



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Friday, April 24, 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	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	<a href="mailto:Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com">Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Bay County MSEL Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty, Calhoun	County EM Meetings
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Taylor	Wildfire Response / Outreach Event
Region 4: Tara Kostich	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	FIFA Planning Meeting / Wildfire Monitoring
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 8: Amber Durden	Kansas City (KS), St Lucie	Return to Region 8 Travel
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Partners Meeting / Fifa Planning 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
<b>Out of Service / Unavailable</b>



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	MSEL / Exercise Department
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Levy / Taylor	Wildfire Operations
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam / Clay	Wildfire Operations
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	EM TTX
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 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

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

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

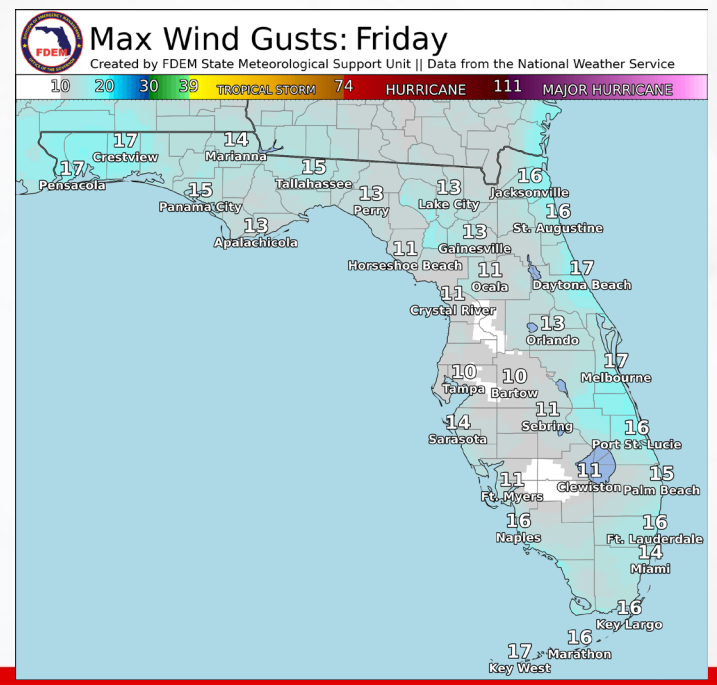
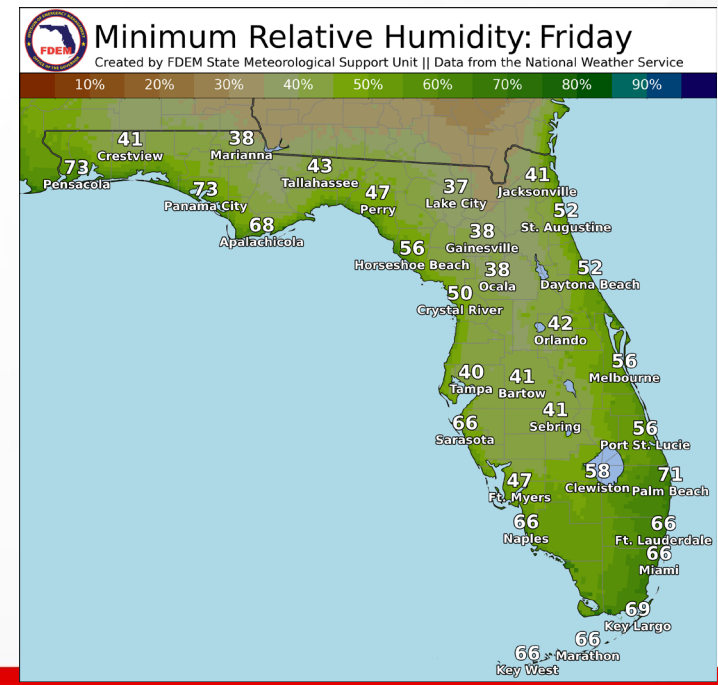
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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				L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	M	L	L					
Wildfire	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	M	M	M	M	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.84 ft. (1.94 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	507 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Today's Weather Map



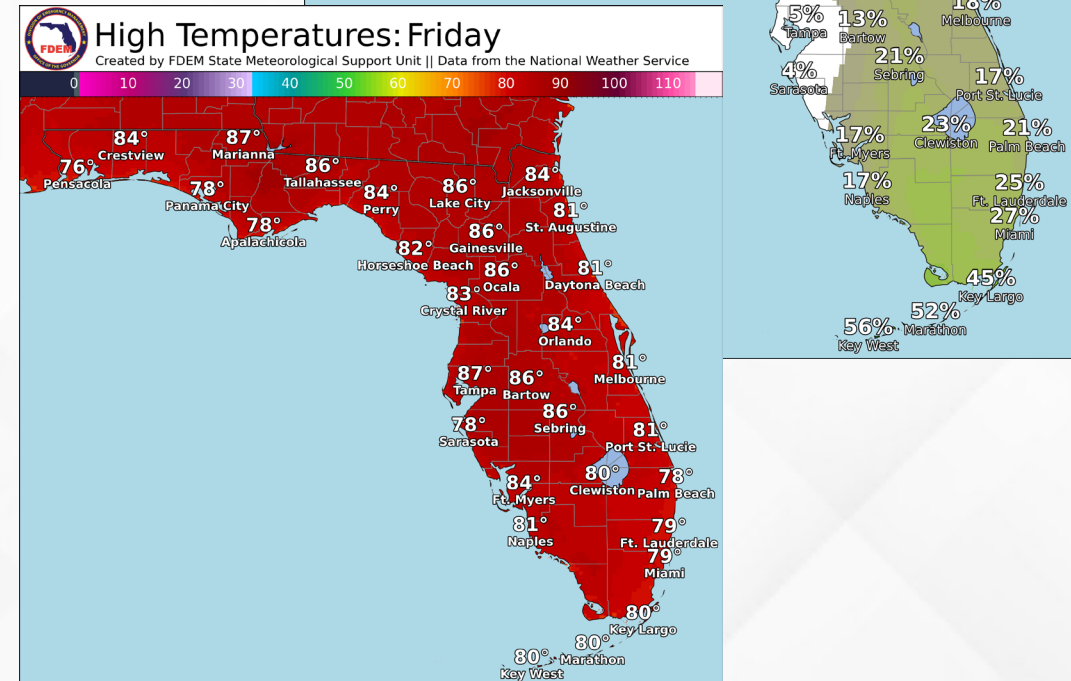
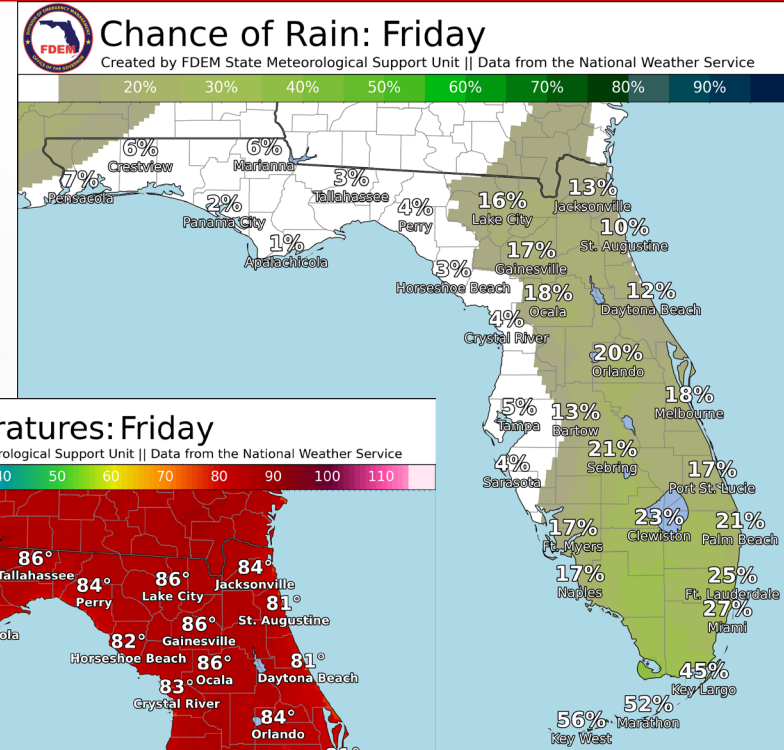
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Rain chances will gradually increase over the next few days as high pressure over the western Atlantic begins to eastward and a weak cold front moves into the region. Increasing moisture ahead of the front will allow isolated to possibly widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms to develop this afternoon and evening along the seabreeze over mainly interior portions of the Peninsula, with the greatest chance for rain existing across Southeast Florida and the Keys. No severe weather is expected and rainfall amounts should be light, thunderstorms with occasional lightning and brief gusty winds cannot be ruled out. Mostly sunny and warm conditions are forecast to continue across much of North Florida.

**Elevated wildfire conditions** are expected to continue today across the state. Although humidity values will gradually increase, relative humidity values in the 38-48% range combined with south to southeast winds of 5-15 mph and gusts to 20 mph will still hamper some containment efforts and allow new fires to start.

Mostly clear and calm conditions are expected tonight, which will encourage **patchy fog development** across North Florida shortly before sunrise. This fog, if mixed with smoke from nearby wildfires, could result in isolated pockets of highly reduced visibility on roadways. Low temperatures will be mild, in the upper 50s to upper 60s statewide and in the lower 70s along the Florida Keys.





# 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](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Surf will continue to diminish along the East Coast today, with waves near **2-4'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see surf near 1-3'.

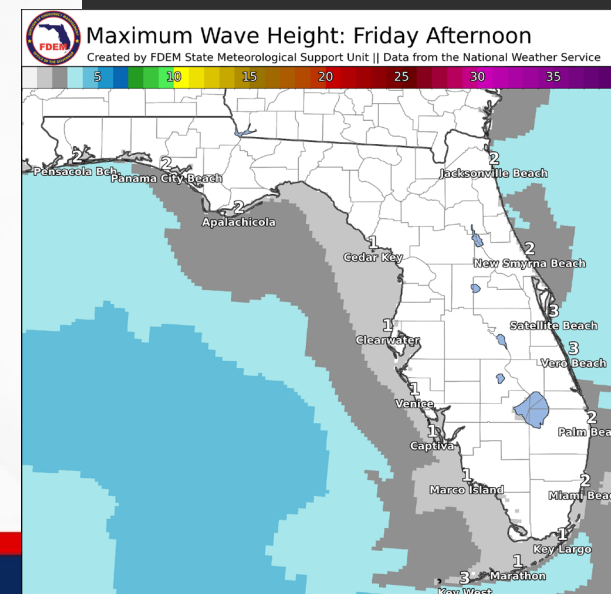
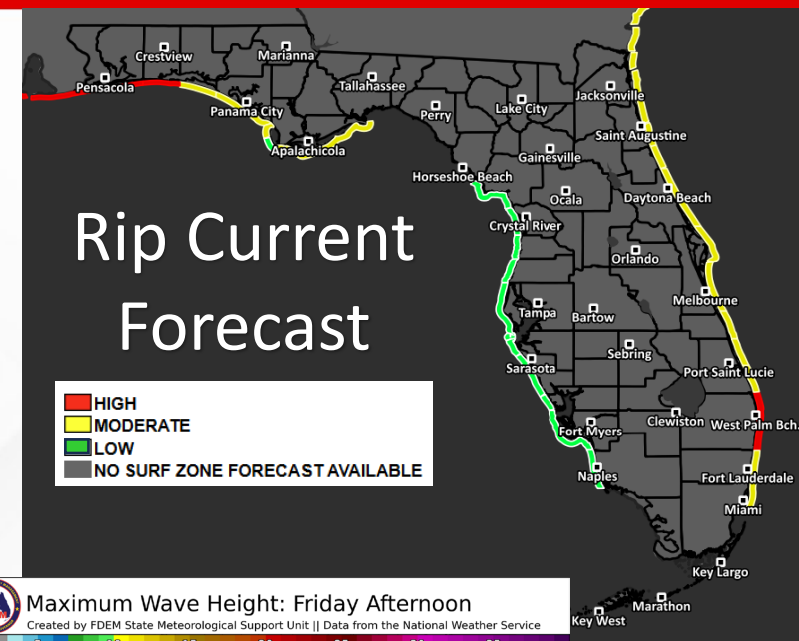
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations offshore Lee, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties (valid 4/17/26).

**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.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 11.84 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.



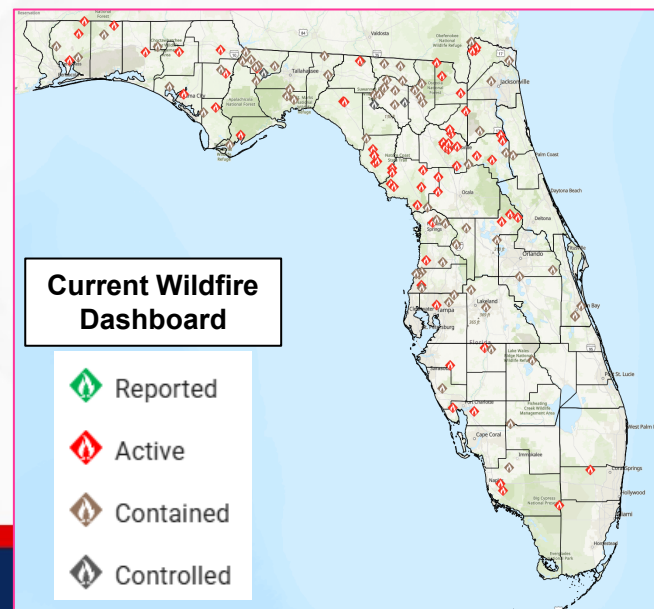
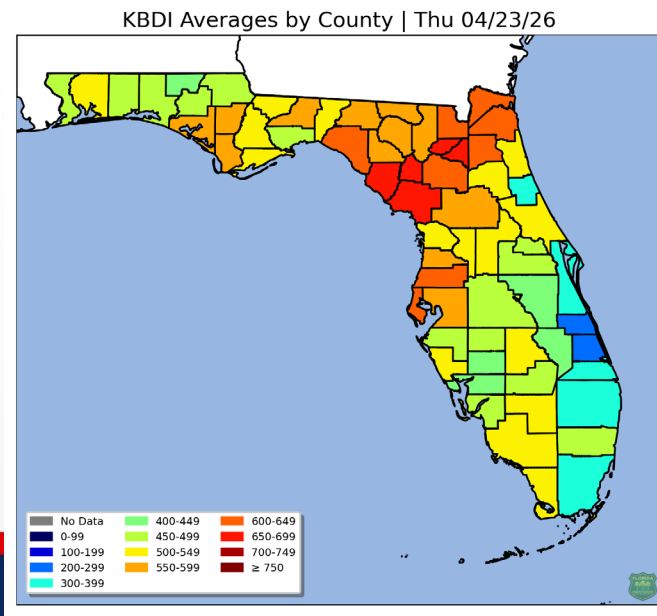
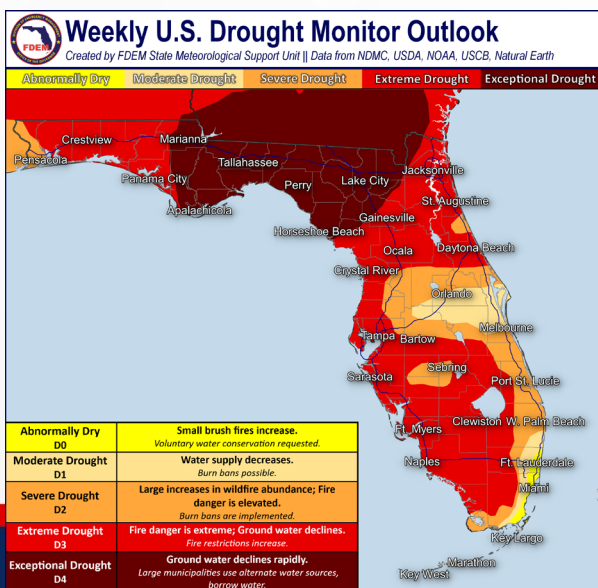


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** **Elevated 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 which can *spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones*. Tonight, areas of **patchy fog** may develop across North Florida, which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 134 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 25,786 acres.

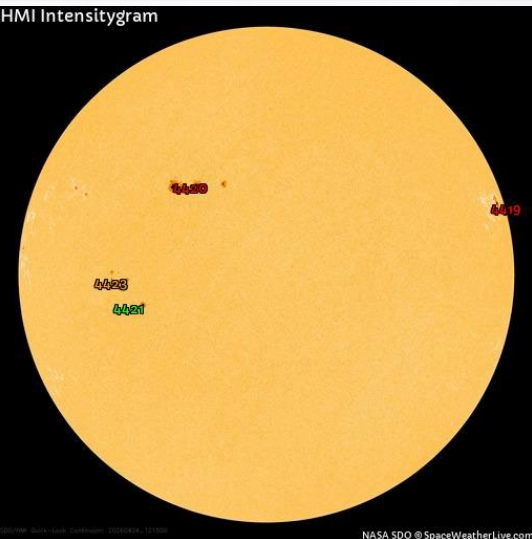
**Drought (4/23/26):** Beneficial rainfall was nowhere to be found in the past week across the Sunshine State with drought conditions largely remaining the same across the state. The heaviest observed rainfall over the past week was across coastal Southeast Florida where totals added up to 1-2" for most 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 saw 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 **507 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **41** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

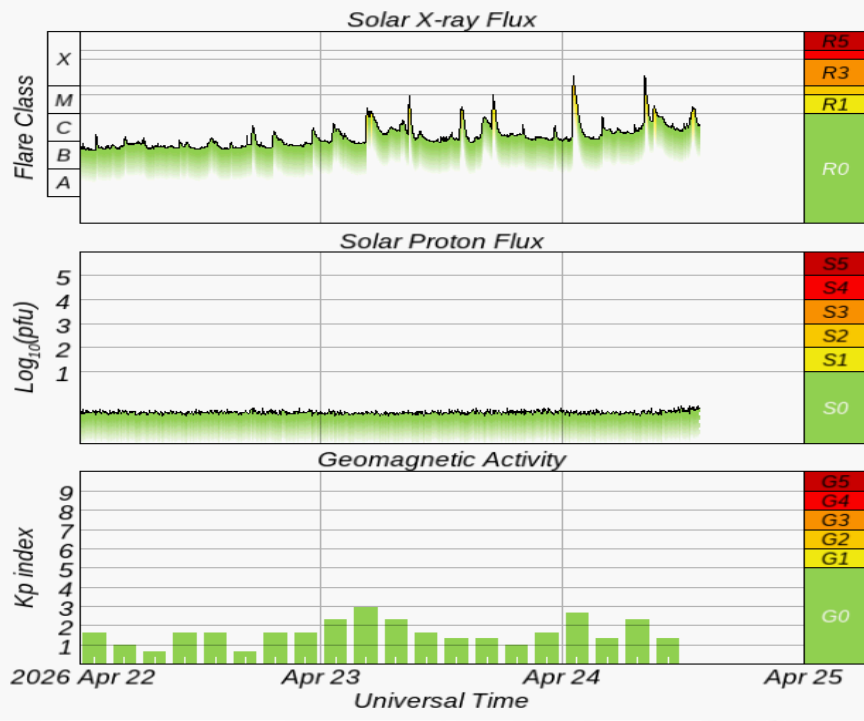
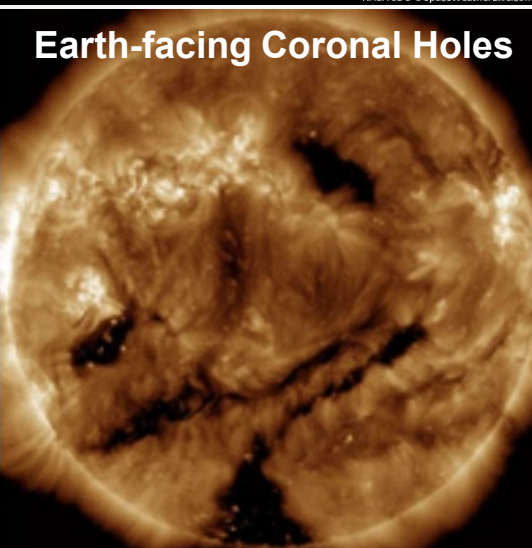




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	X2 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
4/24	4/25
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:** A series of strong solar flares occurred over the past 24 hours. More flares are likely today and throughout the weekend as sunspots 4419 and 4420 both have magnetic fields that harbor energy for strong flares. Should any strong solar flares develop, minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts would accompany. Minor G1-class geomagnetic storms are possible on April 26th when a CME is expected to graze Earth's magnetic field. 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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