



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 1, 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	End of Month Admin / Bay Co Exercise MSEL Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Wildfire Coordination / Office Admin
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Office Admin
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Sumter, Marion	Outreach Event / County EOC Activation (CNC Event)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Polk	RDSTF Meeting / Executive Director Support
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Office Admin
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Office Admin
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Region 10 Quarterly Meeting



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	Leon	Equipment Maintenance
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Levy / Yankeetown	City Admin Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Bradford	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	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	Broward	FDEM Regional Quarterly Coordination Meeting

Region 5 Recovery Coverage Provided By Coordinator 4

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

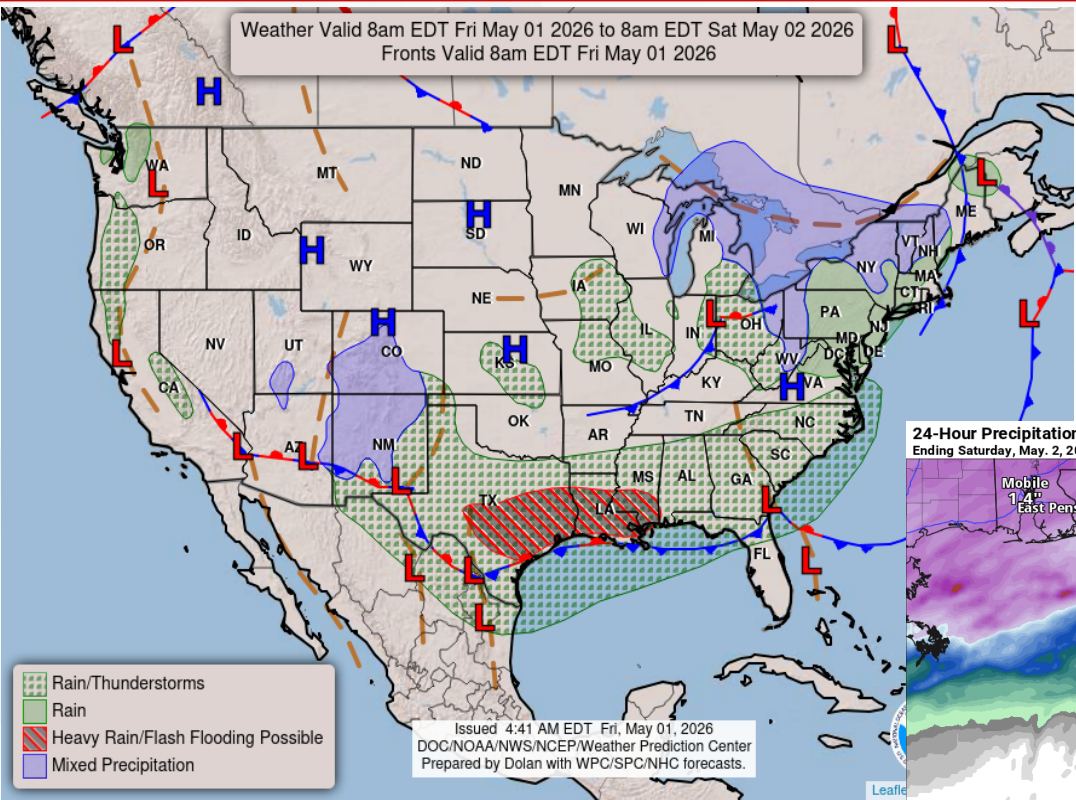
Region 8 Recovery Coverage Provided By Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

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

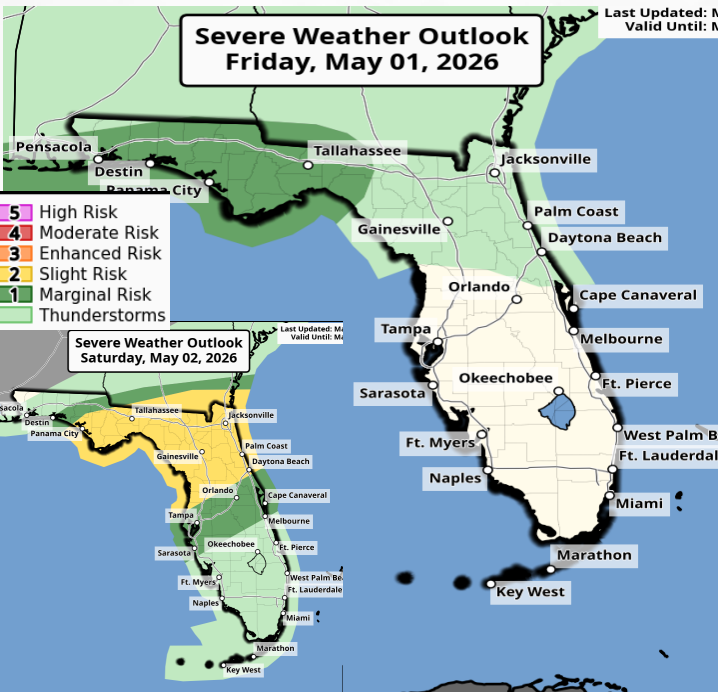
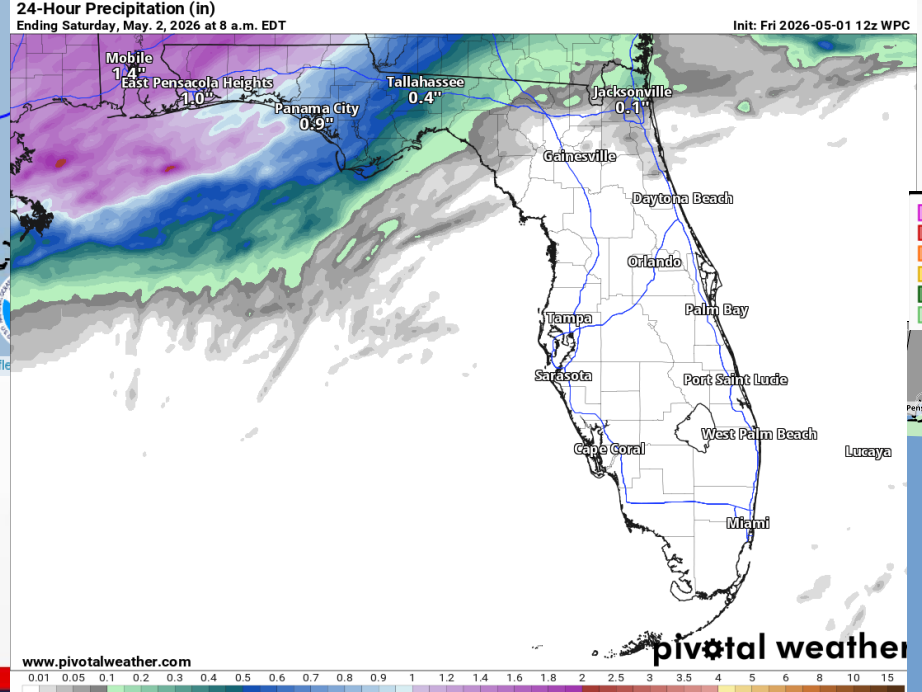


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	L						
Tornado	L	L								
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail	L	L								
Flash Flooding	L									
Extreme Heat					L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)						L	L		L	L
Wildfire	L	L	M	M	H	M	H	H	H	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.67 ft. (1.96 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	548 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



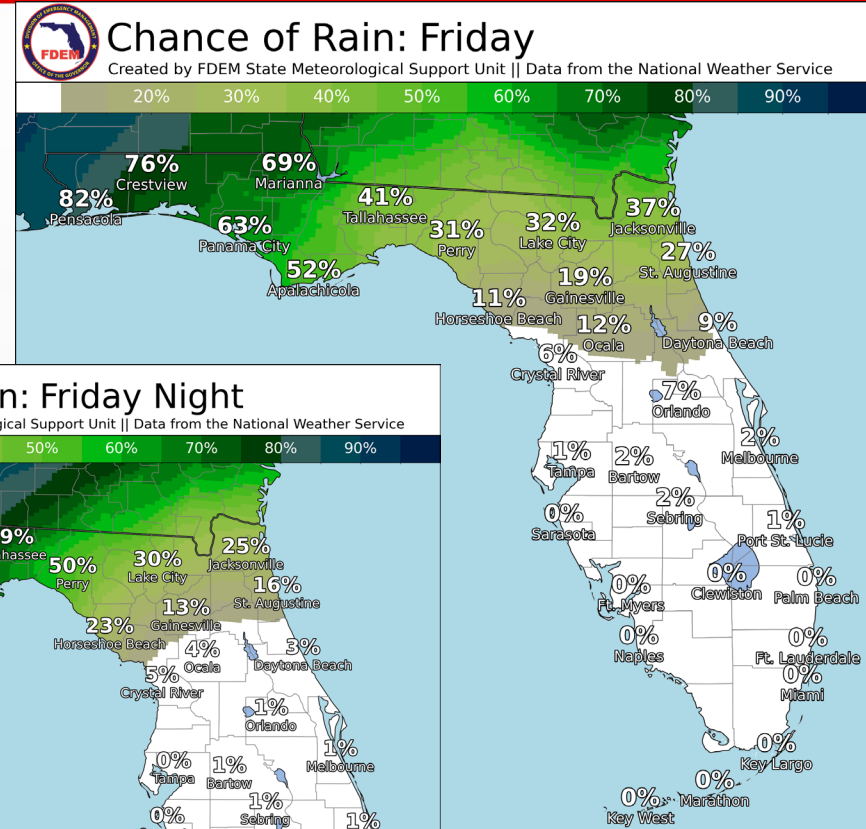


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A stationary front draped along the northern Gulf Coast and Northeast Florida will be the focal point for the showers and storms to initiate and move west to east throughout the day. An of low pressure is forecast to develop and travel along the stationary front later tonight into Saturday morning. As it does so, it will lifting the front north as a warm front into the Panhandle before the trailing cold front races through. Showers and storms, a few strong to severe, are likely with this low as it moves through the area and the Storm Prediction Center has placed a **Marginal Risk for severe storms** across the Panhandle and Big Bend tonight, and a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for severe weather** across the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend and northern Florida Peninsula on Saturday. Damaging winds up to 60mph and hail are the primary threats, but a tornado or two cannot be ruled out.

Across Central and South Florida, expect one more dry day with warm temperatures in the lower 90s, and west-southwest winds at 10-15 mph with gusts as high as 25 mph in the afternoon. With a dry airmass in place, afternoon relative humidities will drop into the 35-45% range over the interior Florida Peninsula and combine with these winds to enhance the spread or development of wildfires.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Ocean swells and increasing winds will continue a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along all Atlantic Coast beaches today. A **moderate risk** is also in place for most Panhandle beaches, with a low risk for western Florida Peninsula 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.

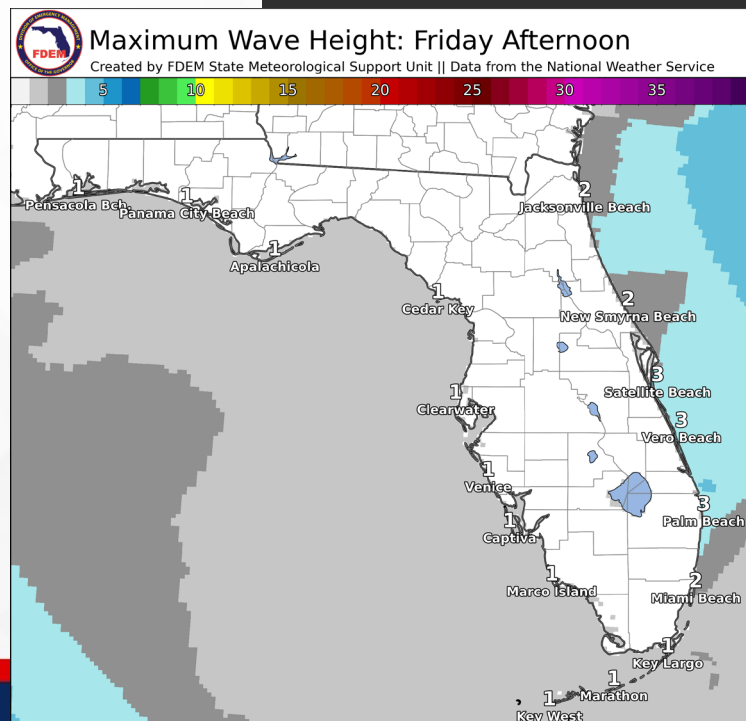
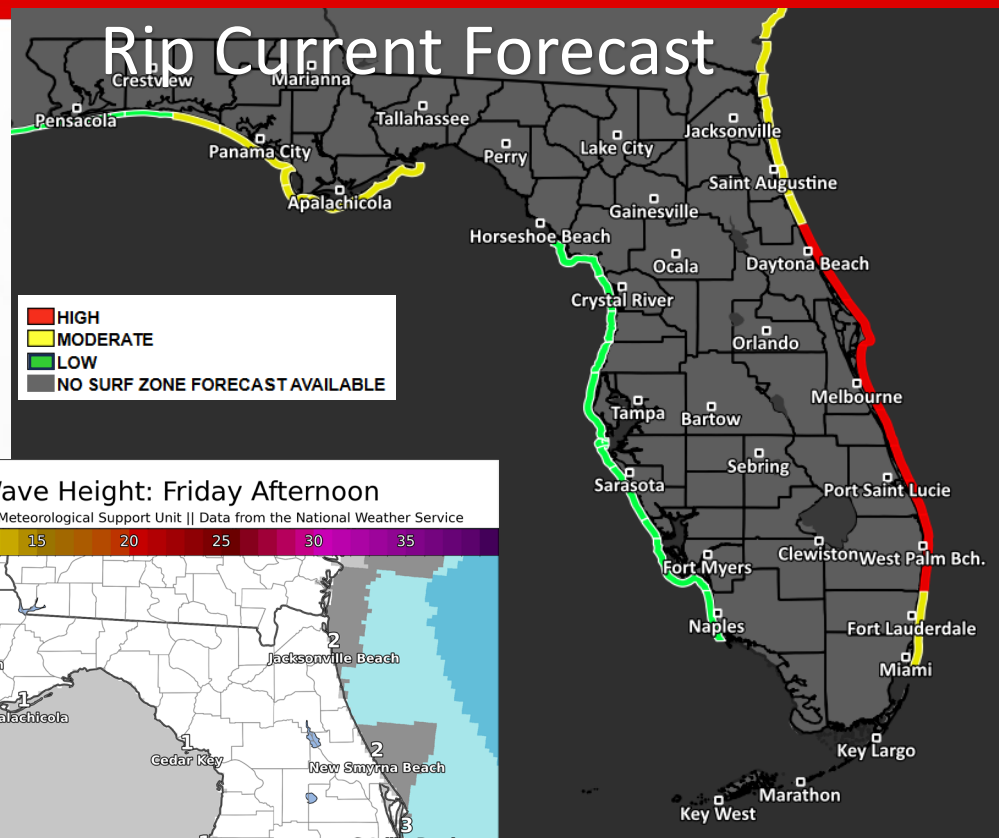
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa counties (valid 4/24/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is a marginal risk for flash flooding tonight across the western Florida Panhandle with periods of heavy rain up to 2".

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.67 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.96 feet below normal for this time of year.



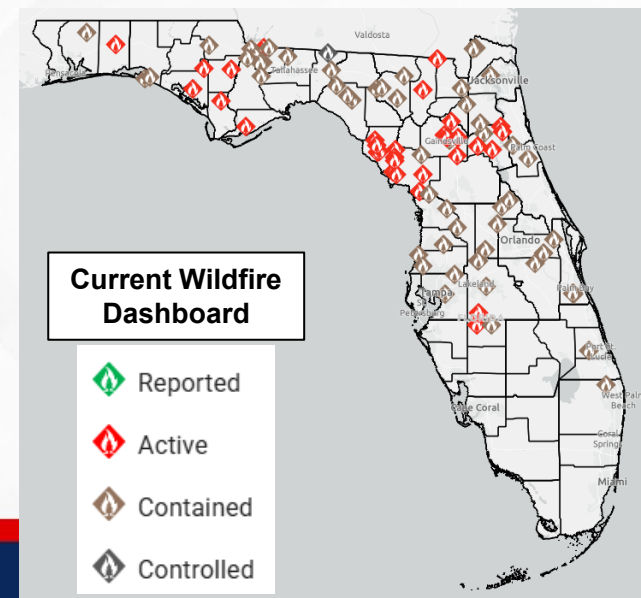
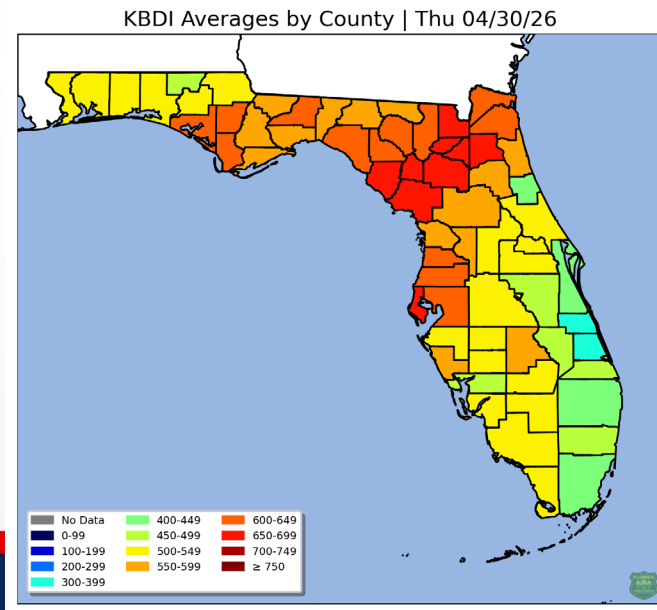
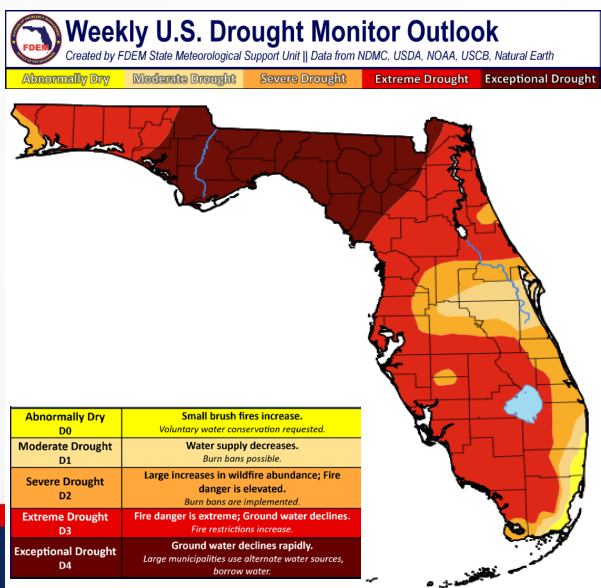


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: **Elevated wildfire conditions** continue today along the Florida Peninsula. Warm temperatures, afternoon relative humidities in the 35-45% range and winds out of the west-southwest at 5-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph 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 Big Bend and Florida Panhandle due to lightning potential. Tonight, areas of patchy fog may develop across West Central and Southwest Florida which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are 102 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,688 acres.

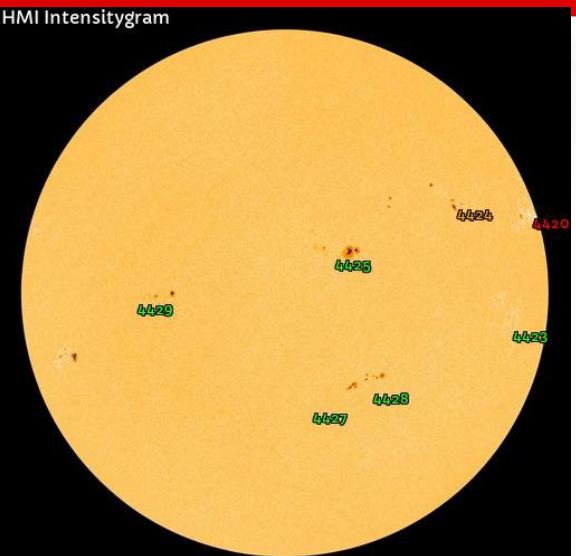
Drought (4/30/26): 98% of Florida remains in at least a severe drought, with 25% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought. This is the highest percentage area of drought since the U.S Drought Monitor was created in 2000. **Exceptional Drought (level 4 of 4)** expanded 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 **548 (+7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **54 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

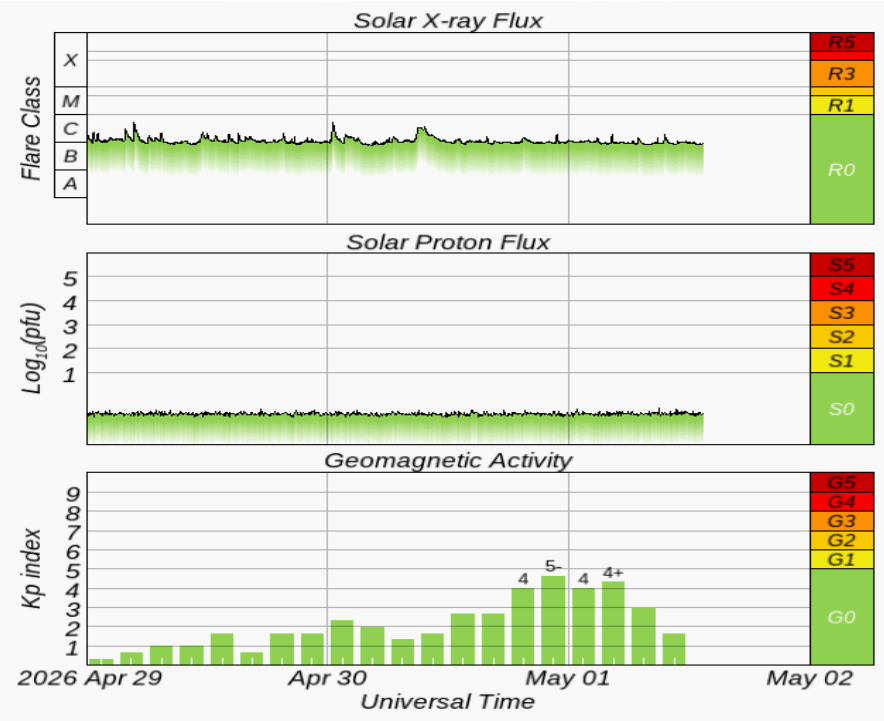
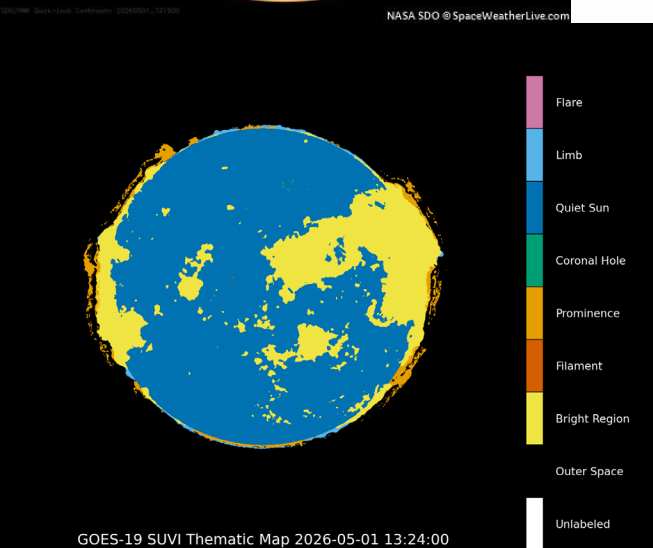




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 50%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/1	5/2
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

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, quiet to low geomagnetic storming due to enhanced solar wind. 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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