



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, April 23, 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	Cody Nowak	(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	Hunter Stafford	(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, Walton	NWS Meeting / Wildfire Briefing / Sert Call / RC Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Wakulla, Jefferson	County EM Meeting / SERT Call / RC Meetings
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon, Dixie, Levy	Equipment Pickup / Wildfire Response / SERT Call / RC Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pasco	SRT Assessment (Pasco Co FR) / Wildfire Monitoring / SERT Call / RC Mtg
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Kansas City (KS)	National REP Conference
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Sarasota, Collier	Grants Desktop Monitoring Mtg / WebEOC Training / SERT Call / RC
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	SERT Call / RC Meeting

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
 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	Walton	EM Partners Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Administrative Duties
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Alachua	Co-Instructing
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam/Clay	Wildfire Operations
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	EM Partners Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	FL Courses 601/603
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	Miami-Dade	Community Mass Management

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

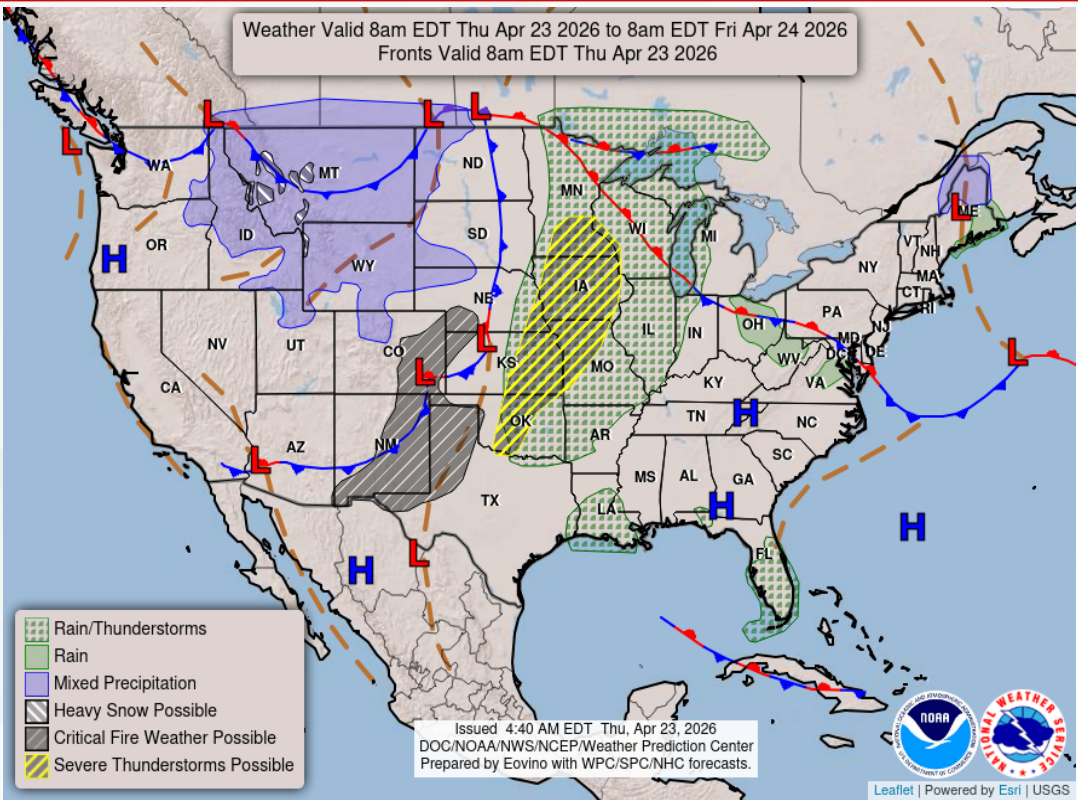
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Region 6 Coordinator & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

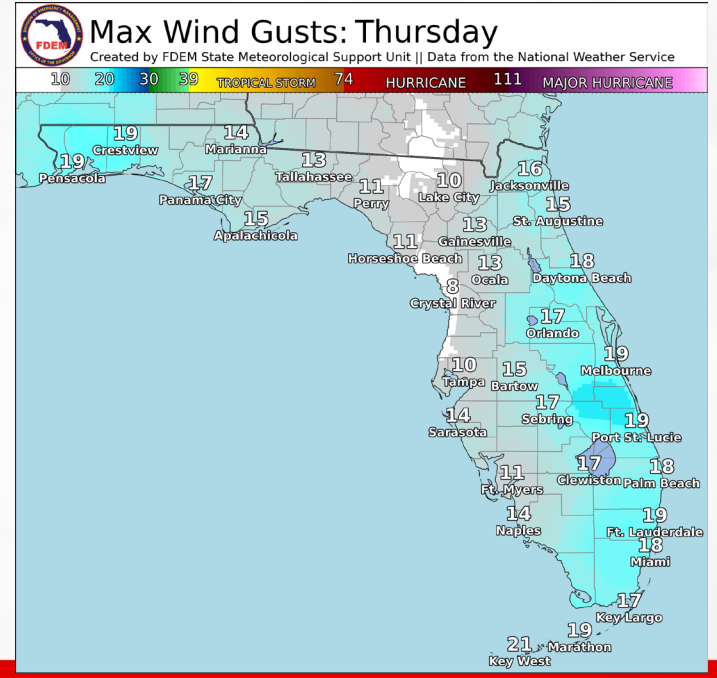
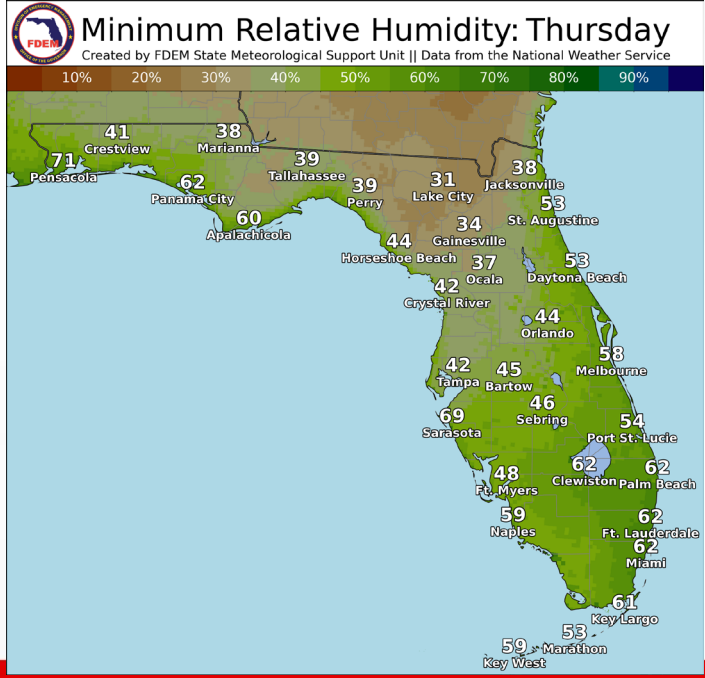


Meteorology Summary



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)	L	L								
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.87 ft. (1.94 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	502 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



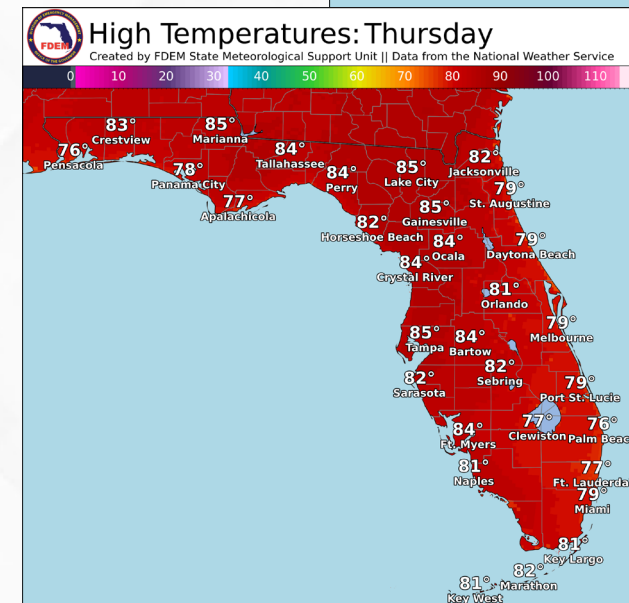
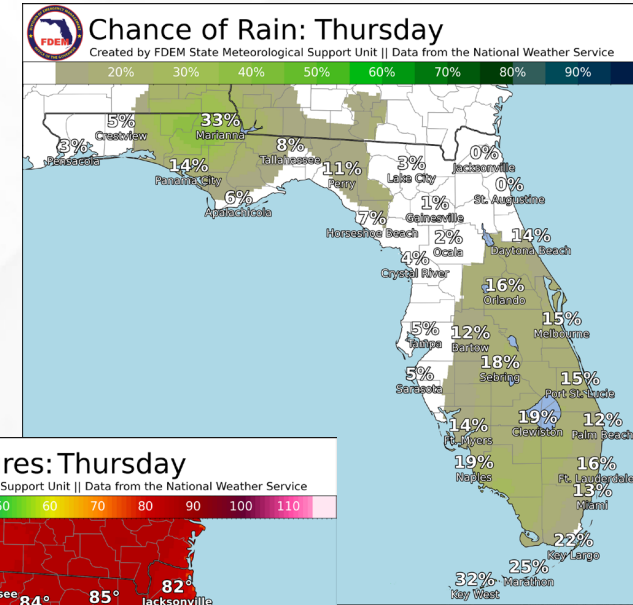


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Another mostly sunny and warm day is on tap for the Sunshine State as high pressure over the western Atlantic begins to slowly slide eastward. As a result, winds will begin to relax and turn more from the south today. A few gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** will be possible along the I-95 corridor. **Elevated wildfire conditions** are expected today across the state as relative humidities remain near critical thresholds with ongoing drought. **Locally critical conditions** cannot be ruled out across interior Northeast Florida where the lowest RH is expected (25-35%). Southerly winds will help to filter in just a bit more moisture today which will help promote isolated shower and thunderstorm develop along the sea breezes across the northern Panhandle and South-Central Florida (15-25% chance of rain). Although much of this activity is expected to be light and brief in nature, a **locally heavy downpour** cannot be ruled out. High temperatures will climb into the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide today.

Mostly clear and calm conditions are expected tonight, which will encourage **patchy fog development** across the Panhandle shortly before sunrise Friday. Low temperatures will into the upper 50s to middle 60s for most locations across Florida tonight, with coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys remaining 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. The highest risk will be along the Northwest Florida, Forgotten Coast, and Southeast Florida. A low risk is outlooked along the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will continue to diminish along the East Coast today, with waves near **2-4'**. A few waves across the Florida Keys may reach **upwards of 5'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see surf near 1-3'.

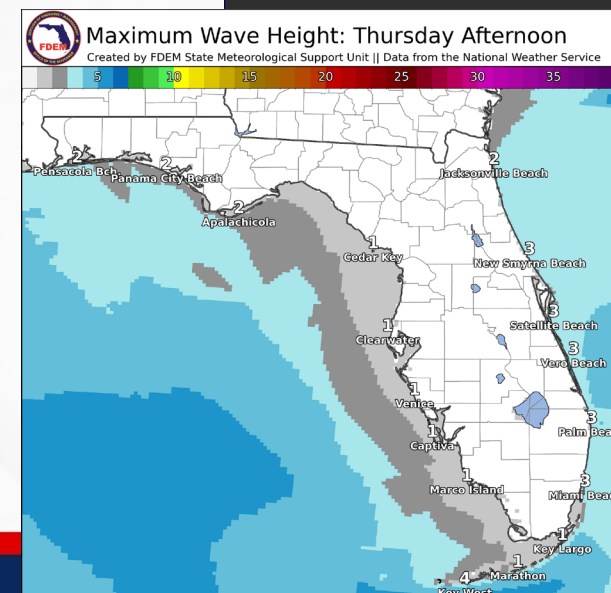
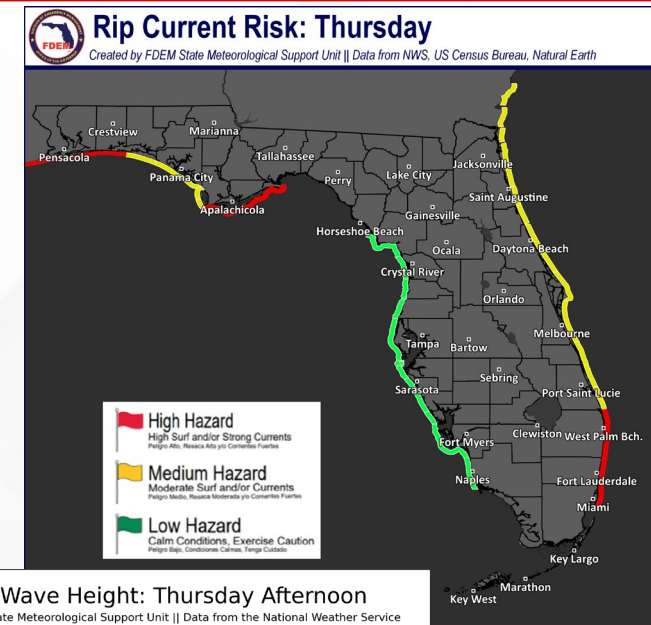
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today across Florida. Isolated showers and thunderstorms will develop along the sea breezes across South-Central Florida this afternoon. Most of this activity will be light and brief in nature, though a **locally heavy downpour** capable of producing a quick **1-3" of rain** 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 11.87 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.



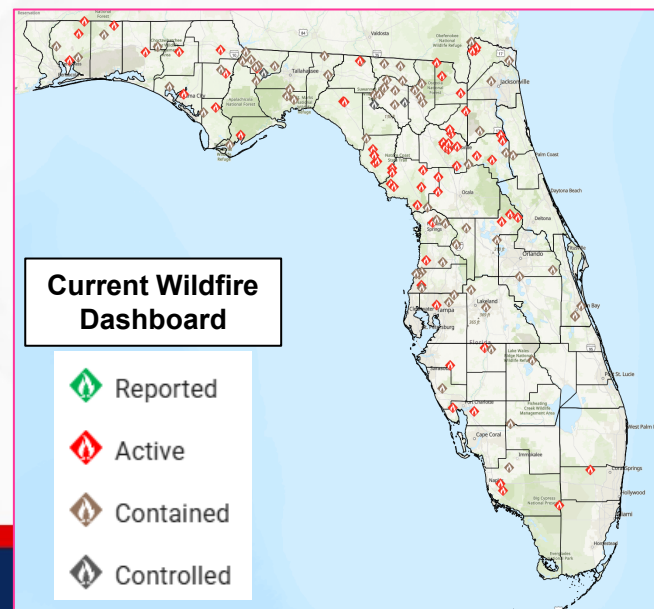
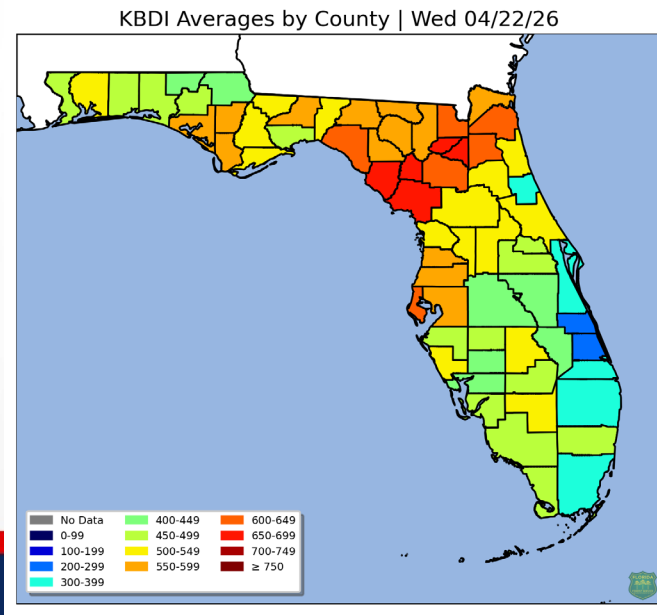
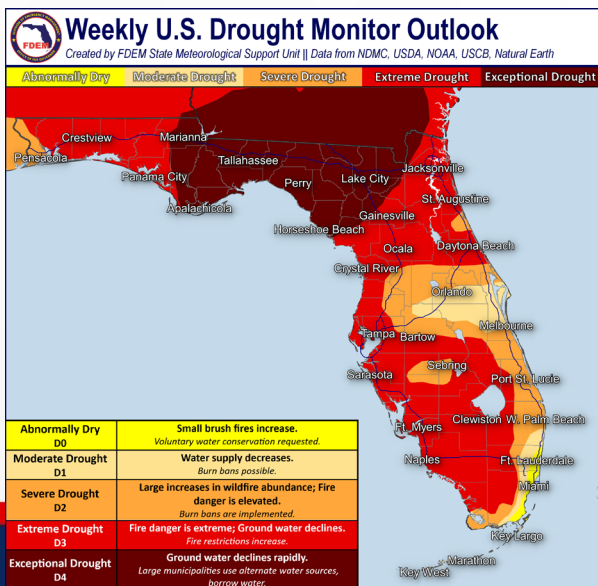


Drought & Fire Weather

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. Winds will begin to relax today as high pressure departs to the east over the western Atlantic, with just a few gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** along the I-95 corridor. Relative humidities will still dip to **near or below critical thresholds** across the state, with the lowest values over interior Northeast Florida. **Elevated to locally critical wildfire conditions** will persist today statewide. Areas of **dense smoke** cannot be ruled out downwind of any active wildfire today. A few isolated showers or thunderstorms are also possible along the sea breeze boundaries across the northern Panhandle and South-Central Florida today. **Lightning strikes can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones.** Tonight, areas of **patchy fog** may develop across portions of the western Panhandle, which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 138 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 25,248 acres.

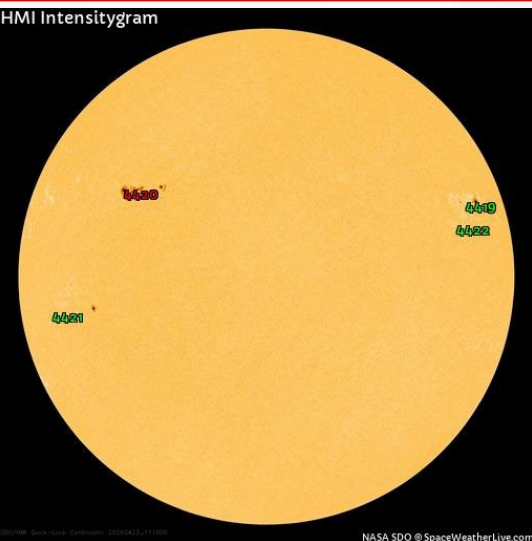
Drought (4/23/26): Beneficial rainfall was nowhere to be found in the past week across the Sunshine State with drought conditions largely remaining the same across the state. The heaviest observed rainfall over the past week was across coastal Southeast Florida where totals added up to 1-2" for most locations. This was still not enough to really put any additional dent in the drought situation across South Florida, with the coastal areas remaining under abnormally dry to **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** conditions. A **severe to extreme drought (level 2-3 of 4)** is still observed throughout the remainder of South Florida. Across Central Florida, very little changes were made where no measurable rainfall was observed over the past week. Some slight expansion eastward of the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** was added across Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties. North Florida likewise so nearly no measurable rainfall. The **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** was expanded slightly westward into Jackson County as well as a bit more eastward into Alachua, Levy, Bradford, Baker, and Nassau counties. Much of the western Panhandle is also now under an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. Rainfall deficits since the beginning of the water year (October 2025) are running 10-15 inches below normal or more across the entirety of North Florida. This has resulted in extremely low streamflows within all river basins, streams, lakes, and ponds. Looking ahead, isolated sea breeze showers and thunderstorms will return to the Peninsula this weekend and heading into early next week. However, the spotty nature of this activity will make it unable to provide much drought relief. A cold front with scattered showers and storms is also expected across the Panhandle and Big Bend this weekend. Rainfall totals with this activity do not appear to be widespread enough for any real drought improvement, though any rainfall will certainly be helpful.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **502 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **39** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

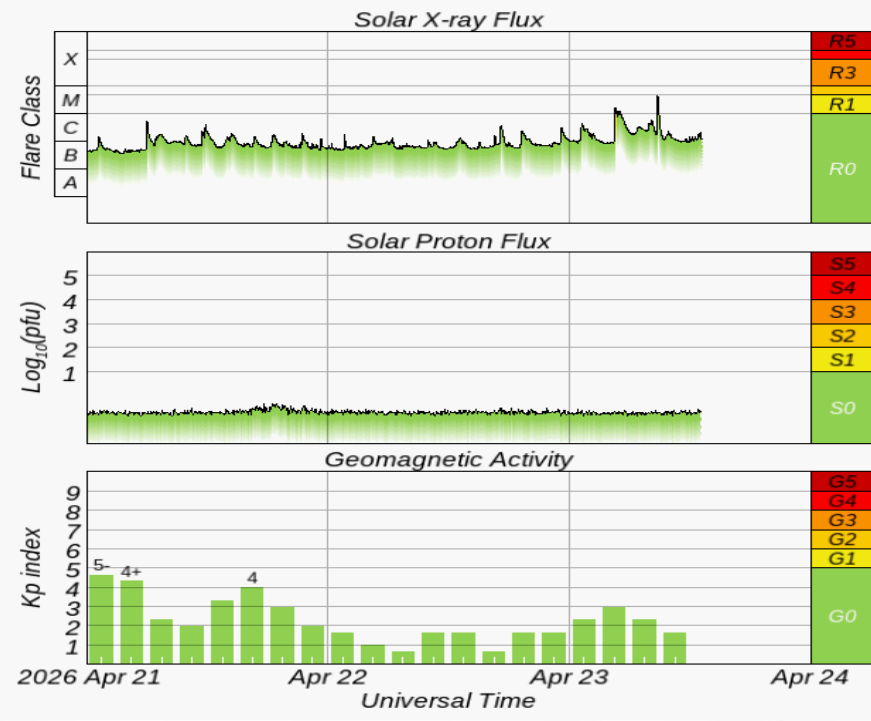
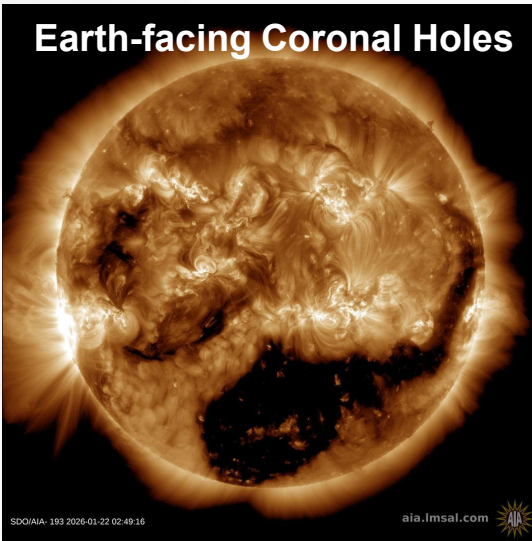




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/23	4/24
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 #4420. Should any strong solar flares develop, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would accompany. Mildly enhanced solar wind conditions are expected through today 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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