



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Saturday, April 18, 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	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	<a href="mailto:Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com">Austin.Johnson@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	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Sarasota	North Port Hurricane Expo
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Monroe	Shelter Exercise

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4  
 Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6

Status
Normal Operations
<b>Out of Service / Unavailable</b>



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	Jax Ready Fest
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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	In Region	Off & Monitoring

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

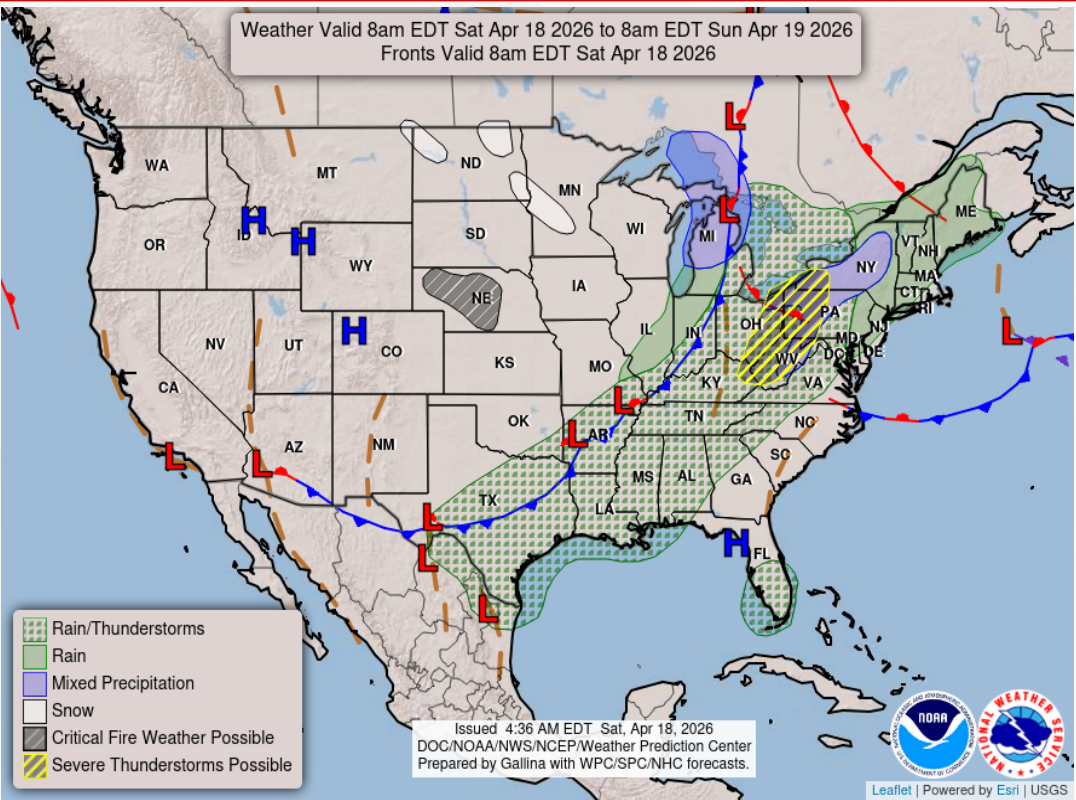
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 / Recovery Supervisor Taniesha Taylor

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

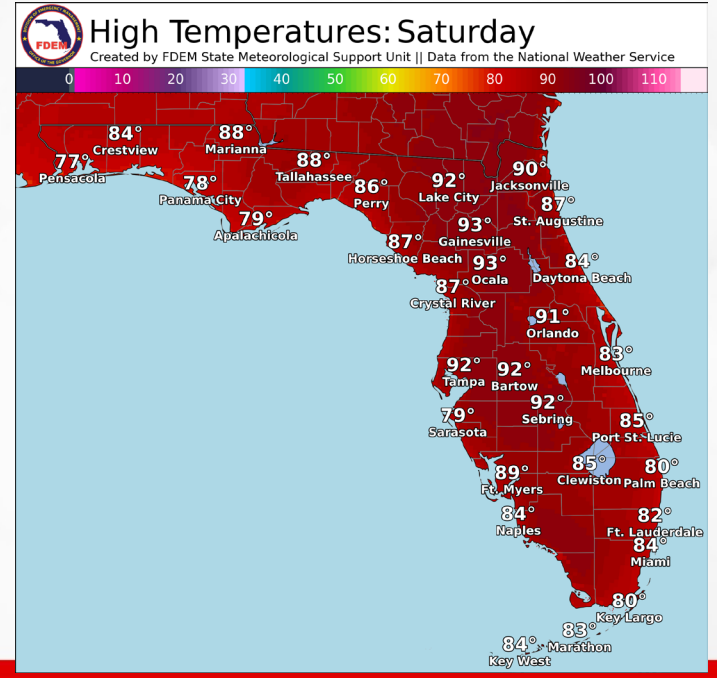
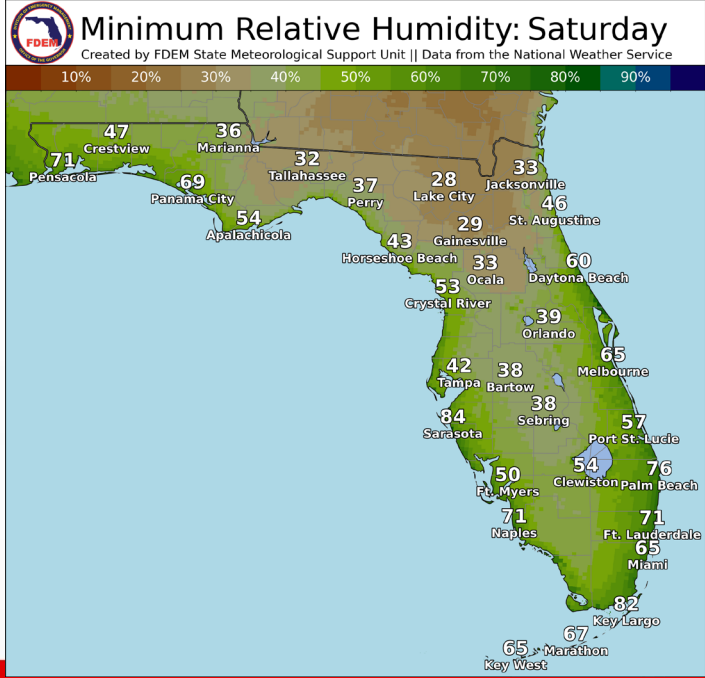


# Meteorology Summary



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		L	L			
Fog (Overnight)	L	M	M	M	M	L	L	L		
Wildfire	M	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.00 ft. (1.95 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	470 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





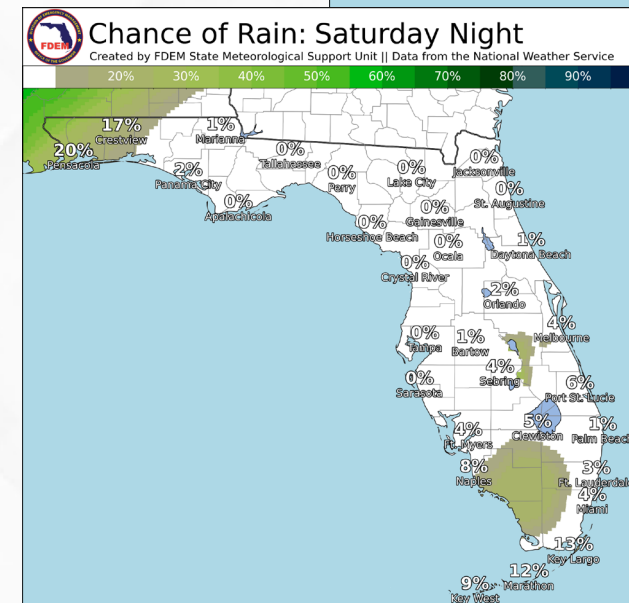
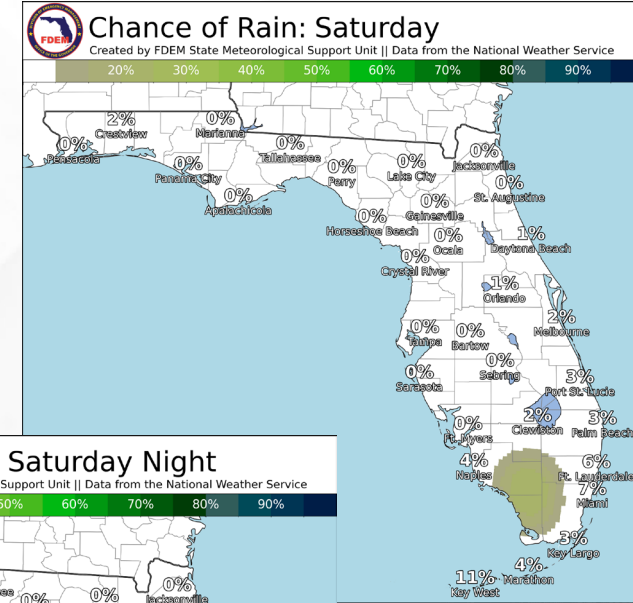
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Any areas of **patchy fog** across North and Central Florida will quickly dissipate as the sun rises this morning. High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today keeping sunny and dry conditions in place nearly statewide. A very isolated sea breeze shower cannot be ruled out across interior Southwest Florida this afternoon (15-20% chance of rain), though any activity will be light and brief in nature.

The start to what will be a multi-day stretch of **elevated wildfire conditions** is expected to begin today across the Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast Florida. Winds will increase this afternoon to 10-15 mph, with gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph**. Relative humidities will also dip to **near critical thresholds (25-35%)** in an area experiencing **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)**. As a result, a **Red Flag Warning** is in effect for interior portions of the Big Bend today where **critical wildfire danger** is expected. High temperatures will also reach **near record warmth** across much of North Florida this afternoon, climbing into the upper 80s to **middle 90s**. Highs throughout the Peninsula will reach the middle 80s to lower 90s, with cooler conditions along the East Coast.

Relative humidities will quickly recover after sunset throughout North Florida with areas of **patchy fog development** possible across the Big Bend, Nature Coast, and Suwannee River Valley. A cold front with isolated showers ahead of it will begin to approach the western Panhandle shortly after midnight (15-20% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the 60s throughout much of the state, with lower to middle 70s across coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys.





# 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](http://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.

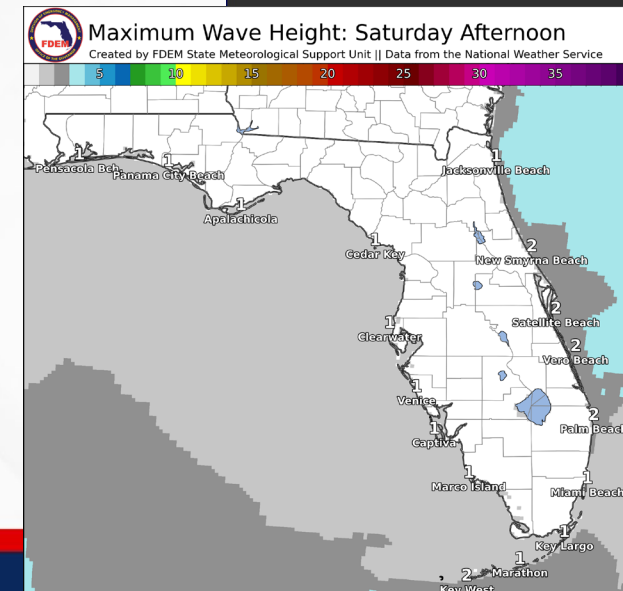
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

**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 12.00 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.95 feet below normal for this time of year.



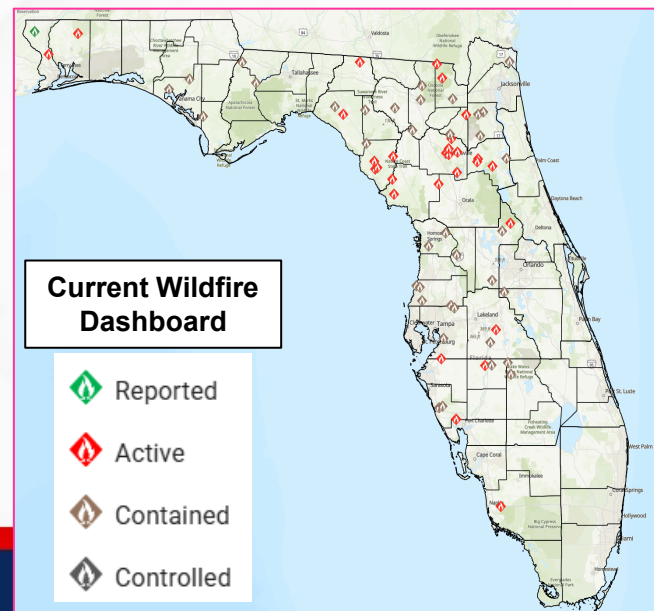
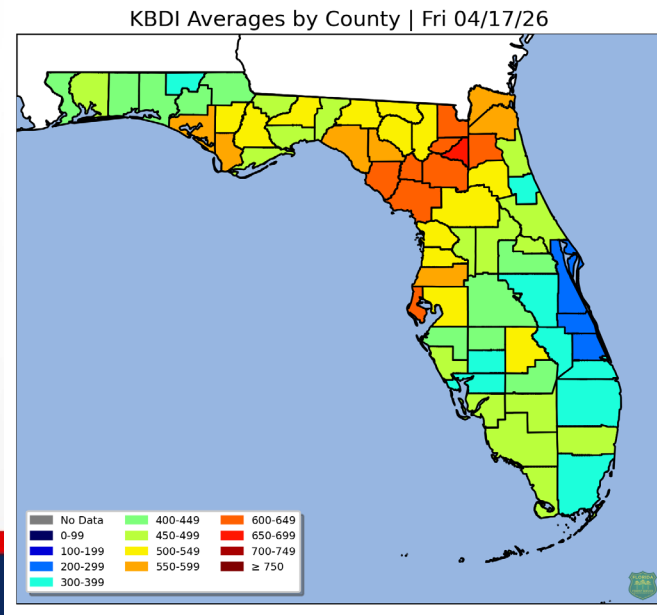
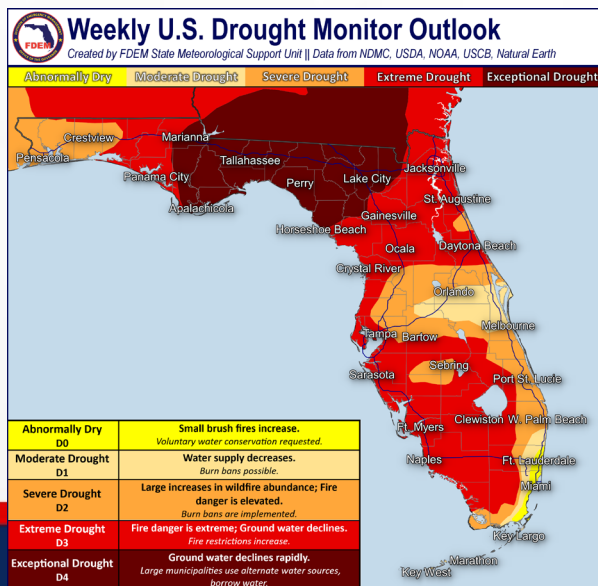


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** A dry airmass will remain entrenched throughout much of the state today, particularly across North Florida where relative humidities are expected to dip **near critical thresholds (25-35%)**. Breezy winds with gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** will also spread across the Panhandle and Big Bend today which will encourage **elevated to locally critical wildfire danger**. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect for much of the interior Big Bend this afternoon for this high wildfire risk. In general, fuels continue to cure and dry out throughout the state which will keep at least **sensitive wildfire conditions** in place statewide. Areas of ongoing wildfire may experience **blowing smoke** across North Florida in the breeziest winds. 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 94 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 8,398 acres.

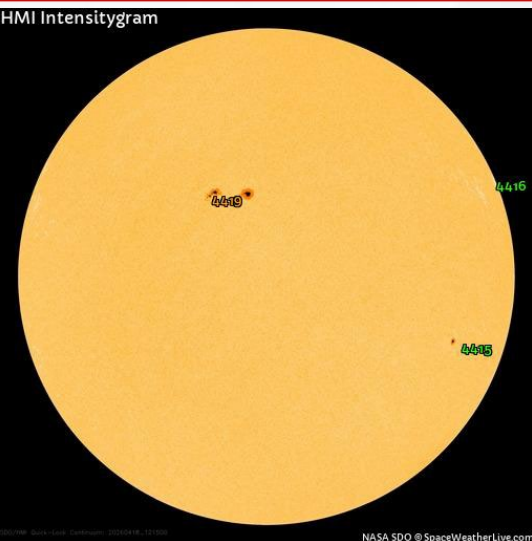
**Drought (4/16/26):** Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to 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 **470 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **28** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

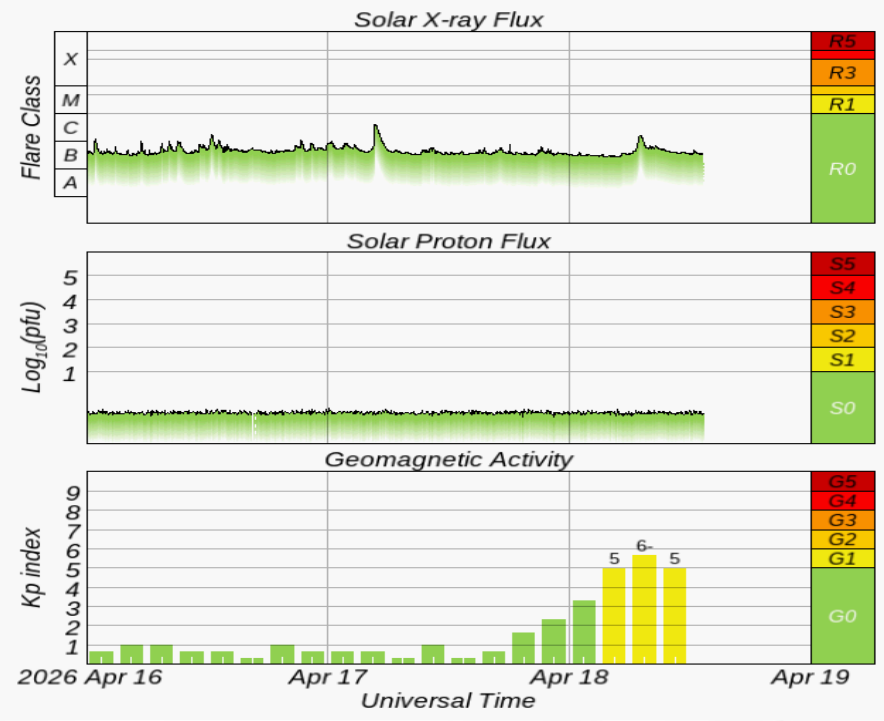
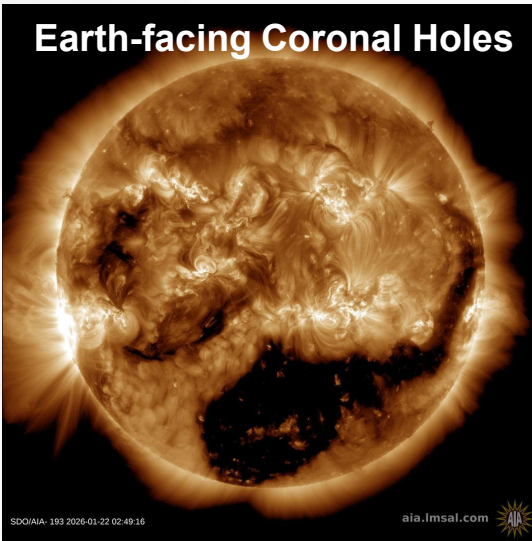




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G2 Watch (4/17-4/18)</b>	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
4/18		4/19
Max Kp= 6 (G2)		Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 40% severe activity = 25%		Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 10%


**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. Should a strong flare develop, Minor to Moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would occur. The solar wind is expected to become enhanced 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 Minor (G1) levels are expected to continue through Sunday. 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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**Signature:**   
Woodham Harvey (Apr 18, 2026 09:41:01 EDT)  
**Email:** Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com

**Austin Johnson**  
 Digitally signed by Austin Johnson  
 Date: 2026.04.18 09:37:36 -04'00'







# 4-18-2026 SWO Morning Situation Report

Final Audit Report

2026-04-18

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