



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Tuesday, April 21, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@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	Ian Danley	(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	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	Rob Dietrich	(850) 727-3414	<a href="mailto:Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com">Robert.Dietrich@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	Gadsden	Office Admin / Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance / SERT Call
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	Logistics Support/Trailer Movement / SERT Call
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Alachua	Wildfire Coordination / SERT Call
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay, Putnam	Wildfire Coordination / SERT Call
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Sumter, Marion	Watershed Exercise / EM Meeting / SERT Call
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pasco, Hillsborough	ERAT Exercise / EM Meeting / SERT Call
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 8: Amber Durden	Kansas City (KS)	National REP Conference
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	SRT Assessment (Fort Myers FD) / SERT Call
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Healthcare Coalition Exercise / Exercise Planning Meeting / SERT Call

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	Washington	EM Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Calhoun	Trailer Mission
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Alachua	Tri-County disaster Assistance Group Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Not Available	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Duval	Cohort Graduation
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pasco	Expo Planning 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	Miami-Dade	Initial Planning Meeting / Hurricane Exercise 2026

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Region 5 Coordinator

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

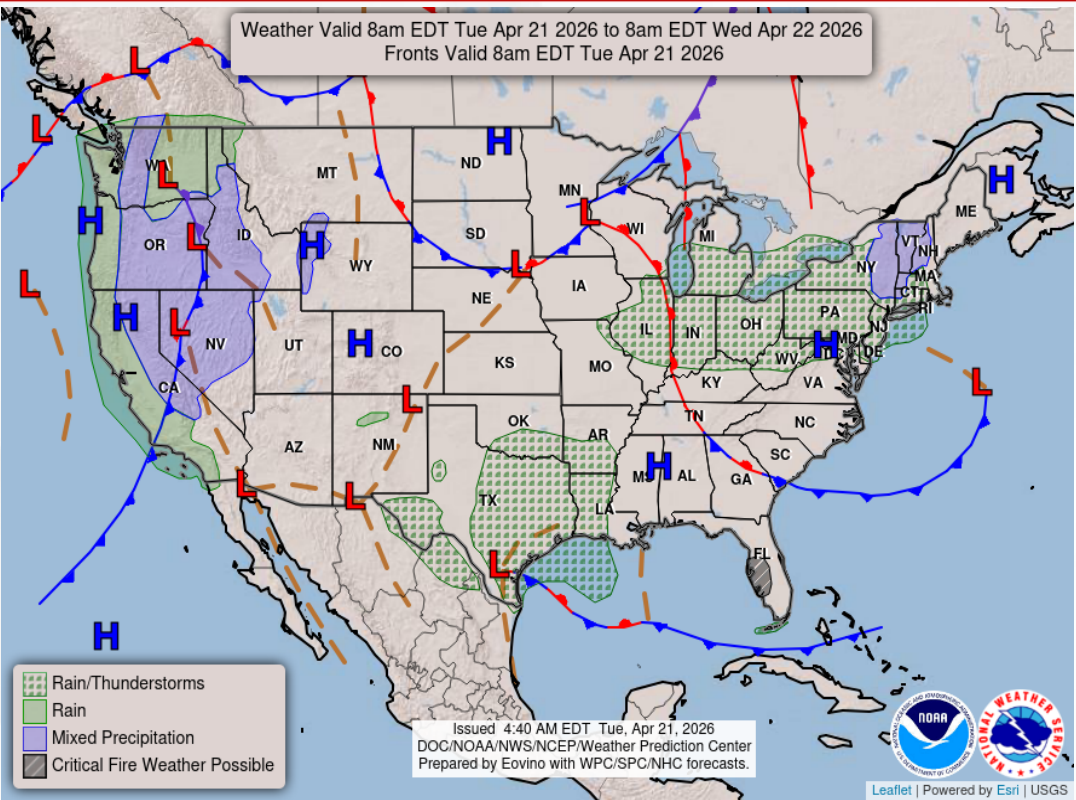
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

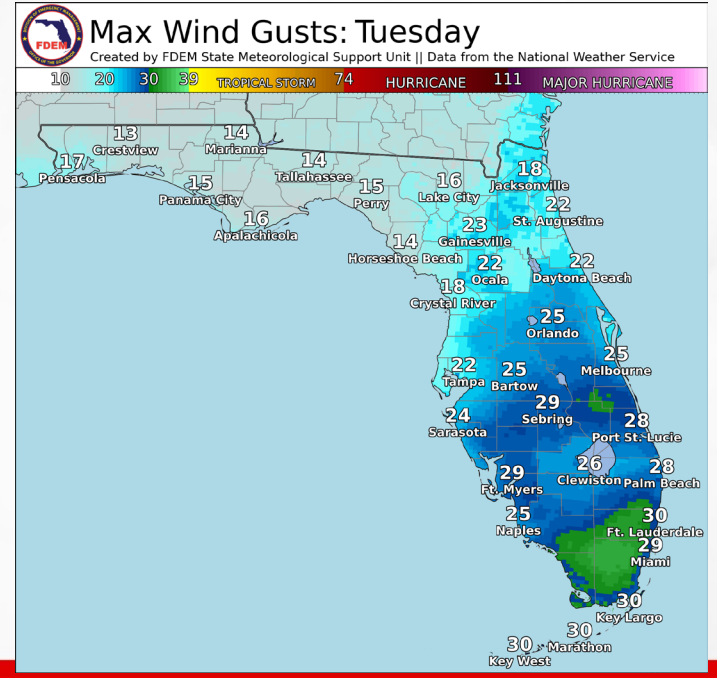
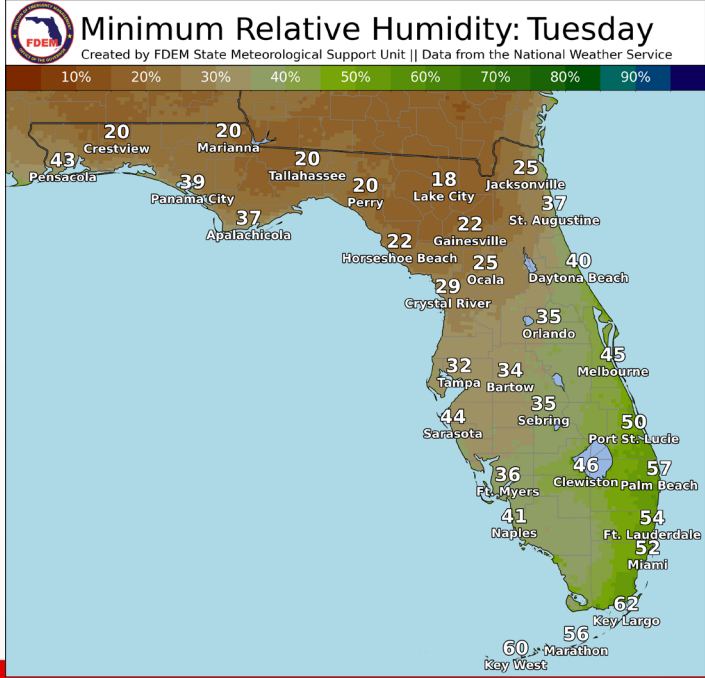


# Meteorology Summary



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)										
Wildfire	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.94 ft. (1.93 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	494 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									







# 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 **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected for most Panhandle beaches today, with a low risk along the West Coast and Northwest Florida. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** High surf will continue to surge southward along the East Coast today, with waves diminishing along the First and Space Coast back down to **4-6'**, though increasing along the Treasure and Gold Coast to **6-8'**. A few waves **upwards of 10'** will be possible in the surf zone across Southeast Florida and a **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect along Palm Beach County. Surf will diminish back down to 1-2' for most Gulf-facing beaches today.

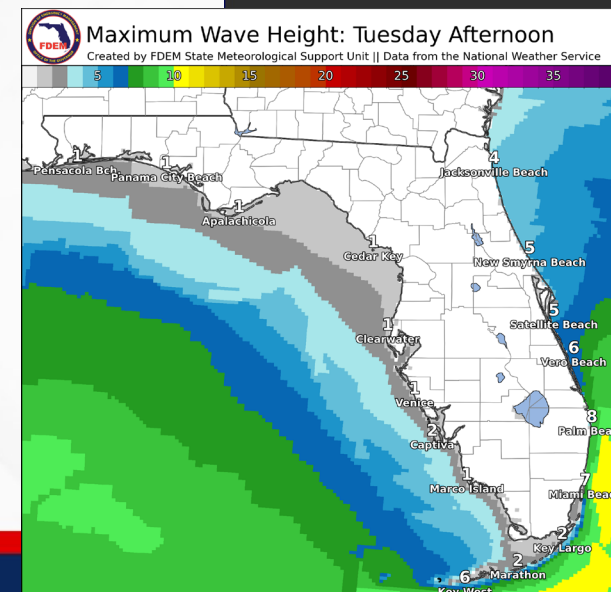
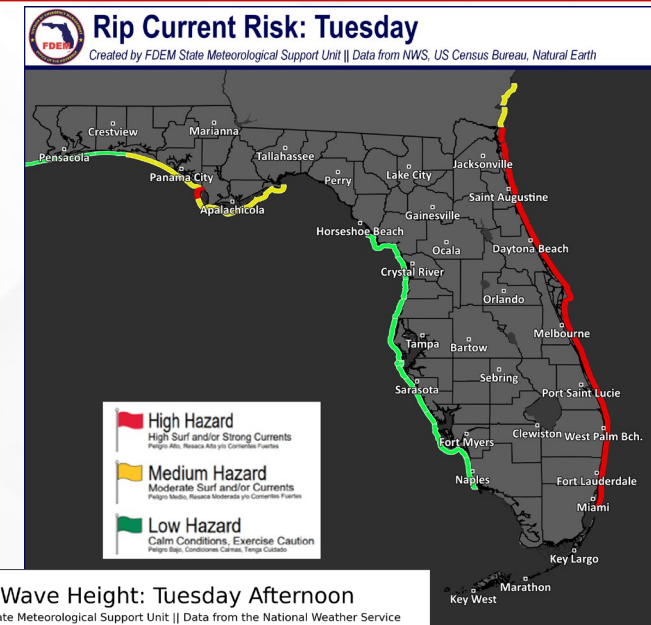
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

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



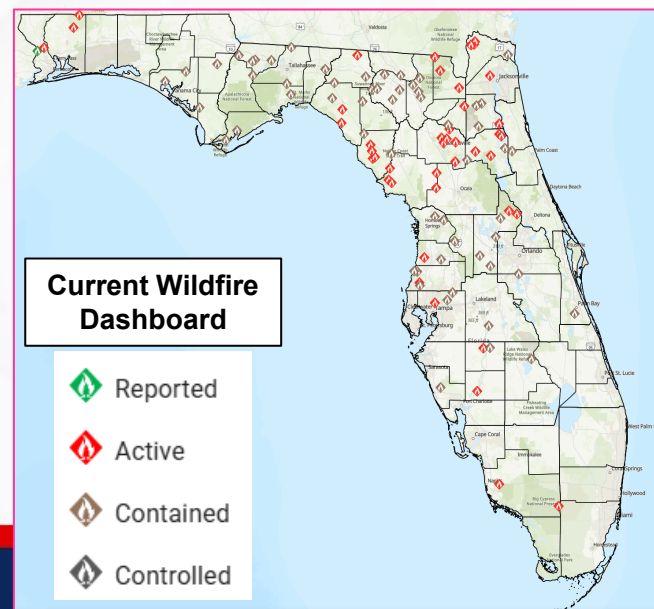
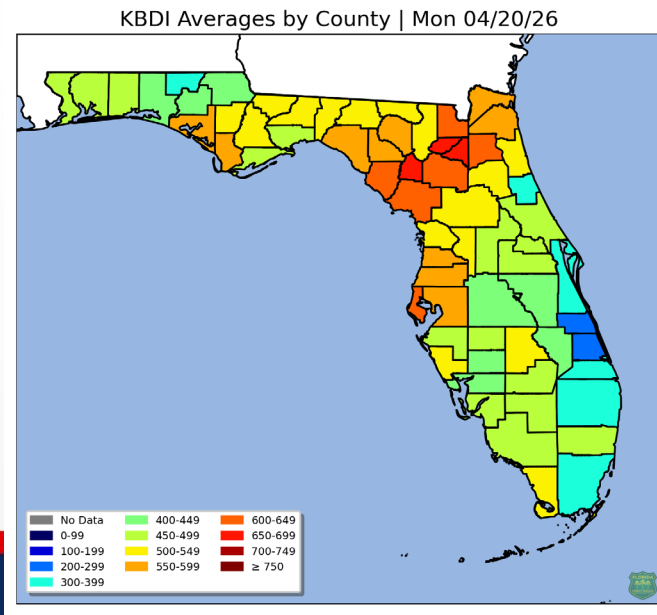
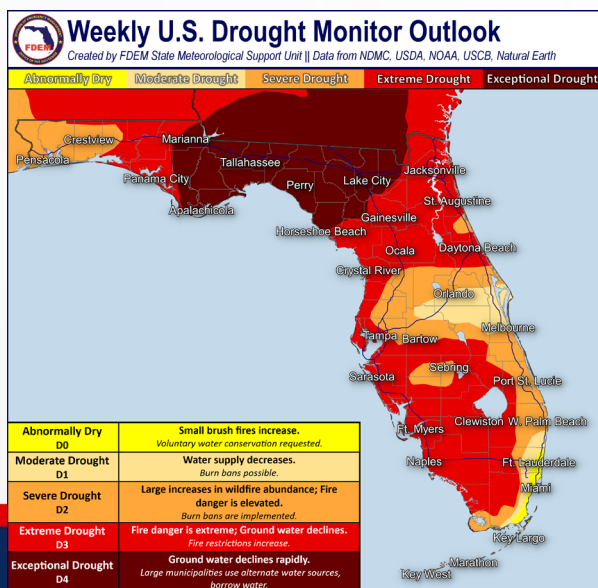


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Very dry air will continue to filter into the Sunshine State today behind a frontal boundary just now entering the Florida Straits. Winds are expected to reach 15-20 mph this afternoon across Central Florida with frequent gusts **upwards of 25-35 mph**. Winds will be a bit lesser across Northeast Florida, though will still gust **upwards of 20-25 mph**. With these winds overlapping **critically low relative humidities (25-35%)**, **critical wildfire conditions** are expected and a **Red Flag Warning** is in effect until 8 PM EDT. **Elevated wildfire conditions** are expected elsewhere across the state, especially across the Panhandle and Big Bend where dry air will continue filtering into the area with ongoing **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)**. Winds will begin to subside tonight across the state, though some breezy winds will linger throughout Southeast Florida. Relative humidities will quickly recover after sunset, helping with any wildfire suppression efforts. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 113 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 12,852 acres.

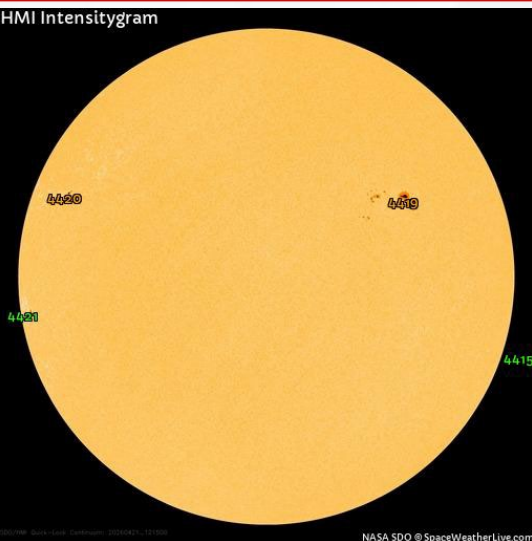
**Drought (4/16/26):** Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to 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 **494 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **35** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

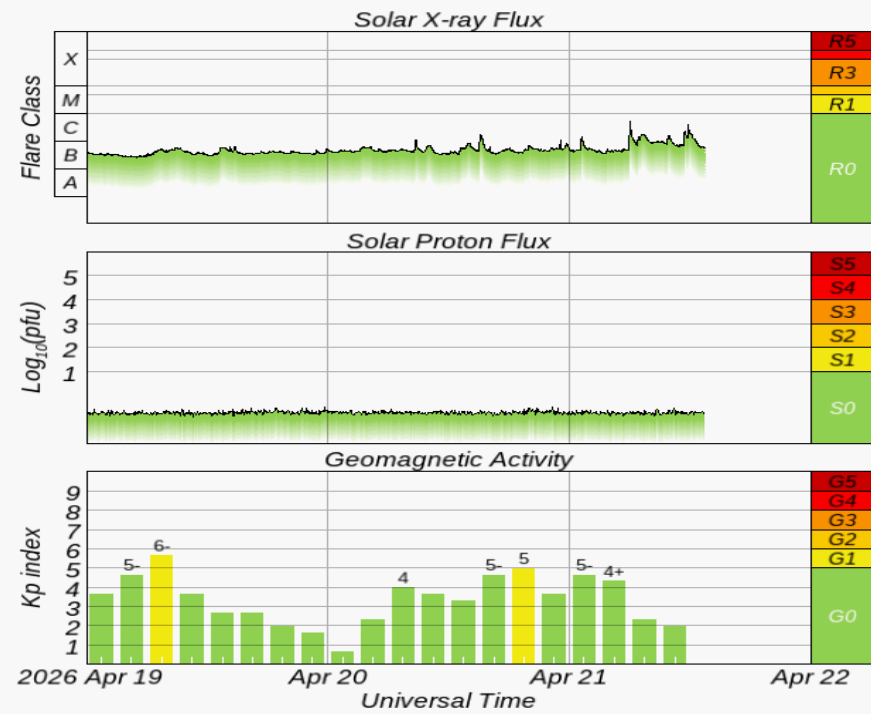
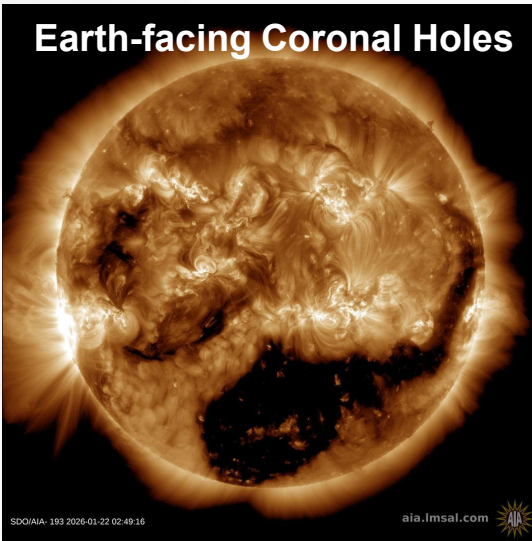




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/21	4/22
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels with a slight chance for moderate (C-class) solar flares primarily due to sunspot region #4419. Weakening solar wind conditions are expected through Thursday as recurrent coronal hole influences wane. Mostly quiet to unsettled geomagnetic field levels are expected beginning today through the end of the week. 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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