



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, April 20, 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	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(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	Mason Kozac	(850) 241-5435	mason.kozac@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	Escambia	USCG Area Committee Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	USCG Area Committee Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton	Wildfire Response/Monitoring / Equipment Delivery
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Putnam	County EM & Georgia Pacific Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction Prep / County EM Director Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	DeSoto	Executive Director Support
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Kansas City (KS)	National REP Conference
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Hendry	NWS Integrated Warning Team Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA 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	Escambia	Area Command Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Internal Stakeholder Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Hamilton	City of Jasper follow up
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Not Available	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Recovery Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	TTX / Hillsborough Childrens Board
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	Recovery Meeting

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Region 5 Coordinator

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

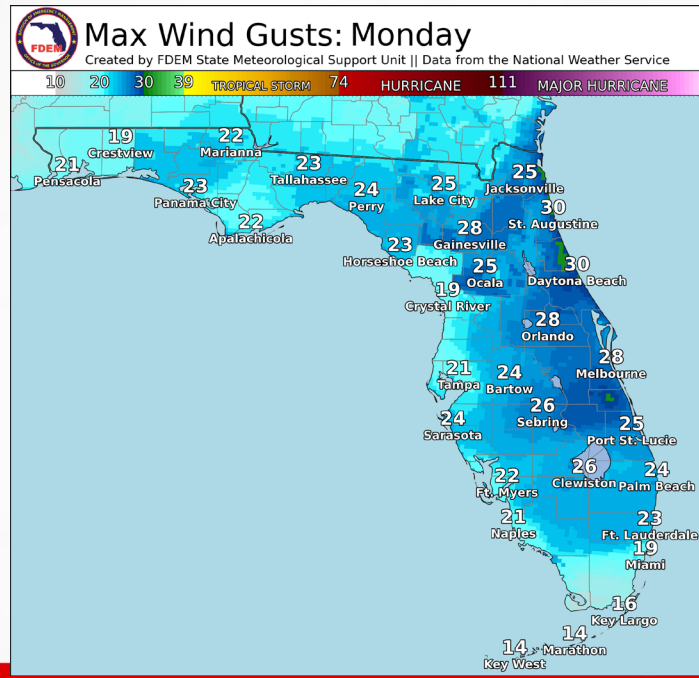
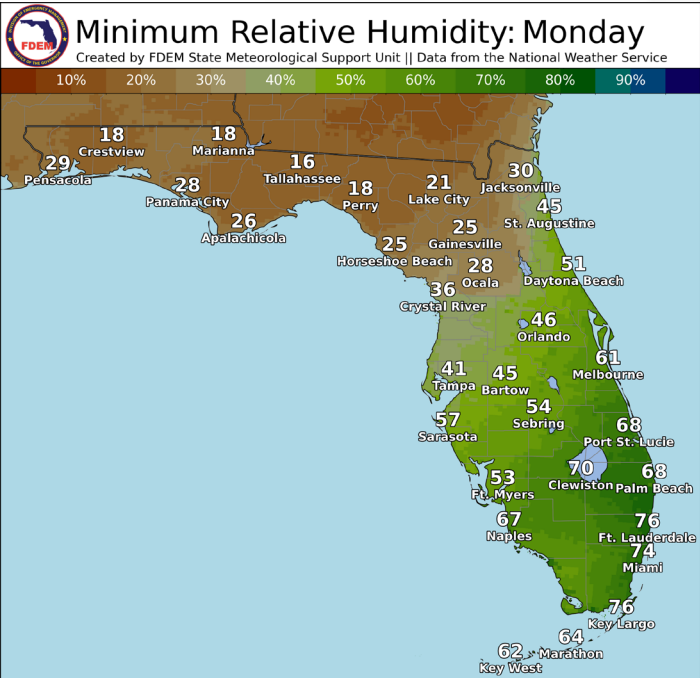
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

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



Meteorology Summary

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding								L	L	L
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	M		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.97 ft. (1.92 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	488 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Today's Weather Map



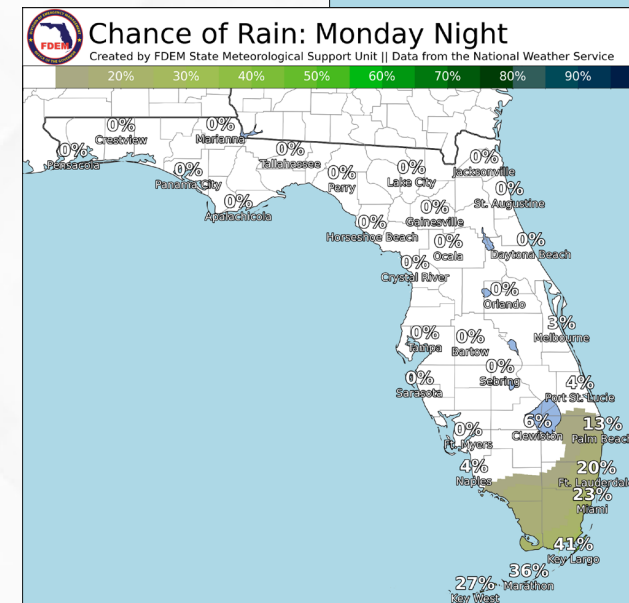
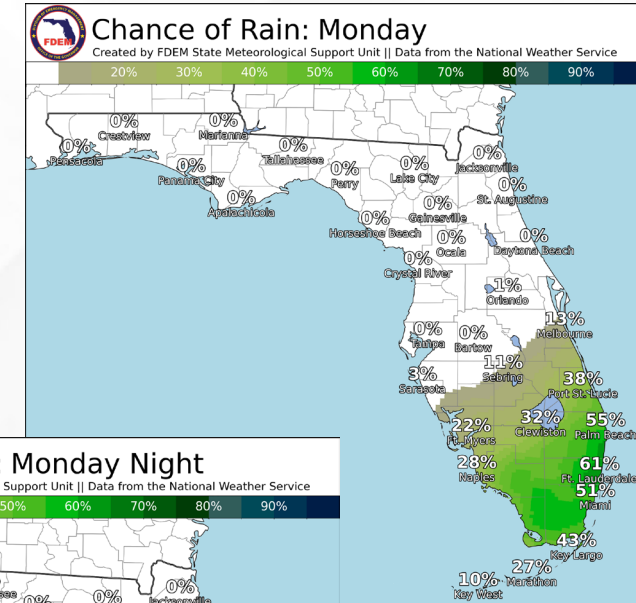
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A chillier morning across the Panhandle and Big Bend in the wake of yesterday's frontal passage with many locations waking up in the middle 40s to lower 50s. This cold front is currently draped through Central Florida and isolated to widely scattered showers are expected to develop ahead of and along the front today throughout South Florida (35-60% chance of rain). Chances of rain are greatest along the Southeast Florida coast where a few storms could become **locally strong** and capable of producing a few **locally heavy downpours**. Instances of **nuisance urban flooding** cannot be ruled out with rainfall totals expected to remain generally between 1-3", though **locally higher amounts** are possible.

Breezy winds are also expected throughout the state today behind the front, with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** statewide and a few gusts **up to 30 mph** along the I-95 corridor. These breezy winds will overlap with **critically low relative humidities (15-25%)** across much of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and interior Northeast Florida which will encourage **critical wildfire danger** this afternoon. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect for much of North Florida until 8 PM EDT/7 PM CDT for this wildfire risk. High temperatures will reach the upper 70s to middle 80s across the state this afternoon.

Tonight, relative humidities are expected to recover above critical thresholds and winds will become light which will help with any wildfire suppression efforts across North Florida. A few showers are possible across South Florida early overnight before the front sweeps offshore (15-20% chance of rain). Low temperatures will dip into the upper 40s to lower 50s throughout interior North Florida tonight. Middle 50s to lower 60s are expected across Central Florida and upper 60s to lower 70s in South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy winds and elevated surf will bring a **high risk for rip currents** to all East Coast beaches today. A building ocean swell in the Gulf will also bring elevated surf to Panhandle and West Coast beaches where a **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: An ocean swell will continue to build across the Atlantic and Gulf waters today amidst breezy post-frontal winds. Waves will reach **6-8'** across most Atlantic beaches this afternoon, with surf near **2-4'** across Southeast Florida. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will also see waves around **2-4'**. The larger waves will surge southward along the East Coast tonight, reaching Southeast Florida where waves will increase to **5-8'**. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect for Palm Beach County beginning at 2 AM EDT tonight.

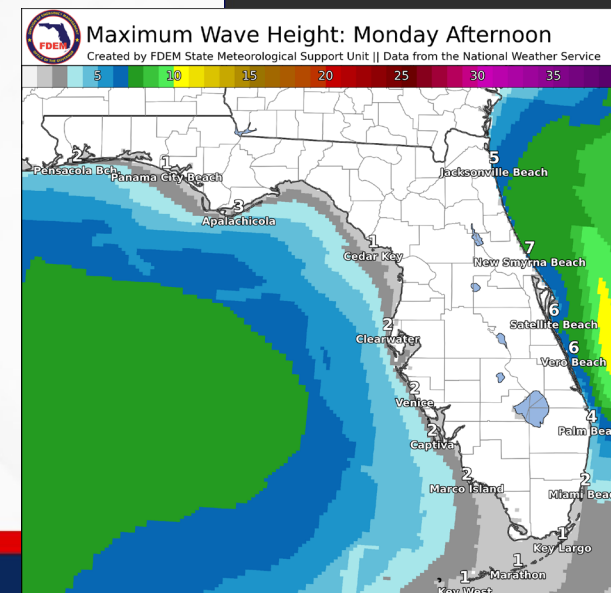
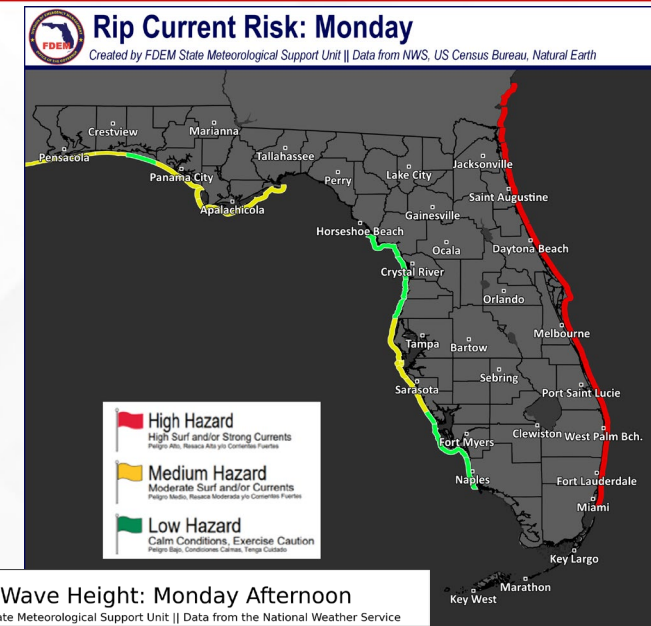
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today across Florida. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout South Florida this afternoon. A few storms could become **locally strong** and capable of producing a few **locally heavy downpours**. Areas of **nuisance urban flooding** cannot be ruled out with rainfall totals generally between 1-3", though a few locally higher amounts cannot be ruled out.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.97 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.92 feet below normal for this time of year.



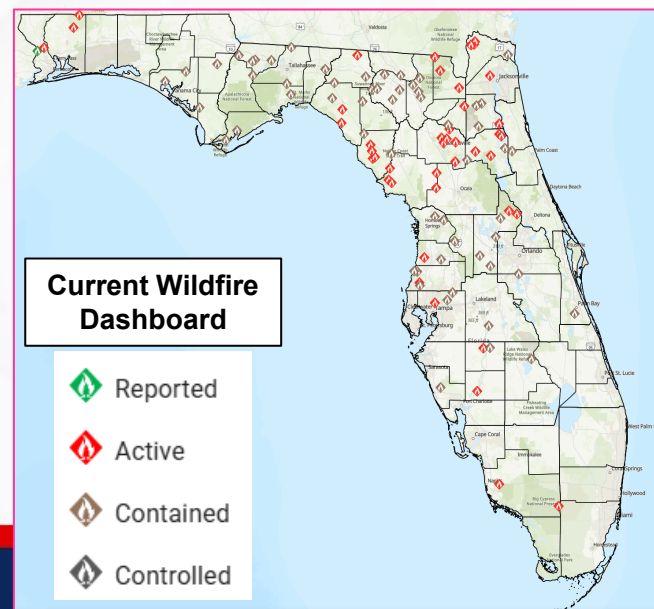
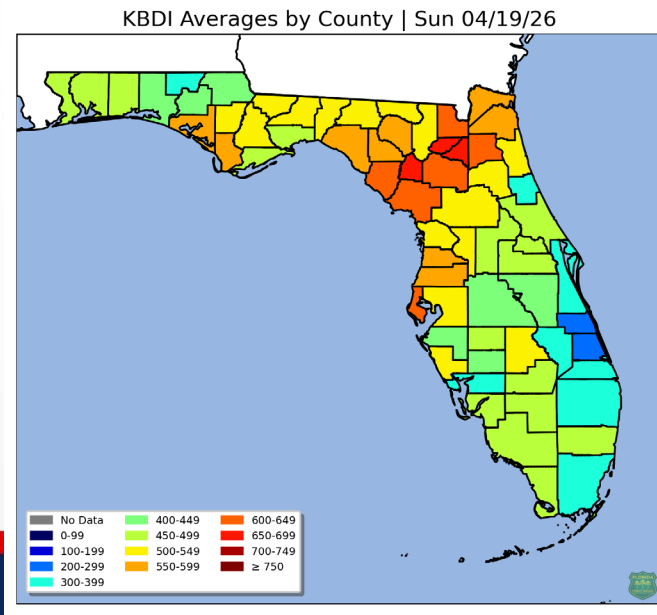
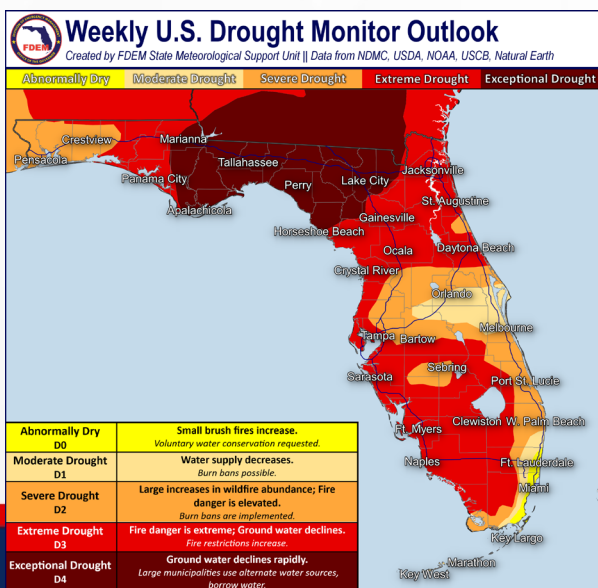


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Yesterdays dry frontal passage throughout North Florida brought very little wetting rainfall with a very dry airmass and breezy winds in it's wake. Winds are expected to reach 10-15 mph this afternoon with frequent gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph**. Paired with relative humidities **well below critical thresholds (15-25%)**, much of North Florida will see **critical wildfire danger** this afternoon. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect throughout much of North Florida until 8 PM EDT/7 PM CDT for this wildfire risk. Throughout Central Florida, **elevated wildfire danger** is expected today where winds will also be breezy, but relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout South Florida this afternoon. *Thunderstorms may be accompanied by gusty and erratic winds, as well as lightning that can spark new fires or reignite existing ones.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 103 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 11,938 acres.

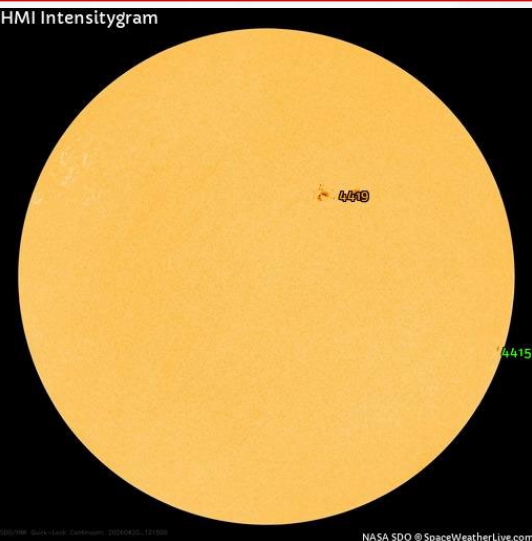
Drought (4/16/26): Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to South 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 **488 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **34** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

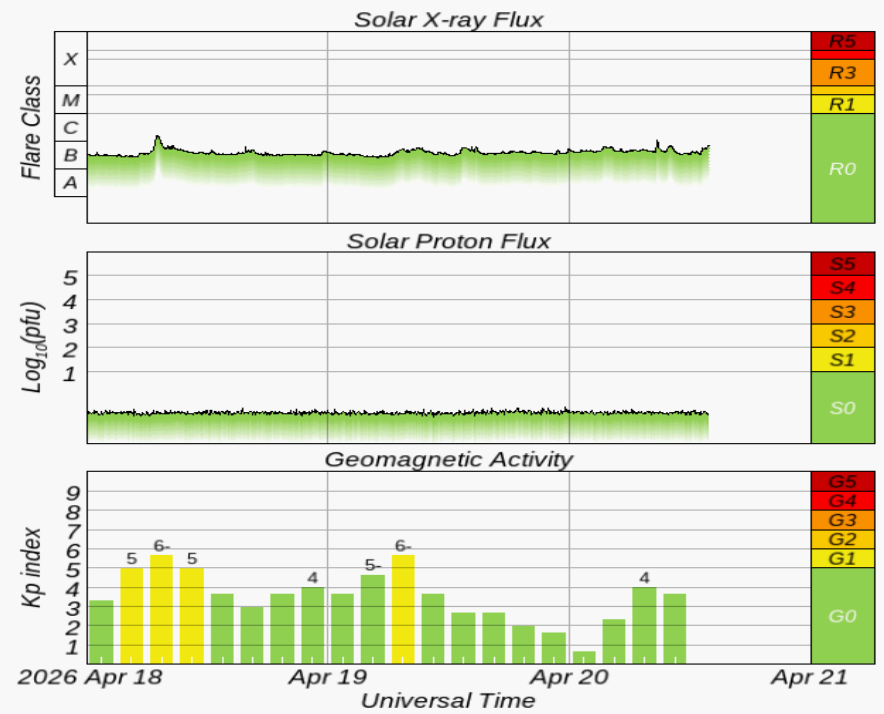
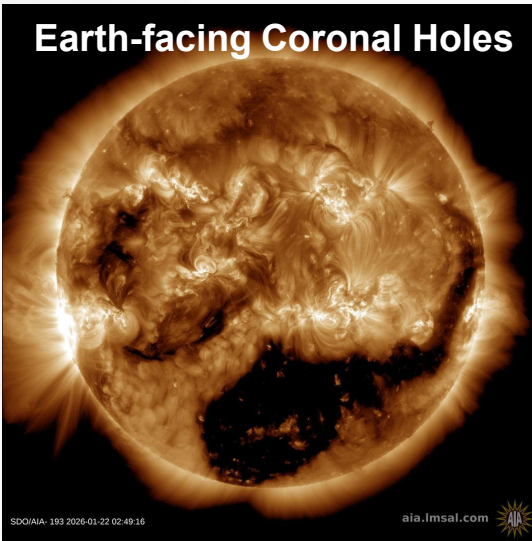




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/20	4/21
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a slight 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. Enhanced solar wind conditions are expected to taper off today and Tuesday as coronal hole influences wane. A return to unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions are expected as a result through Tuesday. Quiet levels may return by Wednesday. 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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