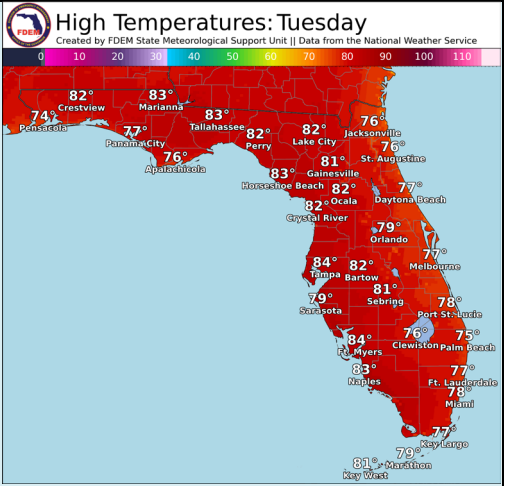
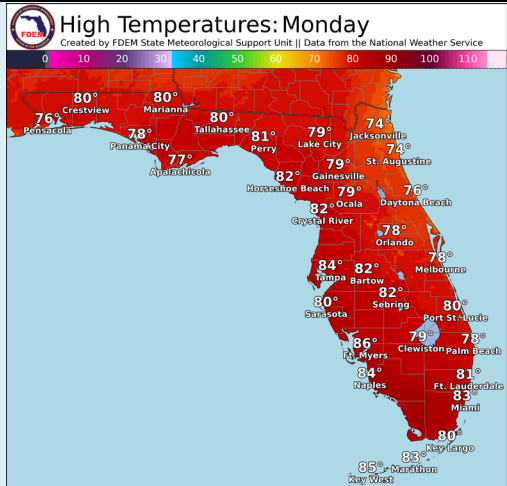
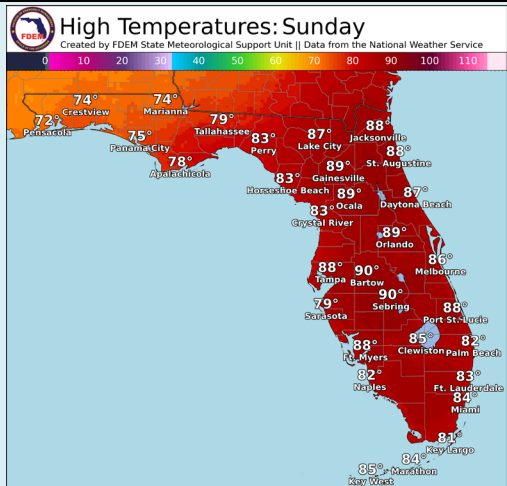


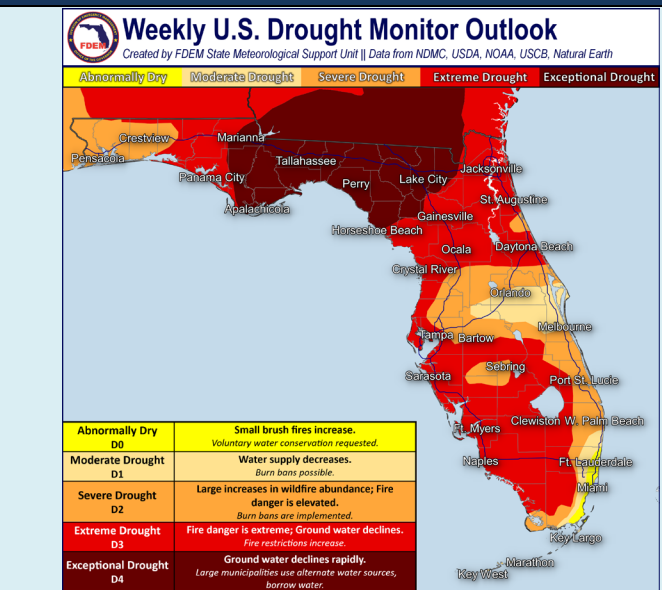
Friday, April 17, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

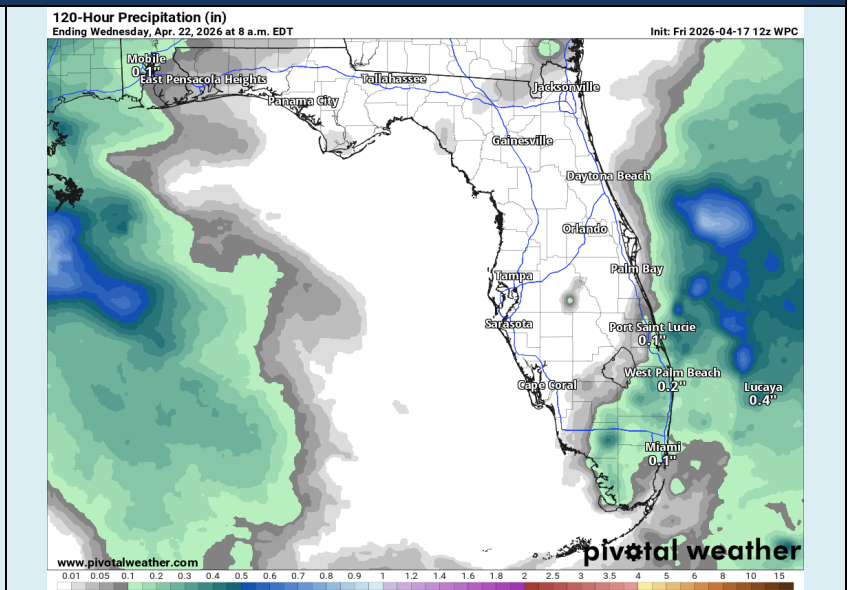
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri						Locally Panhandle & East-Central FL	Panhandle & Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sat					Locally Northeast FL & I-75 Corridor	Locally North & Central FL	Locally Panhandle & Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sun	Iso. Panhandle & Southeast FL						Locally Interior North & Central FL Statewide	Locally East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Mon	Southeast FL						Panhandle & Big Bend Northeast FL Statewide	Statewide
Tue							Panhandle & Big Bend Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast



Forecast High Temperatures: Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday



Drought Monitor: Valid 4/16/2026

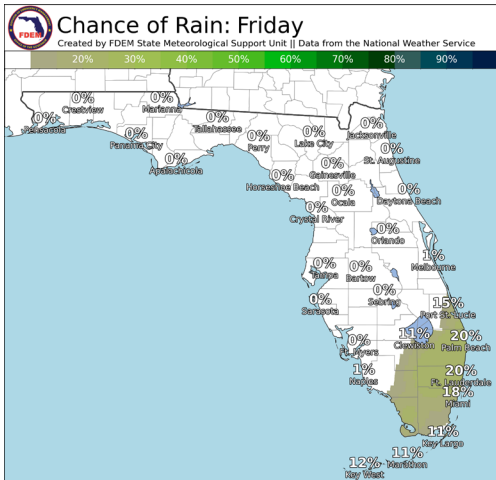


5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



... High Pressure Keeps Sunny and Dry Conditions in Place Through Saturday... Elevated Fire Danger Persists Given Near-Record Warmth and Dry Fuels... Frontal Passage on Sunday Brings Breezy Winds and Very Dry Air in its Wake... Critical Fire Danger Expected Across the Panhandle and Big Bend Monday; Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings May be Issued... Isolated Rain Chances Arrive to South Florida Monday... High Surf and Dangerous Rip Currents Return to Statewide Beaches Next Week...

Friday – Saturday:



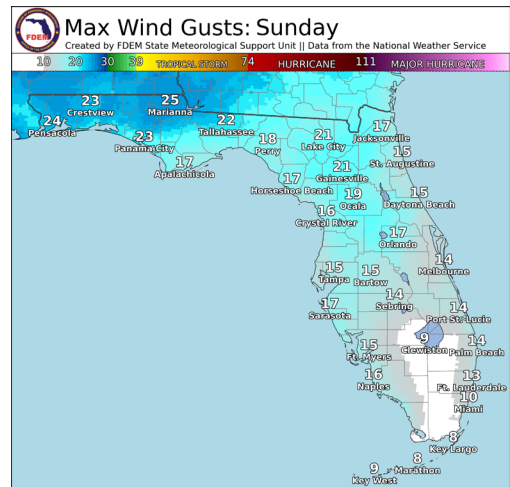
High pressure will remain anchored across the northern Gulf and Southeast U.S. to start the weekend, allowing for sunny skies and mostly dry conditions to prevail. Very marginal moisture will filter into Southeast Florida both today and Saturday, which could allow for an isolated sprinkle or brief shower (15-20% chance of rain). However, any activity is expected to be light in nature. Winds are expected to remain rather light through Saturday across the state, though some wind gusts may reach 15-20 mph across the Panhandle and along the I-95 corridor. An isolated wind gust **upwards of 25 mph** cannot be ruled out at area beaches along the East Coast. Given very dry fuels and ongoing **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)** throughout North Florida, **elevated wildfire danger** is expected to persist.

High temperatures will climb well into the upper 80s to **middle 90s** each afternoon across interior portions of the state. A few locations across Northeast Florida and along the I-75 corridor

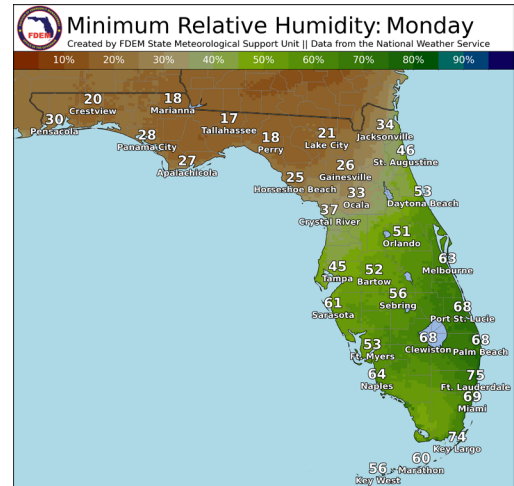
could approach the **upper 90s**. However, given the dry airmass around, feels-like temperatures will remain cooler than the actual temperatures and excessive heat is not expected. Low temperatures will dip into the upper 50s to middle 60s throughout North and Central Florida, with upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida. Fog chances will begin to decrease heading into the weekend, though areas of **patchy fog** may still develop across the Panhandle and East-Central Florida tonight and Saturday night.

Sunday – Tuesday:

A strong low-pressure system tracking through the Great Lakes will drag an attendant cold front through the Sunshine State beginning on Sunday. Moisture will be lacking ahead of this front and subsequently chances of rain are minimal across the Panhandle Sunday morning and afternoon (15-30% chance of rain). In the wake of this front, breezy wind gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** will develop throughout North Florida which may encourage **elevated to locally critical wildfire risk**. However, relative humidities are not expected to dip to critically low values on Sunday with cloud cover lingering around which may limit the magnitude of wildfire danger. Throughout South Florida, an isolated sea breeze shower cannot be ruled out on Sunday afternoon (15-20% chance of rain). High temperatures will turn cooler across the Panhandle in the wake of the front, struggling to climb out of the middle to upper 70s. Upper 80s to lower 90s are expected throughout the interior Peninsula with lower to middle 80s along the I-95 corridor. The cold front will begin to slide southward across the Peninsula Sunday night with an isolated shower possible along the I-95 corridor (15-20% chance of rain). Otherwise, a mostly calm night is expected statewide. Low temperatures will fall into the upper 40s to middle 50s across the Panhandle and Big Bend, middle 60s in Central Florida, and upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida.



Elevated moisture is expected to pool ahead of the front across East-Central and South Florida on Monday which will allow for isolated showers to develop (25-40% chance of rain). Much of this activity is expected to remain on the lighter side, though an isolated lightning strike cannot be ruled out along the immediate Southeast Florida coast. Winds will increase across all of the state on Monday with gusts of **25-35 mph** expected. Across North Florida, these breezy winds will combine with **critically low relative humidities (15-20%)** encouraging **critical wildfire danger**. **Fire Weather Watches** and/or **Red Flag Warnings** will likely be issued for much of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast Florida for this high wildfire risk on Monday. Highs will only reach the middle 70s to lower 80s throughout the state on Monday. Lows will fall into the lower to middle 50s in North Florida and 60s to lower 70s in Central and South Florida.



The cold front will push southward of the state by Tuesday with chances of rain returning to near zero across the state. Relative humidities will remain near **critical thresholds (20-30%)** across all of North and West-Central Florida which will keep **elevated to locally critical wildfire danger** in place. Highs will reach the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide, with lows in the 50s and 60s expected.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk for flash flooding across Florida in the next 5 days. Mostly dry conditions will largely persist, though isolated showers across South Florida on Monday may bring some very minor rainfall totals less than 0.5". For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\) website](#).

There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. Many waterways throughout the state remain well below normal due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.03 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 7 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 for much of the state. This will result in additional drought expansion throughout much of North Florida, with potential for worsening drought across Central and South Florida.



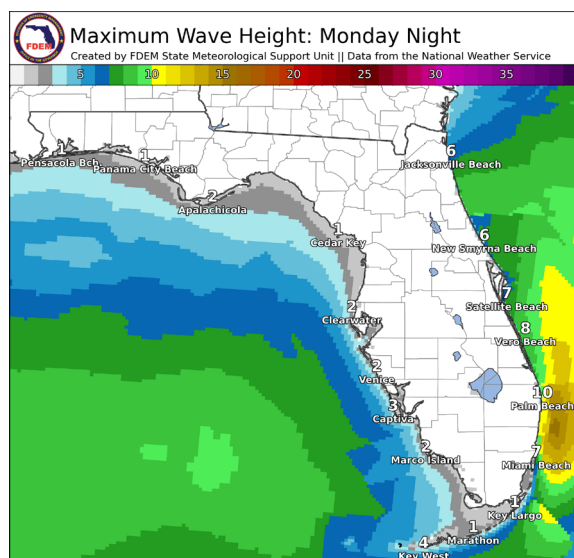
Additionally, a dry cold front will sweep through North Florida on Sunday and Monday, bringing increasing winds and low relative humidities which will further dry out sensitive fuels.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **461** 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).

The dome of high-pressure over the state has allowed for the already dry and sensitive fuels to cure even further amidst near-record warm temperatures and no rainfall. Relative humidities will continue to dip to **near or below critical thresholds** throughout North and West-Central Florida today and Saturday which will encourage **elevated wildfire danger**. On Sunday, breezy wind gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** will develop throughout North and Central Florida in the wake of a dry cold frontal passage. Cloud cover will limit the magnitude of fire danger on Sunday, though **elevated conditions** are still expected with the breezy winds, drier air filtering in behind the front, and ongoing drought. **High fire danger** is expected on Monday across North Florida. Relative humidities will dip **well below critical thresholds (15-20%)** combined with lingering breezy winds of **25-35 mph**. This will allow for **critical wildfire conditions** to develop and **Red Flag Warnings** may be issued in the near future for this threat. By Tuesday, winds will begin to subside though very dry air will still allow for at least **elevated wildfire conditions** throughout North and Central Florida, though **locally critical conditions** are possible. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 85 wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,744 acres (as of 11:00 AM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A calmer sea state will allow for a return to a **moderate risk for rip currents** for all Panhandle and East Coast beaches to start the weekend. However, the cold frontal passage on Sunday will allow for elevated surf and breezy winds to develop with a **high risk for rip currents** expected statewide on Monday. West Coast beaches will see a low risk this weekend and a **moderate to high risk** to start next week.



Surf will remain low through Sunday across the state, with all area beaches seeing waves between 1-3'. However, breezy winds in the wake of the frontal passage will build ocean swells in both the Gulf and along the East Coast beginning Sunday night. Waves near **2-4'** are expected along all Panhandle and West Coast beaches starting Monday, lingering into the middle portions of next week. Along the East Coast, a surge of waves near **6-8'** are expected along the First and Space Coast on Monday, spreading southward to include the Treasure and Gold Coast Monday night and Tuesday. A few waves **upwards of 12'** cannot be ruled out along the Southeast Florida coast. **High Surf Advisories** may be issued as conditions warrant along the East Coast.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 70 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed within the Upper St. Johns River basin in Lake Marion and Lake

Uppur St. Johns River basin in Lake Marion and Lake Killarney, as well as Lake Thonotosassa. **Moderate levels** have been observed in numerous locations along the edge of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Johns River (both upper and lower), the Peach River, Lake Thonotosassa, and Lake Avalon in the Big Cypress Swamp.



[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

