



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, April 22, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	Rob Dietrich	(850) 727-3414	Robert.Dietrich@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	Wildfire Response Meeting / Monitoring / SERT Call
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gulf	Pre-Hurricane Season Coordination Meeting / SERT Call
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Dixie, Levy	Wildfire Response / SERT Call
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay, Putnam	Wildfire Response / SERT Call
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Manatee	CST Exercise / Wildfire Monitoring / SERT Call
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Kansas City (KS)	National REP Conference
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Fiscally Constrained Counties Meeting / SERT Call
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Healthcare Coalition Meeting / EM Partners 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	Fiscally Constrained County Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	County Em Meeting Co
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	FCC Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam	Wildfire Operations
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	Instructing FL Coursese
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pasco	FL Courses 608/609
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Brian Lee	Broward	BCHC General Body Monthly Meeting

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

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

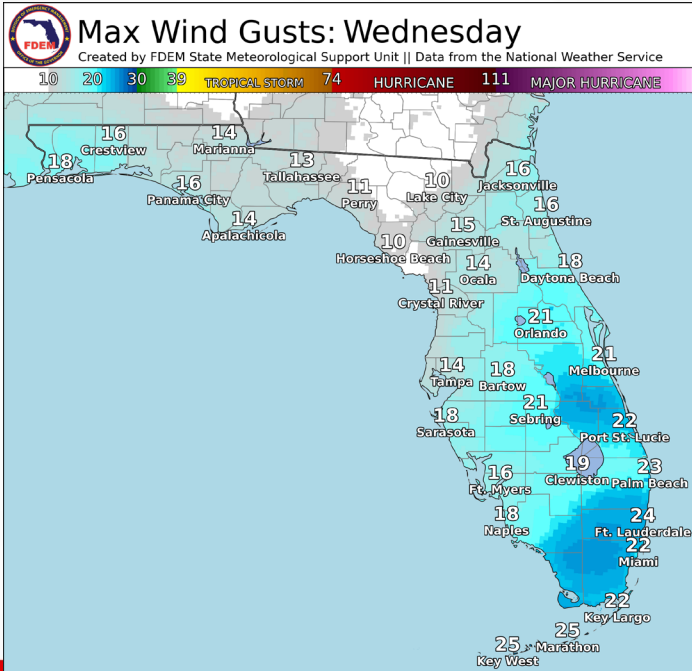
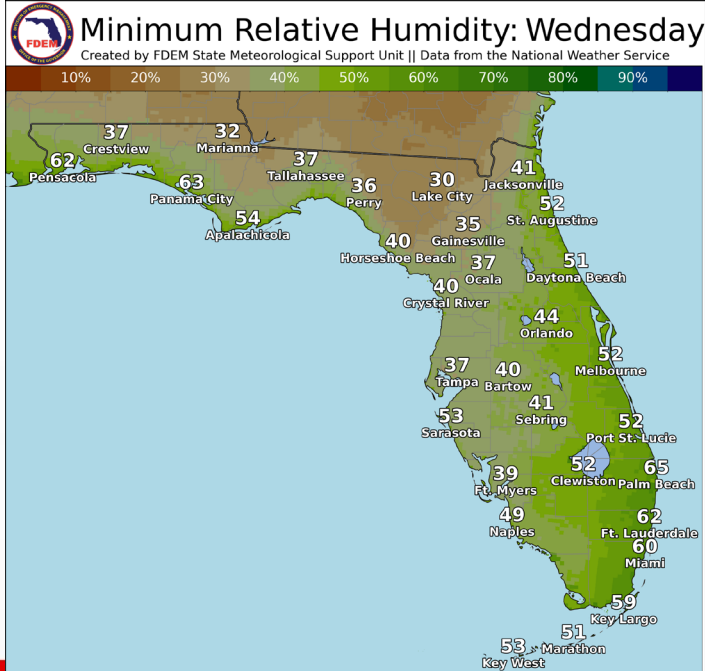
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

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										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L								
Wildfire	M	M	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.91 ft. (1.93 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	496 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Today's Weather Map

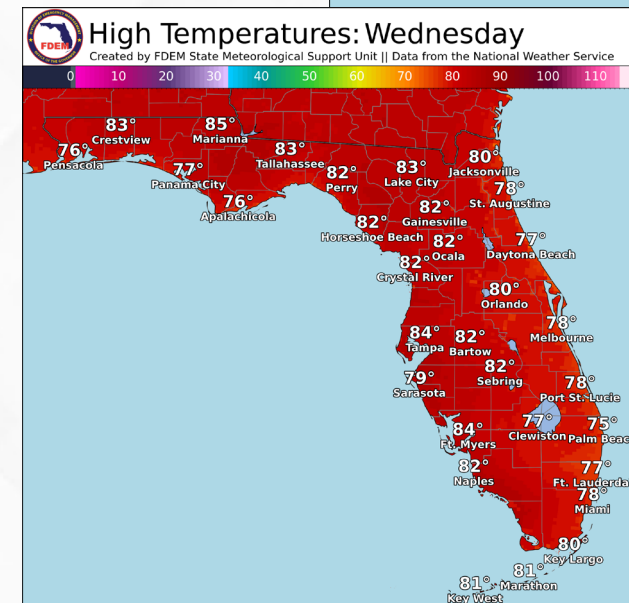
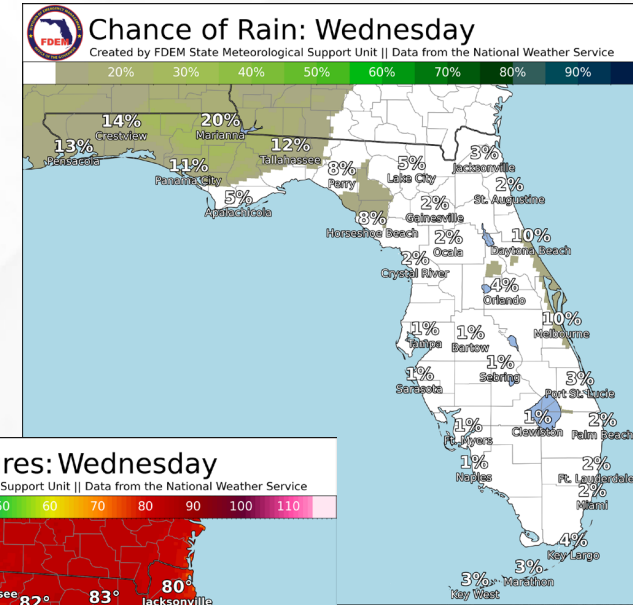


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure continues to dominate the local pattern across the Sunshine State with yet another mostly dry day expected. Clouds will mix with sunshine as winds begin to relax from their higher levels earlier this week. Winds will turn from the east to east-southeast across the Peninsula today where a few gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** will be possible. Across the Panhandle, winds will turn from the south this afternoon and generally remain below 15-20 mph. Despite the lower winds, **critically low relative humidities (25-35%)** will still encourage **elevated wildfire conditions**, especially given the very dry fuels and ongoing drought. **Locally critical wildfire danger** cannot be ruled out across interior Northeast Florida where the lowest RH is expected. A few isolated showers may also develop across the Panhandle this afternoon along the sea breeze as it pushes inland (15-20% chance of rain), though any activity is expected to be light and brief in nature. High temperatures will climb into the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide.

Dry conditions will prevail overnight. Relative humidities are expected to quickly recover above critical thresholds overnight, which will help with any wildfire suppression efforts. **Areas of patchy fog** may develop across the western Panhandle before sunrise on Thursday. Low temperatures will dip into the middle 50s to middle 60s across the entire state tonight, the exception being coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys that will see lows in the upper 60s to lower 70s





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

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

Marine Hazards: Surf will begin to diminish along the East Coast today, with waves near **3-5'**. A few waves across the Florida Keys may reach **upwards of 6'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see surf near 1-3'.

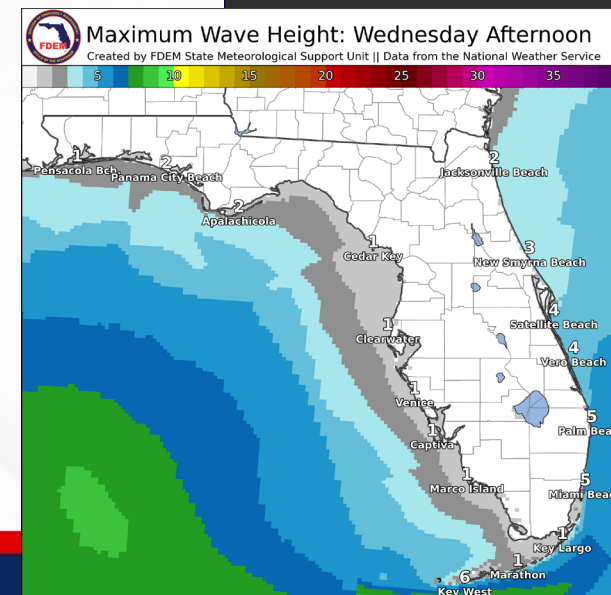
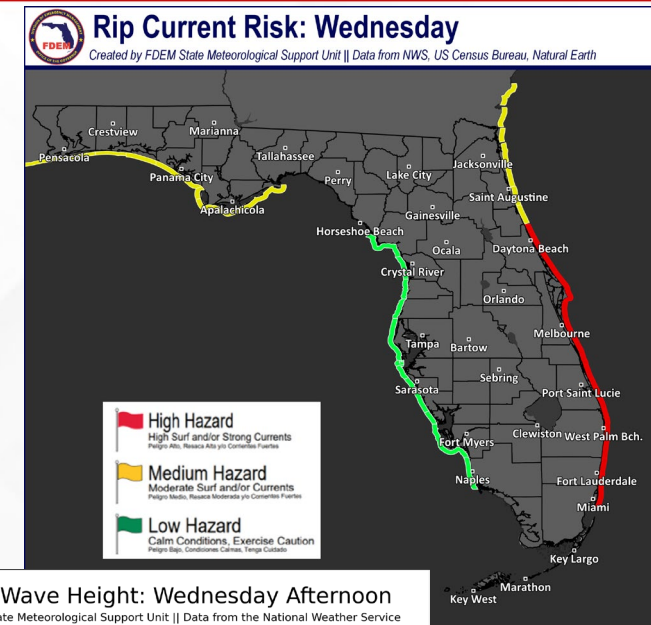
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

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



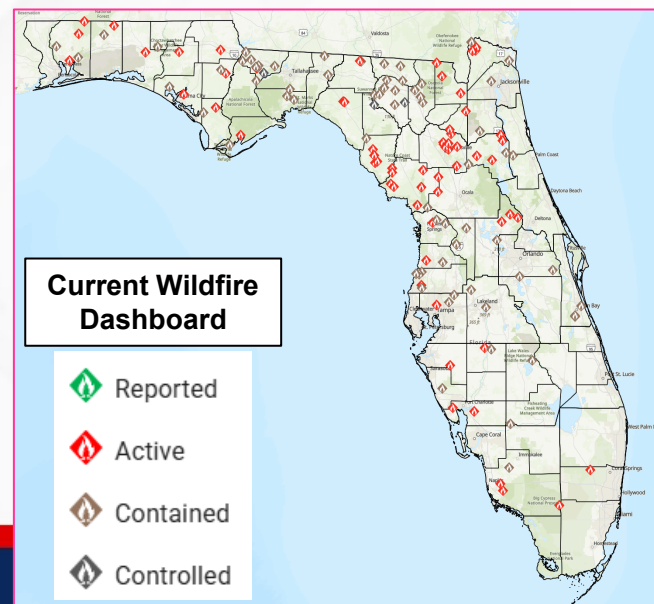
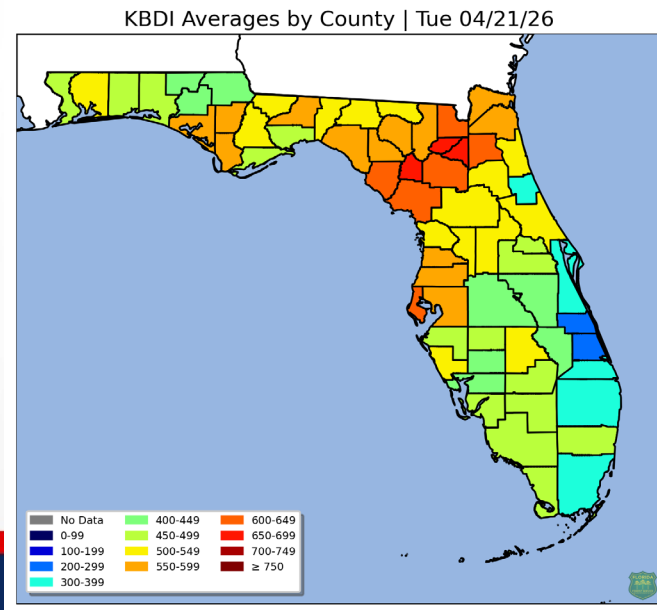
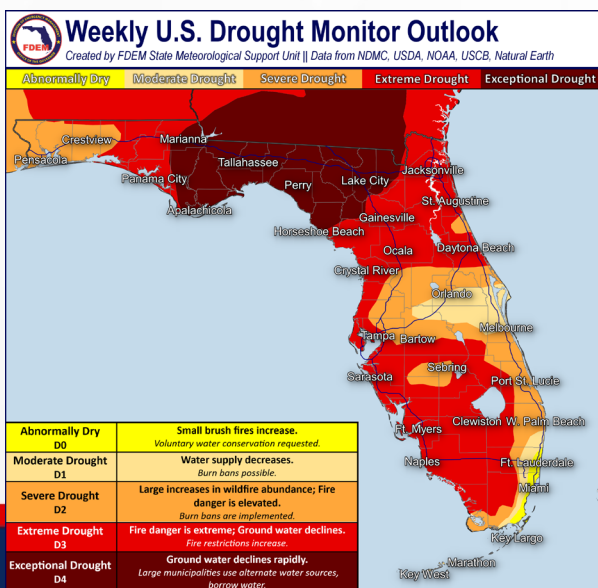


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Another mostly dry day is expected across the Sunshine State as high pressure continues to filter in very low relative humidities through the spine of the Peninsula. Easterly to east-southeasterly winds are expected to relax a bit today, though still gust **upwards of 20-25 mph** across the Peninsula. The Panhandle can expect southerly winds generally between 15-20 mph this afternoon. **Elevated wildfire conditions** will persist statewide given the very dry fuels and ongoing drought, with **locally critical conditions** possible across interior Northeast Florida where the lowest relative humidities are expected (25-30%). Relative humidities will quickly recover after sunset, helping with any wildfire suppression efforts. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop across the western Panhandle overnight, which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 113 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 12,852 acres.

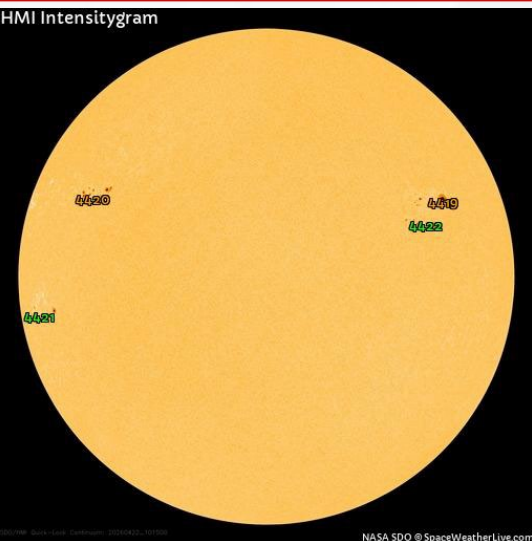
Drought (4/16/26): Although rainfall has been sparse and nearly non-existent across the state in the last 5 days or so, last week's rainfall that occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday (4/7 – 4/8) was included in this most recent Drought Monitor update which has brought some categorical improvements to South 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 **496 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **37** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

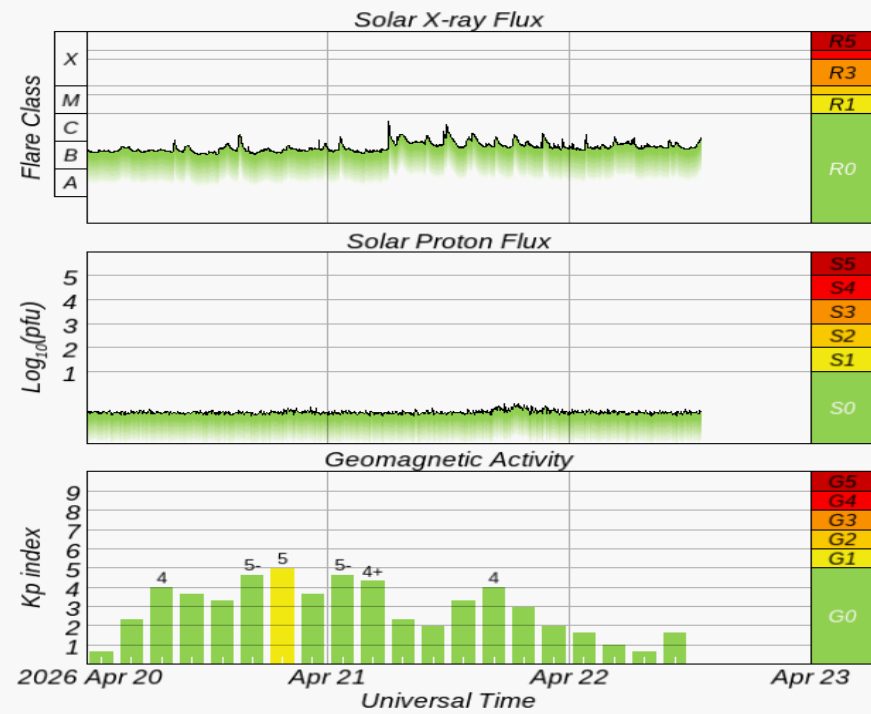
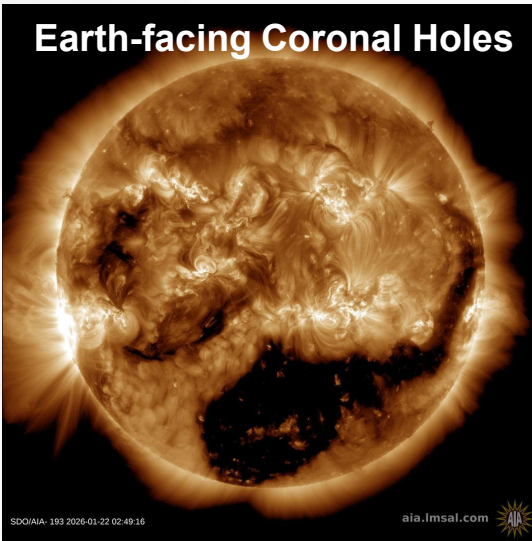




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/22	4/23
Max Kp= 3 (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 low levels with a slight chance for strong (M-class) solar flares primarily due to sunspot region #4419. Should any strong solar flares develop, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would accompany. Mildly enhanced solar wind conditions are expected through Thursday before elevated conditions return on Friday due to recurrent coronal hole influences. Mostly quiet to unsettled geomagnetic storming is expected 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
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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