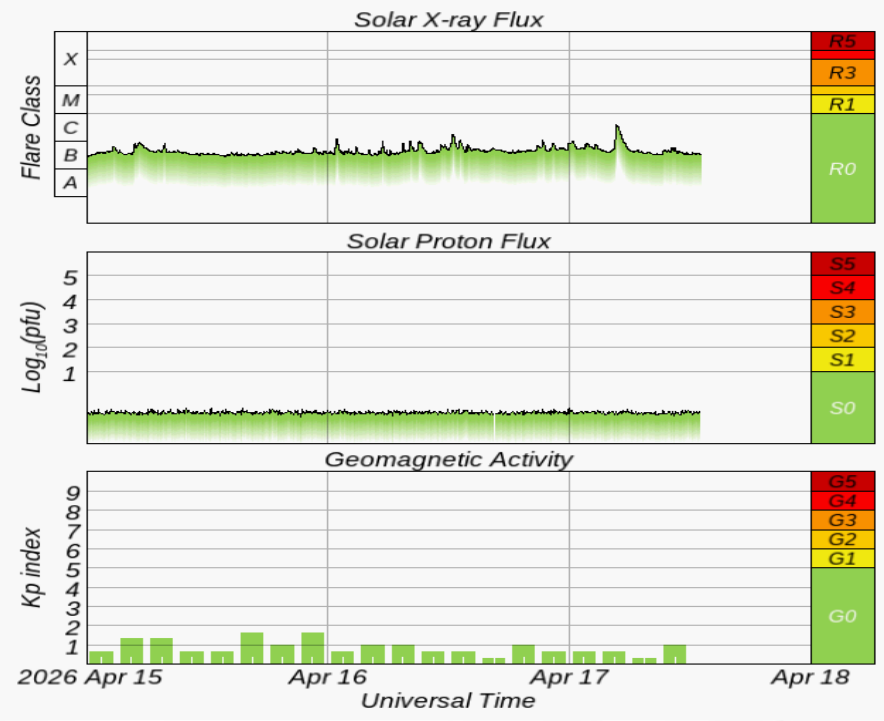
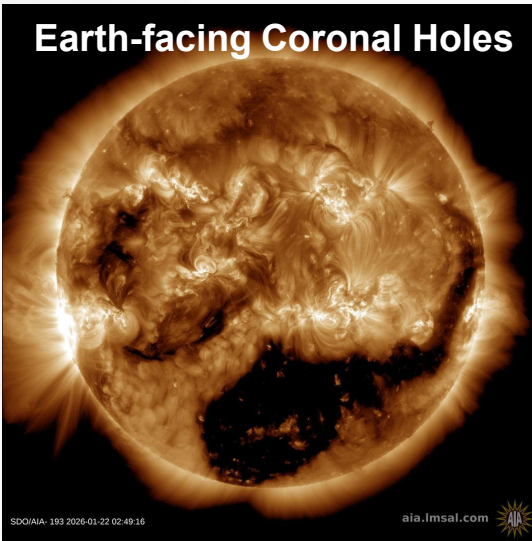




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: G2 Watch (4/17-4/18)	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
4/17		4/18
Max Kp= 6 (G2)		Max Kp= 6 (G2)
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 25%		Chance of minor activity = 40% 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 today 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
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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