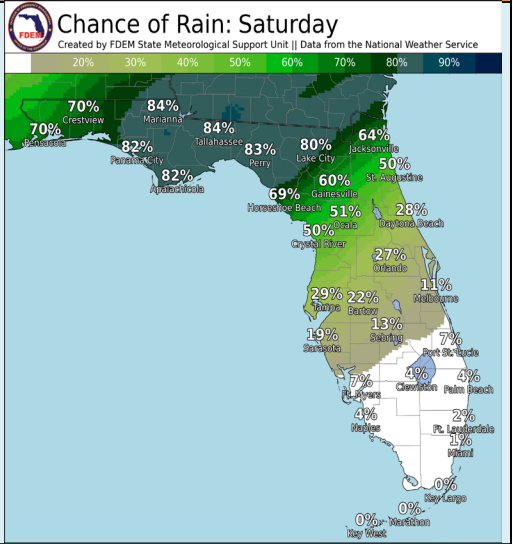
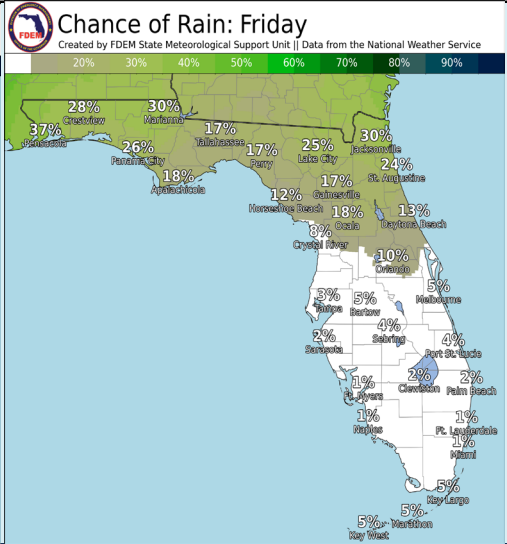
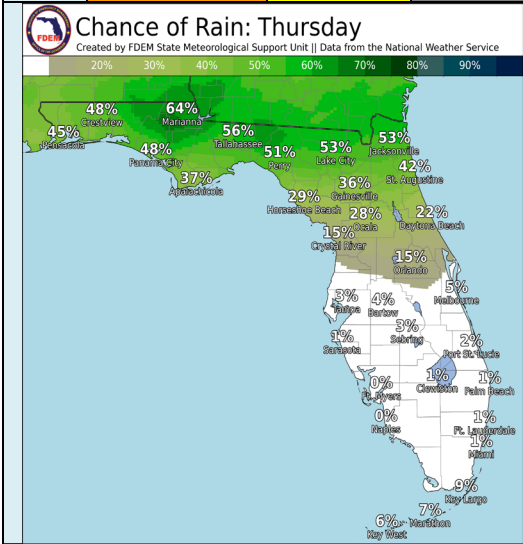


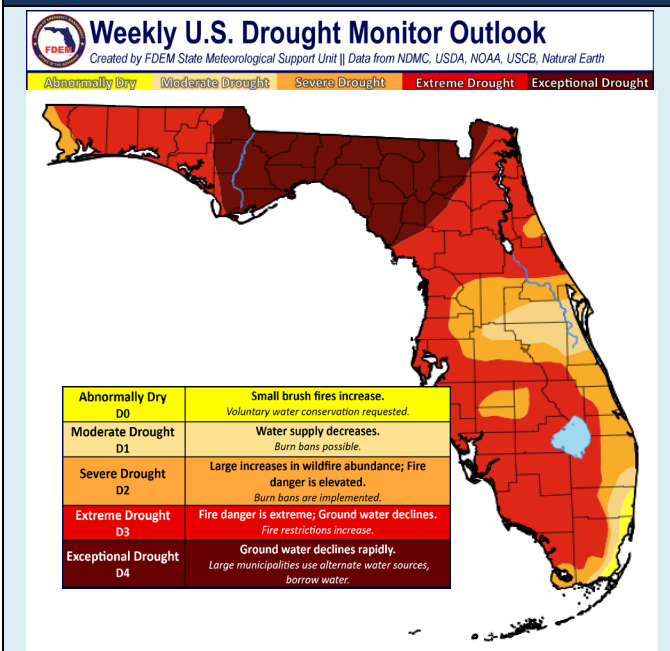
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

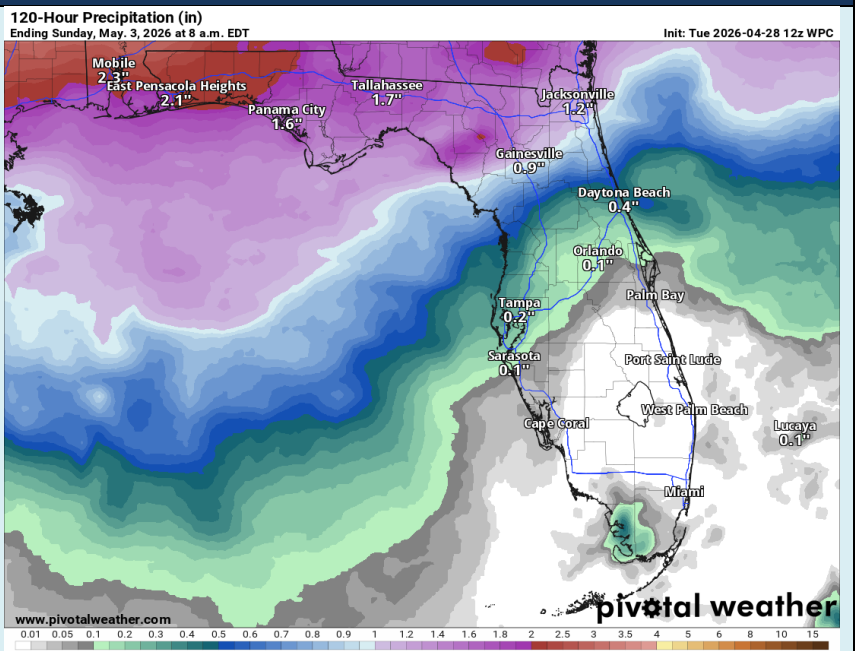
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue	Western Panhandle	Western Panhandle				Central FL South FL	Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Wed	North FL	North FL			Central FL South FL	Central FL South FL	Interior Peninsula	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Thu	Statewide				Central FL South FL		Statewide	Statewide
Fri	Statewide						Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Sat	North FL South FL	North FL					Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Chance of Rain (%): Thursday, Friday, and Saturday



Drought Monitor: Valid 4/23/2026



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening



**...Elevated Fire Danger Persists with Dry Fuels, Near Critical Low Relative Humidity, and Gusty Winds...Storms Return to the Forecast in North Florida Tonight and Wednesday Night and Could Be Severe...A Stronger More Substantive System Will Bring Rain to the Entire State this Weekend...High Rip Current Risk Continues for the East Coast Beaches...**

**Tuesday - Thursday:**

Dry conditions today with breezy northeast winds are contributing to elevated wildfire risk, especially throughout the Florida Peninsula where fuels remain dry. This risk is greatest across West Central Florida where relative humidities this afternoon will drop into the upper 20 percent range. Any existing wildfires could spread or new wildfires could develop. On Wednesday, dry conditions will again return in the afternoon throughout inland areas of the Florida Peninsula. Winds will shift to south and southwest during the afternoon and become breezy. This wind direction change coincident with the near critical relative humidity values could affect existing wildfire behavior or lead to development of new wildfires. As a reminder, over 80 percent of the state is in an **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)**.

Late tonight, showers and thunderstorms associated with a small disturbance over the Lower Mississippi Valley will move eastward and approach the Western Florida Panhandle. Rain chances tonight are around 20 to 30 percent as these storms will be weakening with time. Even so, some strong to marginally severe storms are possible as far east as Crestview before the severe weather threat diminishes by daybreak on Wednesday. The primary threat is damaging winds. Across the remainder of the state, no rain is expected on Wednesday. With the wind shift to southerly, the rip current risk will begin to increase along the Gulf Coast beaches.

By Wednesday evening, a frontal system will move into the Southeast with rain chances substantively increasing across North Florida (40-60%) after sunset. As these storms approach and move along the frontal boundary overnight, there is a **marginal risk (level 1 of 5) for severe storms**, with impacts of damaging winds and hail being the most likely. These storms also have the potential to bring up to one-half inch of rain. These storms will weaken with time while approaching Northeast Florida as the frontal boundary stalls across the North-Central portion of the state by Thursday morning.

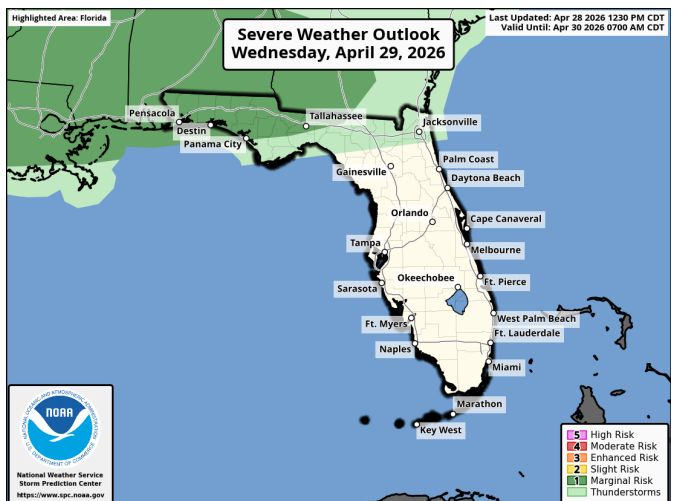
With a stalled frontal boundary in place across the region on Thursday, cloudy conditions and scattered showers (40-50%) are expected across North Florida. Isolated storms (20-30% chance) are expected across Central and South Florida.

Ahead of the frontal boundary on Wednesday and Thursday, Central and Southern Florida will see unseasonably warm temperatures with high temperatures across interior areas reaching the lower 90s. With increasing humidity after Wednesday, **heat indices in the upper 90s to 100 degrees** can be expected on Thursday afternoon.

**Patchy fog** is possible early Wednesday and Thursday mornings across interior Central Florida. This fog could combine with lingering smoke to lead to localized restrictions in visibilities.

**Friday – Saturday:**

A developing low pressure system over the Western Gulf will move eastward, leading to an increase in moisture across the entire state. While rain chances on Friday (20-30%) will be highest in the northern portion of the state, the increase in humidity will further decrease temporarily the elevated fire conditions. By early Saturday morning, the low pressure system and frontal boundary will begin to move across the Florida Panhandle and North Florida. Rain chances will increase considerably (50-80%). The system will bring a more substantive **severe weather threat to the northern portion of the state** where damaging winds, large



hail, and a few tornadoes will be possible. Further, welcome and needed rainfall is expected with this storm system. Generally across North Florida through Saturday, 1-2 inches with isolated maximum amounts near 4 inches are possible. By late Saturday, rain will spread into Central Florida, with rainfall amounts approaching an inch with more rain expected to continue beyond Saturday across Central and South Florida.

The return of rain will help with fire suppression activities across the state, but with the arrival of thunderstorms, there is the possibility that lightning could be a source of ignition for any new wildfires, despite the rainfall, especially in North Florida, where fuels remain critical dry. Moreover, even the isolated maximum amounts of 4 inches of rain are not sufficient to bring meaningful drought relief. Much of the northern portion of the state has seen between 25 to 40 percent of normal rainfall over the last 6 months. While this rain event will help, in the longer term, it will barely make a dent in drought conditions.

### Hydrology & Flooding:

There is an extremely low risk of flash flooding on Saturday should isolated heavy rainfall amounts in excess of 3 inches fall in a very short period of time in an urban area in North Florida. Otherwise, given the very dry soils, the region can handle moderate rainfall. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. Many waterways throughout the state remain well below normal or at record low levels due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.74 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.95 feet below normal for this time of year.

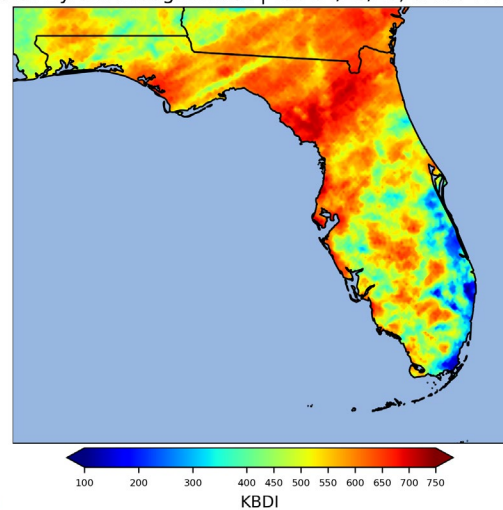
### Drought & Fire Weather:

Rainfall has been sparse and to non-existent across the northern two-thirds of the state in the last 7 days, thus this week's update to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) includes 99% of Florida in a Moderate Drought or worse. Of this 99%, 22.5% of the state is in **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** which includes North Florida areas generally between the Chipola River basin and the Suwannee/St. Mary's Basins in Northeast Florida. 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 to record low streamflows within all river basins, streams, lakes, and ponds. In the central and western Panhandle, **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** has expanded into Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and northern Escambia counties. Extreme Drought also expanded in parts of Hernando, Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. With observed rainfall totals in the .025"-2" range across portions of the Treasure Coast and South Florida, the Drought Monitor remains unchanged for those areas as those values are considered "normal" for this time of year.

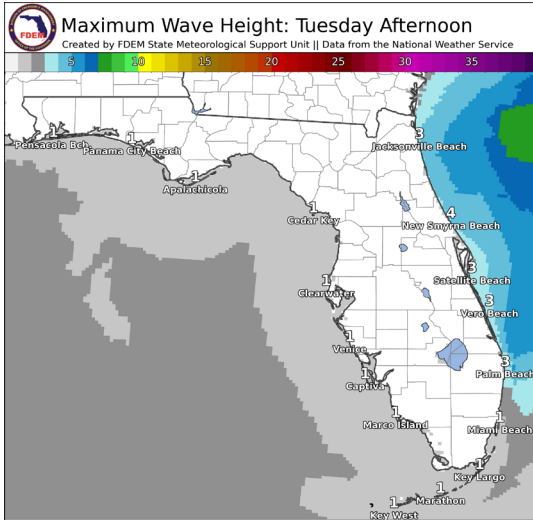
Looking ahead, although some welcome rain chances are in the forecast for much of the state this weekend, **this will do nothing to improve drought conditions in any meaningful way**, so the wildfire risk will likely increase again the days following the rainfall.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **533** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **52** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger). According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 90 wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,444 acres (as of 2:00 PM EDT).

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Tue 04/28/26, 02:00 PM EDT



## Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



Onshore easterly winds will continue a **high risk for rip currents** for East Coast beaches from Palm Beach County northward into Wednesday. Along the First Coast and Space Coast beaches, surf heights of 3 to 5 feet with isolated breakers are expected through tonight before decreasing on Wednesday. By Wednesday afternoon, winds will shift to southwesterly which will help reduce the rip current risk along the East Coast, while increasing the risk along the Gulf Coast beaches. There is potential for moderate to high rip current risk on several Gulf Beaches by the weekend.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 75 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **Red Tide** has only been observed at very low levels in Pinellas Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa Counties.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

**For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:**

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful week!

Kelly Godsey, Senior Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist  
Deployed to Florida Division of Emergency Management  
National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

