



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, April 30, 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 | Woody Harvey | (850) 591-7939 | Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com |
| Duty Officer | Austin Johnson | (850) 296-5680 | Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com |
| Operations Officer- Day | Ahnaya Benjamin | (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 | Amy Godsey | (850) 519-8483 | Amy.Godsey@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 | Mason Kozac | (850) 241-5435 | mason.kozac@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 | County EM Meeting / NWS Weekly & Drought Mtg / SERT Call / RC Mtg |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston | Jefferson | County EM Meeting / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | Columbia | Wildfire & IMT Coordination / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 4: Tara Kostich | Nassau, Clay | LODD Procession / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Sumter, Seminole | Grants Desktop Monitoring Meeting / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | Hillsborough | EM Interview Assistance / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | DeSotot, Polk | Grants Desktop Monitoring Meeting / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 8: Amber Durden | St Lucie, Indian River | County EM Visit / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 9: Brittany Bremer | Lee | FDOT & County EM Meeting / SERT Call / RC Meeting |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

| Status |
|------------------------------|
| Normal Operations |
| Out of Service / Unavailable |



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

| Team | County Location | Status / Activities |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Region 1: Allison Blevins | In Region | Off / Monitoring |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara | Jefferson | County EM Visit |
| Region 3: Kevin Blom | Bradford / Union | EM Meeting |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | Nassau | Honors Detail |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Not Available | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 6: Rick Rogers | Citrus | Vehicle Maintenance |
| 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 | EOC Activation Exercise |

Region 5 Recovery Coverage Provided By Coordinator 4

Region 7 Recovery Coverage Provided By Coordinator 6

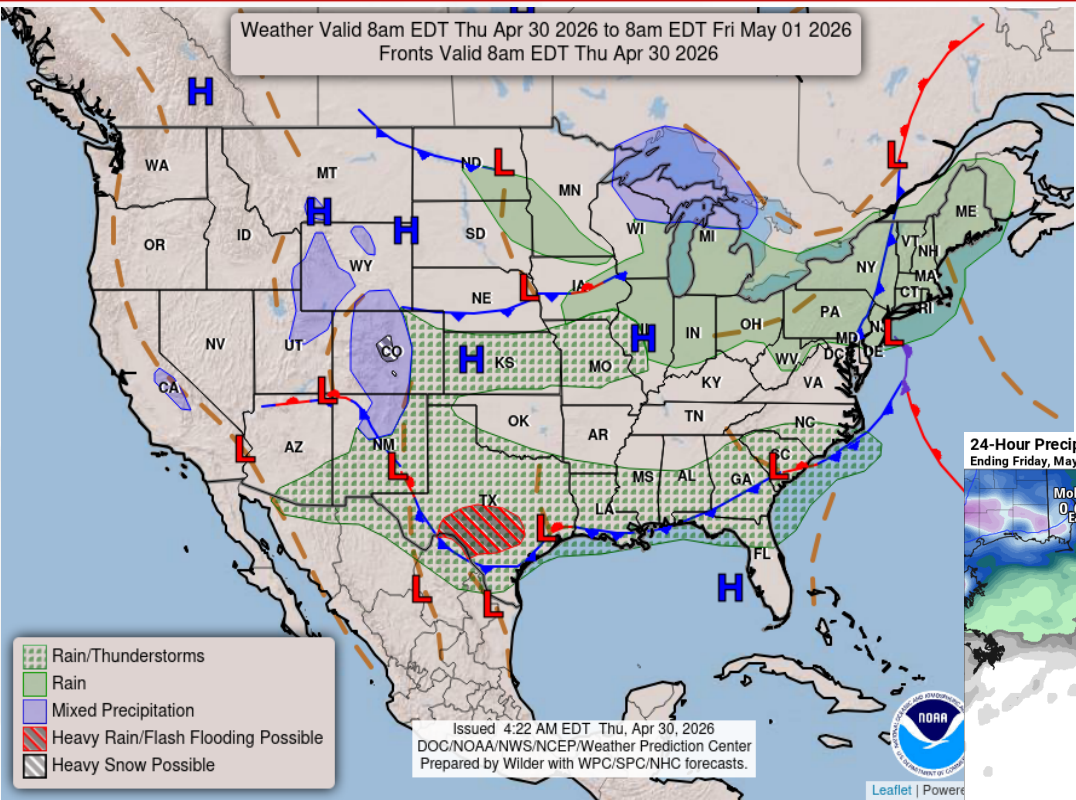
Region 8 Recovery Coverage Provided By Coordinator 6

Region 9 Recovery Coverage Provided by Coordinator 6

| Status |
|------------------------------|
| Normal Operations |
| In Region / Delayed Response |
| Deployed / Delayed Response |
| Out of Service / Unavailable |

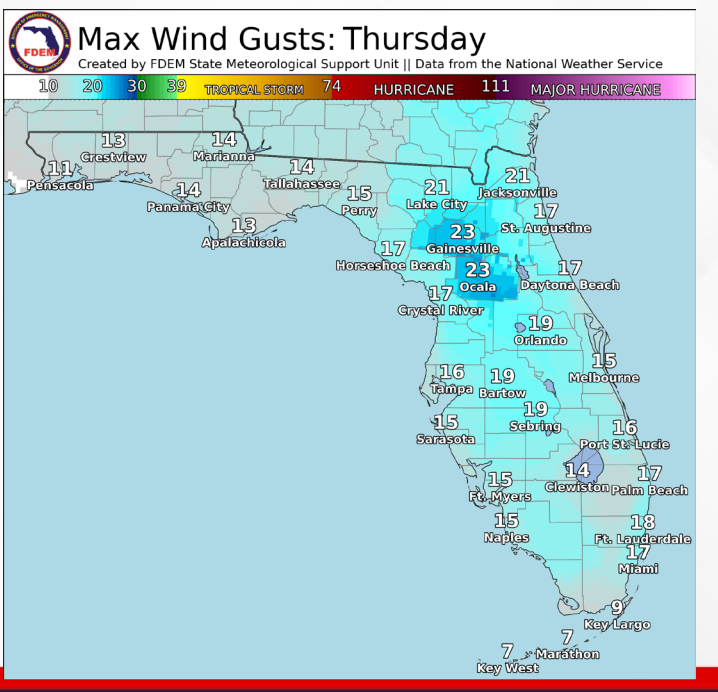
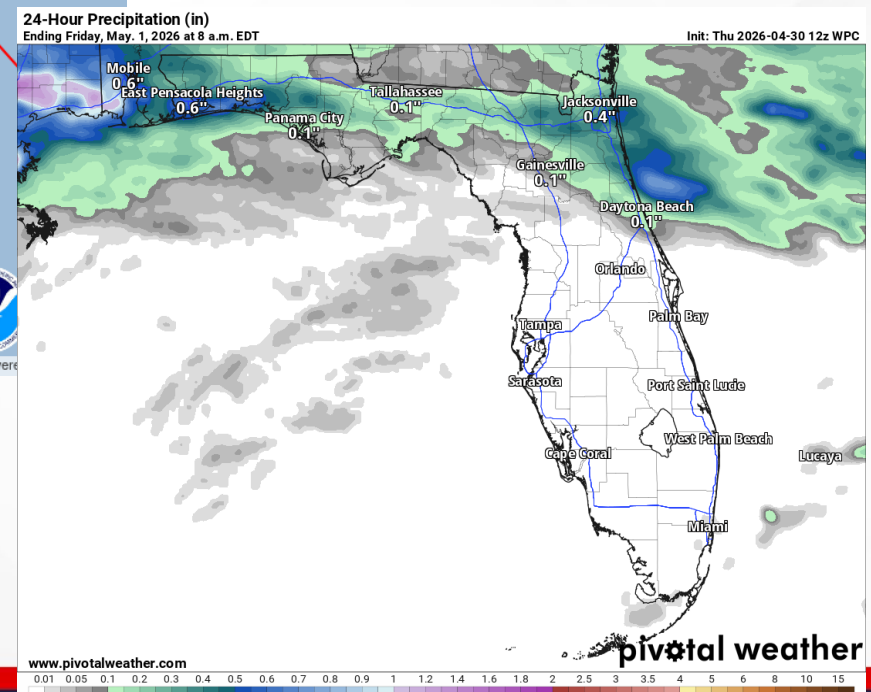


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning | L | L | L | L | | | | | | |
| Tornado | | | | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | L | L | | | | | | | | |
| Hail | L | L | | | | | | | | |
| Flash Flooding | | | | | | | | | | |
| Extreme Heat | | | | | L | | L | L | L | |
| Fog (Overnight) | | | | | | L | L | | L | |
| Wildfire | M | M | M | M | H | M | H | H | H | M |
| Rip Currents | M | M | L | M | M | L | | H | L | M |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation | 11.72 ft. (1.93 ft. Below Normal) | | | | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 541 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | | | | |





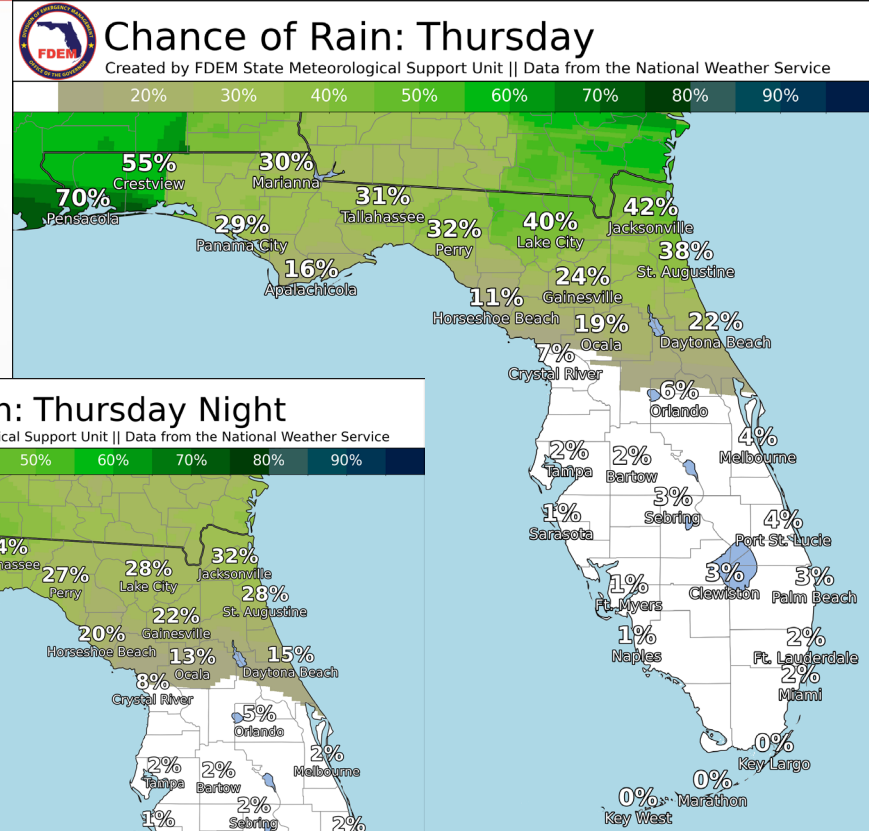
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A weak frontal boundary will approach North Florida and stall across the Northern Gulf and the Northern Peninsula by this evening. Throughout the late morning and into the afternoon, scattered showers and thunderstorms will move along this boundary, impacting counties along and south of the I-10 corridor in North Florida. Occasional lightning strikes could present an ignition source for the especially dry fuels should storms occur east of the Apalachicola River.

Across Central and South Florida, winds will be westerly at 10-15 mph with gusts as high as 25 mph in the afternoon ahead of the frontal boundary. With a dry airmass in place, this will allow for abundant sunshine and warm temperatures away from the west coast beaches in the lower 90s. Afternoon relative humidities will drop into the 25-30 percent range over the interior Florida Peninsula south of I-4 and combine with these winds to enhance the spread or development of wildfires.

Overnight, showers and storms will approach the Western Florida Panhandle. A few of these storms could be strong to briefly severe with damaging winds and large hail being the primary concerns.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Winds will shift to westerly across the state, which will help diminish the long period swells that have been impacting the East Coast Beaches. However, sufficient swell remains for a **high risk of rip currents** along the Palm Beach County Beaches with a **moderate risk elsewhere** along the Atlantic Coast. A **moderate risk** is in place for the Panhandle beaches with a low risk for western Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf heights of 2-4 feet along the east coast, highest south of Cape Canaveral. 1 to 2 feet is expected elsewhere.

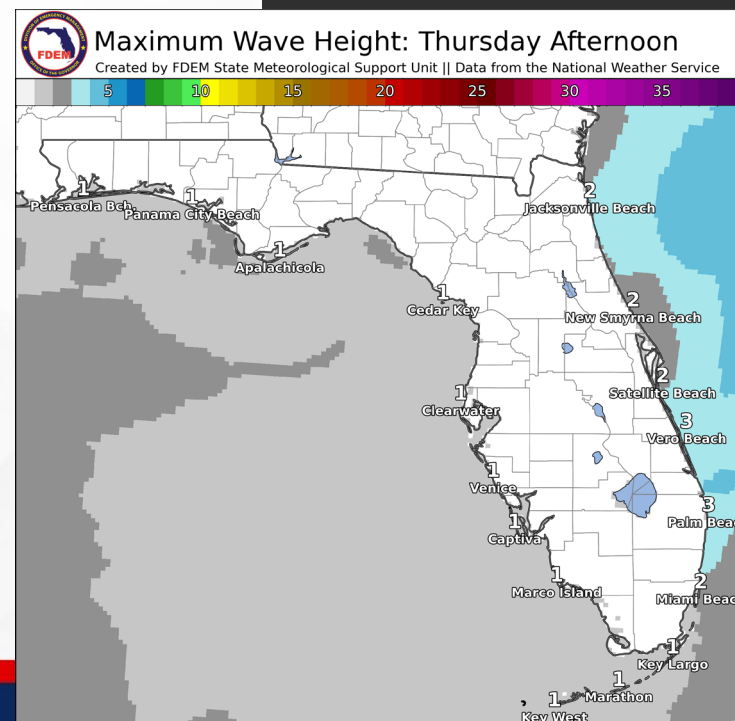
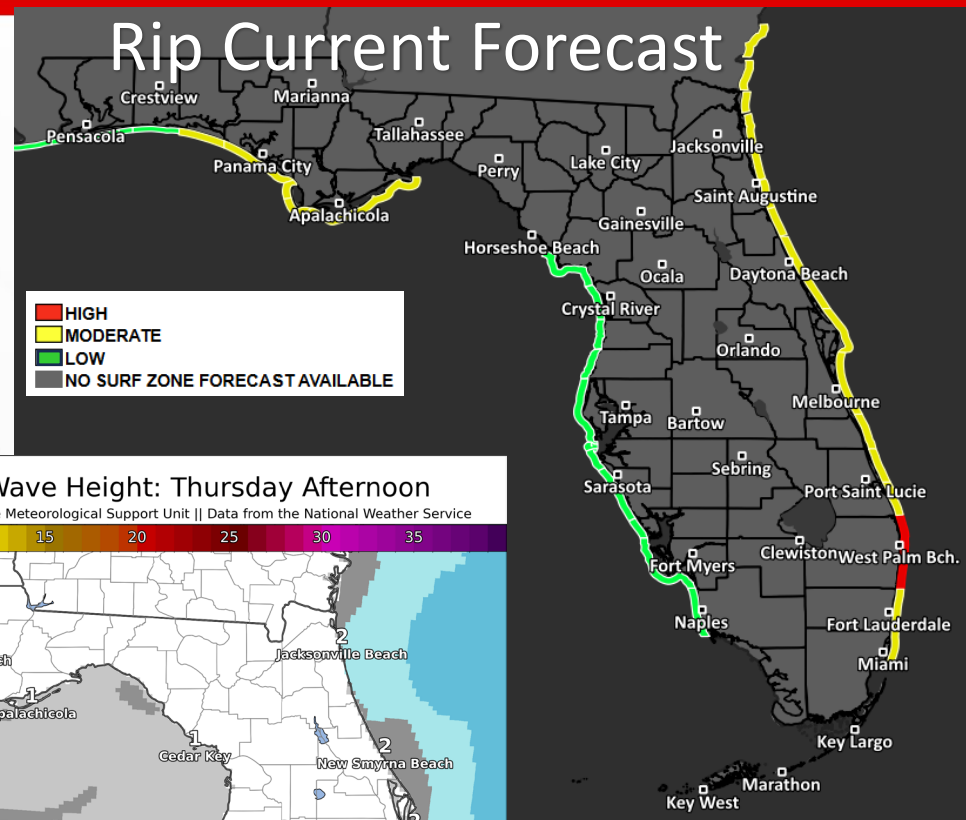
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa counties (valid 4/24/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today as any storm activity will be brief in nature and produce rainfall amounts of less than 1/2".

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.72 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.93 feet below normal for this time of year.



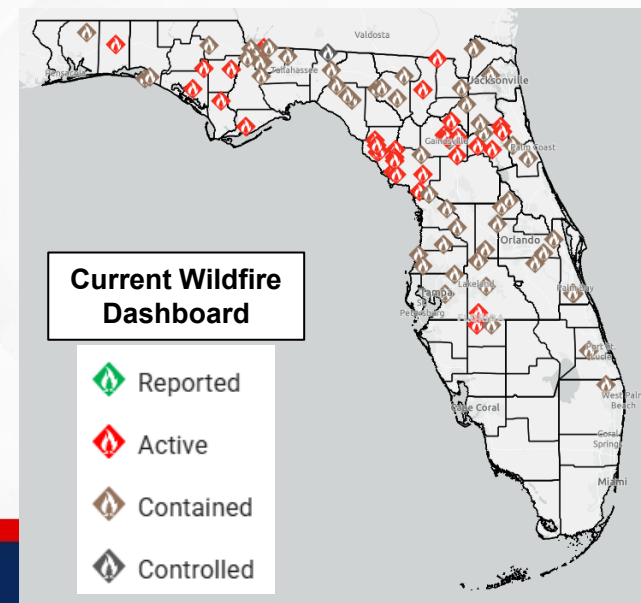
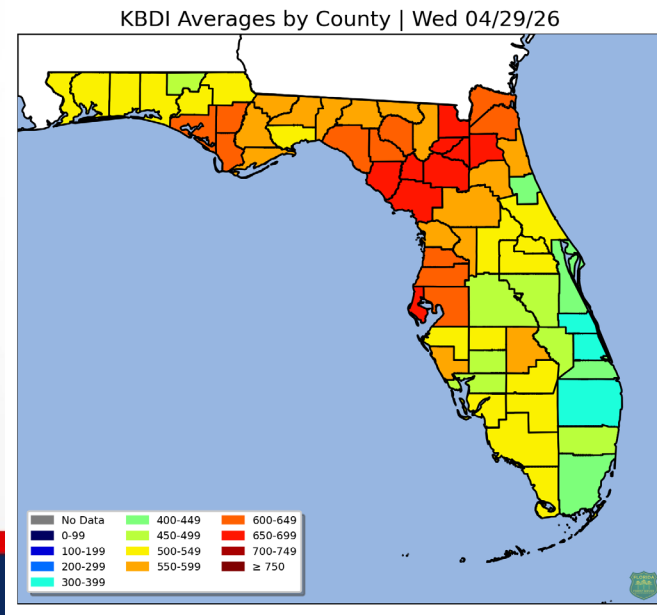
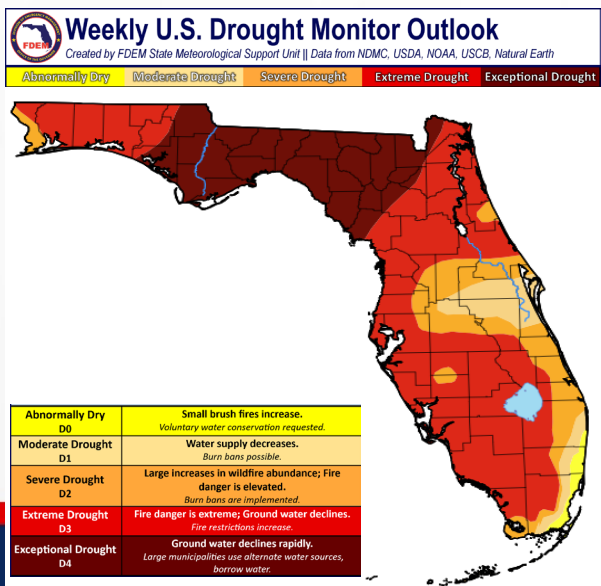


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: **Elevated wildfire conditions** continue today across Central and portions of South Florida today. Afternoon relative humidities are expected to drop into the 25-30 percent range across the interior portions of the Florida Peninsula. As winds increase this afternoon out of the west at 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 25 mph, this will create the potential for wildfire development and spread in an area with already dry fuels. There remains concerns for new fire ignition across the Florida Big Bend and Northeast Florida due to lightning potential for scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Tonight, areas of patchy fog may develop across Southwest Florida which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are 91 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,673 acres.

Drought (4/30/26): **Exceptional Drought (level 4 of 4)** expanded this week across the Florida Panhandle, now including Bay, Jackson, and portions of Washington County on the west side of the Exceptional Drought area. Little change was noted east of US-301 in Northeast Florida where Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4) continues. Throughout West Central and Southwestern Florida, **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** expanded further inland. In East Central Florida Moderate to severe drought (level 1-2 of 4) continues. In South Florida, Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4) surrounds Lake Okeechobee and extends through Western Miami Dade County. Overall, nearly 80 percent of the state is in Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4) or worse as of this drought report. Rainfall deficits since the beginning of the water year (October 2025) are running 12-18 inches below normal or more across the entirety of North Florida. This has resulted in extremely low or record low streamflows within all river basins, streams, lakes, and ponds.

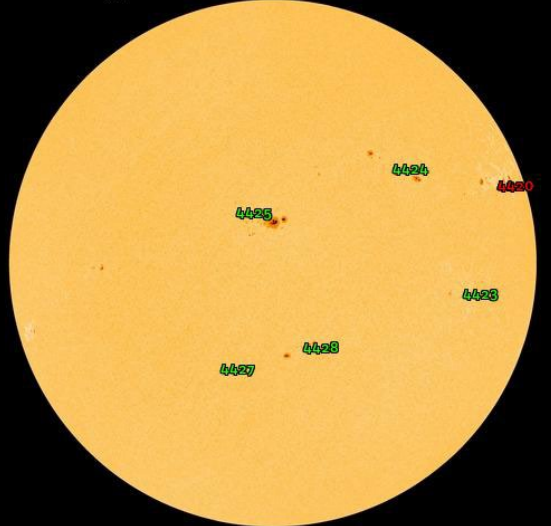
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **541 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **53 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



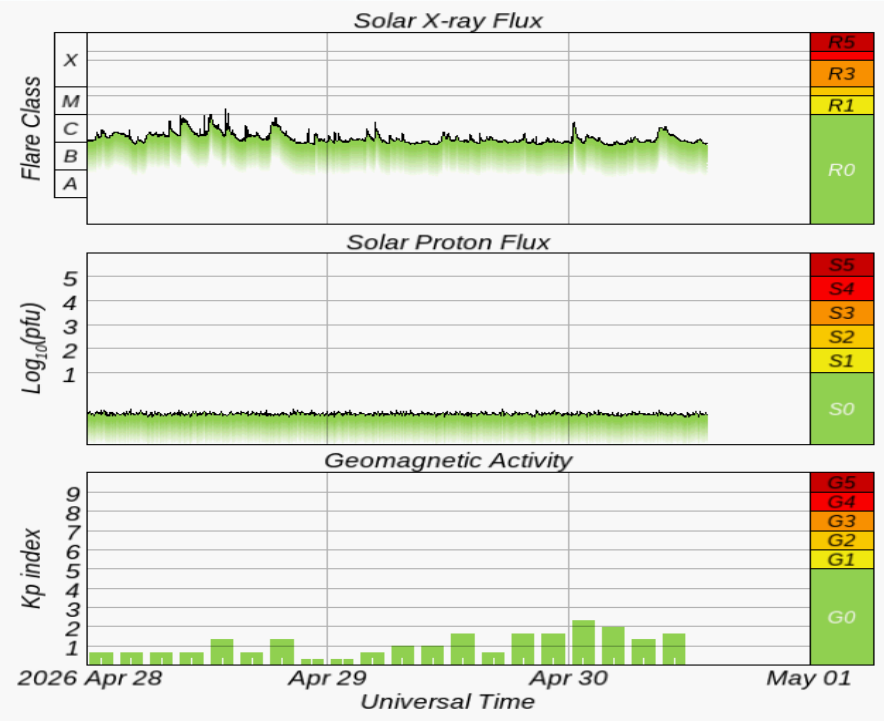


Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram



Current Sunspots



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| M-class: 65% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | C5 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 10% | Radiation Storm: None | No Radio Blackouts |

| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast | |
|--|---|
| 4/30 | 5/1 |
| Max Kp= 3 (G0) | Max Kp= 2 (G0) |
| Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1% |

NASA SDO @ SpaceWeatherLive.com



- Flare
- Limb
- Quiet Sun
- Coronal Hole
- Prominence
- Filament
- Bright Region
- Outer Space
- Unlabeled

Space Weather: Solar activity is quieting as sunspots on the solar disk lose their magnetic complexity and the chance for strong solar flares is decreasing. Should any strong solar flares develop, minor (R1-R2) radio blackouts would accompany. Otherwise, no geomagnetic storming is expected and 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 | |

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP