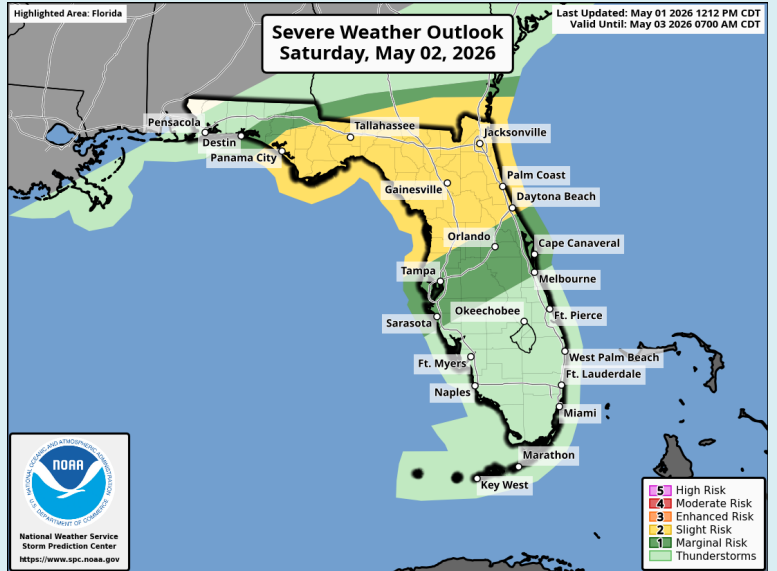
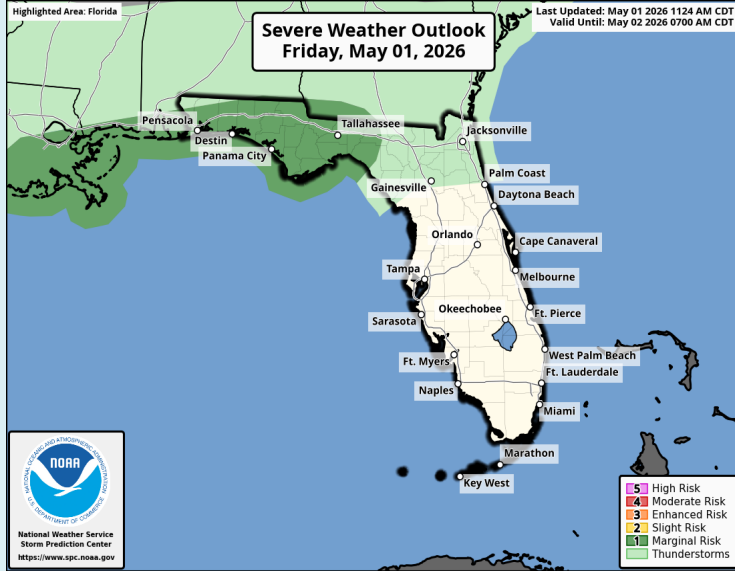


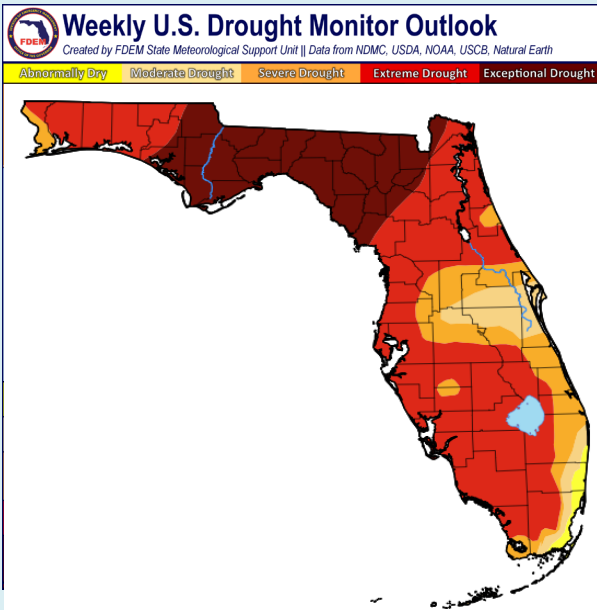
Friday, May 1, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

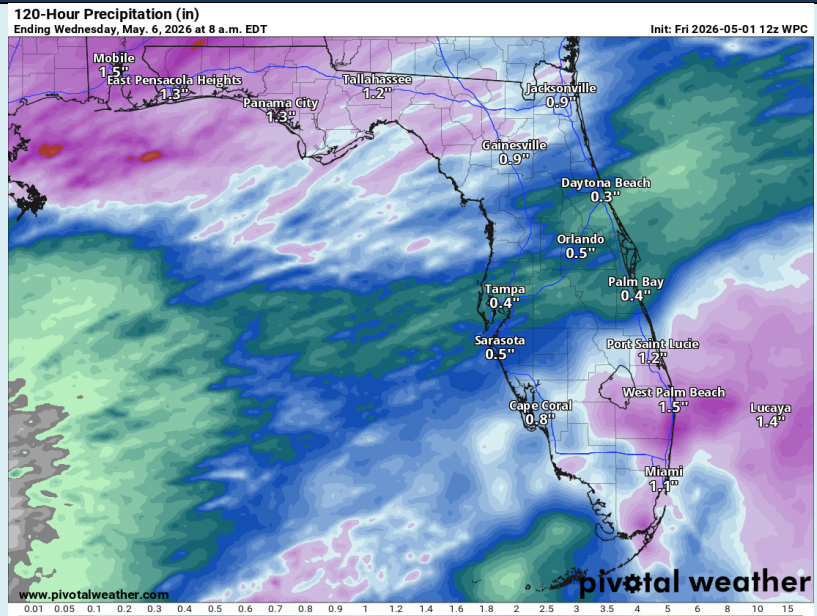
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Panhandle	Panhandle			Central FL, South FL	North FL Nature Coast	Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Sat	North FL, Central FL	North FL	Big Bend, Northeast FL			North FL Nature Coast	South FL	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Sun	Central FL, South FL		South FL				Statewide	Panhandle, West Coast East Coast
Mon							Statewide	Statewide
Tue							Statewide	Panhandle Peninsula



Forecast Severe Weather Risk for Friday and Saturday



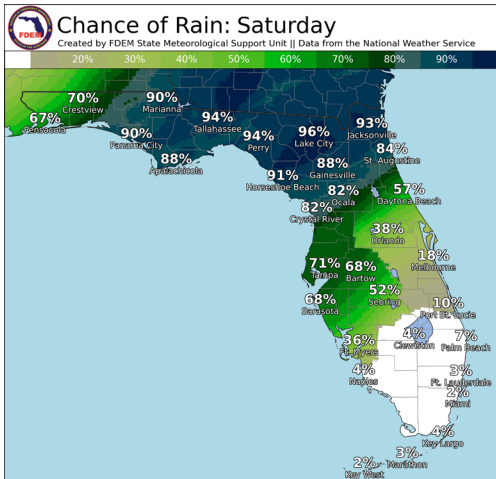
Drought Monitor: Valid 4/48/2026



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



**...Severe Weather Potential Across North Florida on Saturday With Damaging Winds and Tornadoes...Much Needed Rain For North Florida but not a Drought Buster...Elevated Fire Risk Continues Statewide into Next Week... Dry Weather Behind the Weekend Storm System could Enhance Fire Danger Next Week Despite the Rainfall...**



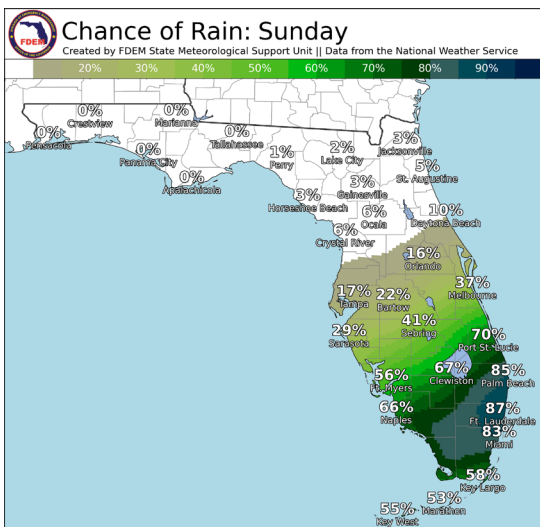
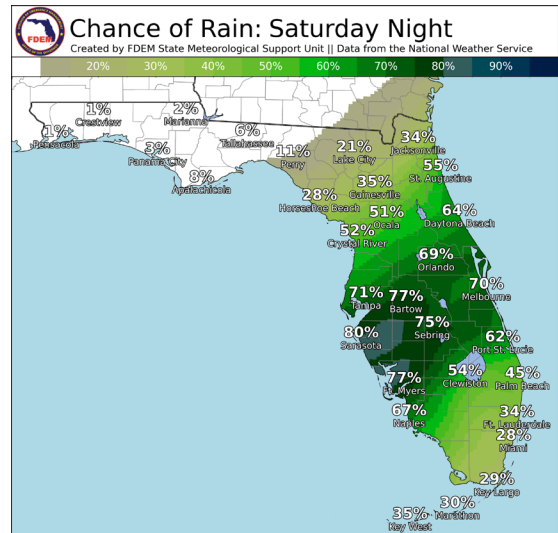
**Friday - Sunday:**

A developing storm system over the Gulf will move northeastward across the Florida Panhandle Friday night. This system will bring a more moist and unstable airmass to North Florida resulting in a high chance (80%-100%) of showers and thunderstorms Friday night and into Saturday. There is a **marginal risk (level 1 of 5) of severe weather tonight** across the Florida Panhandle and a **slight risk (level 2 of 5) of severe weather on Saturday** across North Florida and portions of Central Florida. All severe hazards are possible, including damaging winds, hail, and tornadoes. The threat for severe weather appears to maximize late Saturday morning and into the afternoon hours from Tallahassee and eastward toward the I-75 and I-95 corridors in North Florida. Severe storms are likely to be ongoing near

Tallahassee around daybreak on Saturday and then approach the I-75 corridor by midday Saturday, nearing the Florida East Coast north of Daytona Beach by Saturday afternoon.

Beneficial rainfall is expected with this storm system across North Florida on Friday night through Saturday. Portions of the Florida Panhandle can expect 1-2 inches with isolated heavier totals up to 4 inches. Further east into the Florida Big Bend and North and Central Florida, rainfall amounts around an inch with isolated heavier totals up to 3 inches. While this rain will help in the near term, it will certainly not be enough to dramatically improve the ongoing extreme to exceptional drought across the northern half of the state. In fact, the extreme to exceptional drought expanded this week with near 80 percent of the state included in extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4).

Across Central and South Florida late this afternoon, unseasonable warm temperatures can lead to heat stress and heat-related injuries. Dry conditions will continue across Central and South Florida

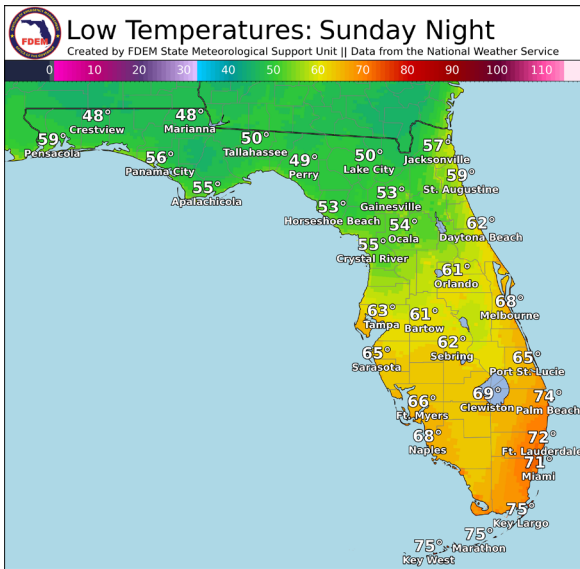


through tonight. Rain chances will increase in Central Florida on Saturday (70%-90%) as the cold front moves into the region. Rain chances will not begin to increase across South Florida until Sunday (60%-80%). The **severe risk diminishes considerably** after Saturday afternoon as the storms move toward the I-4 corridor. South of I-4 and into South Florida on Sunday, severe weather is not expected. However, these storms could produce locally heavy rainfall. While most locations will only receive around a half inch of rain, isolated heavier totals near 2 inches are possible before the front clears the state late Sunday night.

Before the rainfall reaches Central and South Florida, breezy conditions ahead of the front during the daytime hours will create favorable conditions for the development of and spread of any existing wildfires. Behind the cold front, drier air moving



into North Florida on Sunday, along with breezy winds will enhance fire growth, especially in areas that receive limited rainfall on Saturday.



### Monday - Tuesday:

Drier conditions will continue to filter into North and Central Florida on Monday, resulting in elevated fire risk due to low afternoon relative humidity. Winds are not expected to be very strong either afternoon. However, in areas that did not receive much rain over the weekend, low afternoon relative humidity will support the spread of or development of wildfires.

Across South Florida, lingering showers in the morning will continue into the afternoon across the Florida Keys before dry weather establishes statewide by Monday night.

Low temperatures on Monday and Tuesday mornings across North and Central Florida will be cooler than last week, with many locations away from the coast dropping into the mid 50s, with some of the cooler locations in North Florida reaching the low 50s on Tuesday morning.

### Hydrology & Flooding:

There is an extremely **low risk of flash flooding** on Saturday. However, if heavy rainfall of 3 inches or more occurs in a short period of time in an urban environment, localized flooding is possible. For this reason there is a **marginal risk (level 1 of 4)** in place across North Florida on Saturday and across South Florida on Sunday. Otherwise, given the very dry soils, the state 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 11.67 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.96 feet **below** normal for this time of year.

### Drought & Fire Weather:

Rainfall has been concentrated most in the Western Florida Panhandle through midday Friday. As a result, drought conditions largely worsened this week across the state. The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) includes 99% of Florida in a Moderate Drought or worse. Of this 99%, 25% 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 a 21 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)** remains in place across Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and northern Escambia counties. Extreme Drought also expanded throughout Southwest Florida. The Drought Monitor is largely unchanged along the Treasure Coast this week.

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 with a dry airmass arriving over North and Central Florida on by Monday.

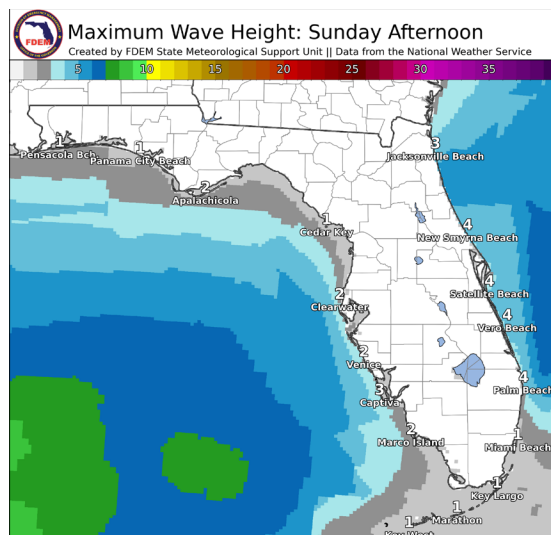
The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **555** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **56** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger). According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 92 wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,175 acres (as of 3:00 PM EDT).



**Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

Surf conditions will continue a **high risk for rip currents** for East Coast beaches from Palm Beach County northward through Friday. Along the First Coast and Space Coast beaches, surf heights of 2 to 3 feet. A high risk for rip currents is expected on Saturday and Sunday for the Florida Big Bend and West Coast beaches. A moderate risk of rip currents is expected elsewhere across the state from Saturday into Tuesday.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 78 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **Red Tide** has only been observed at very low levels in Escambia County.



[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 weekend!

Kelly Godsey, Senior Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist  
Deployed to Florida Division of Emergency Management  
National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida

Amy Godsey, Chief State Meteorologist  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

