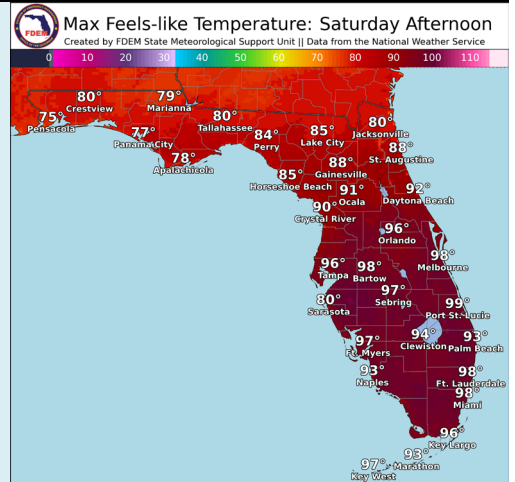
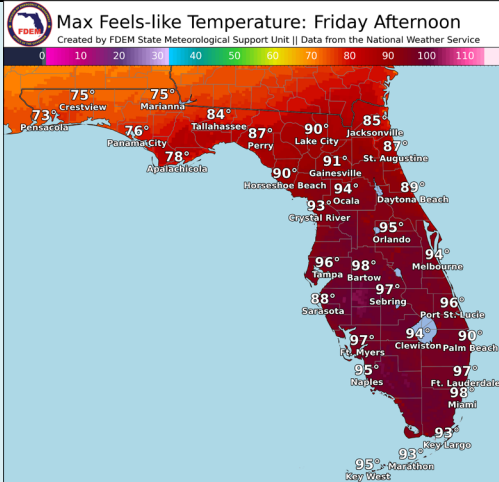
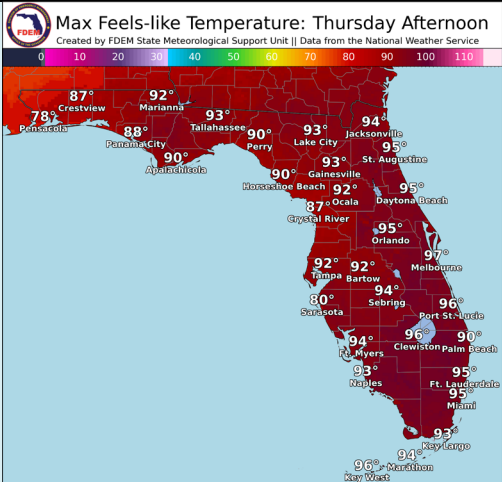


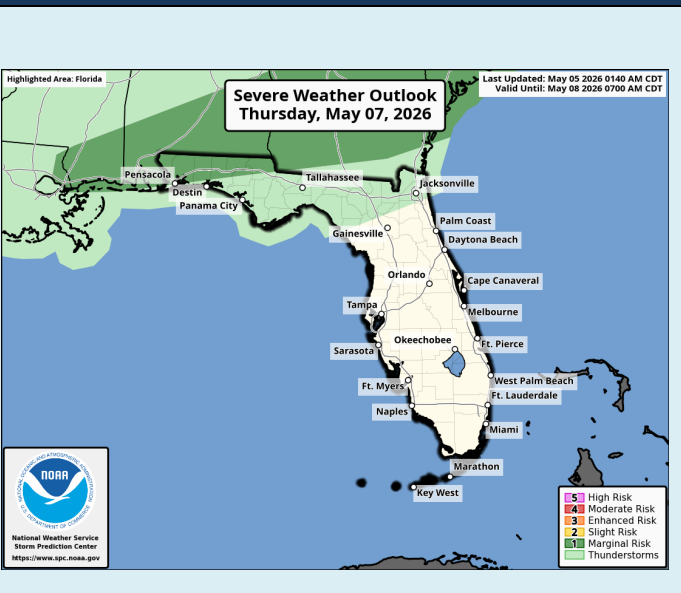
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

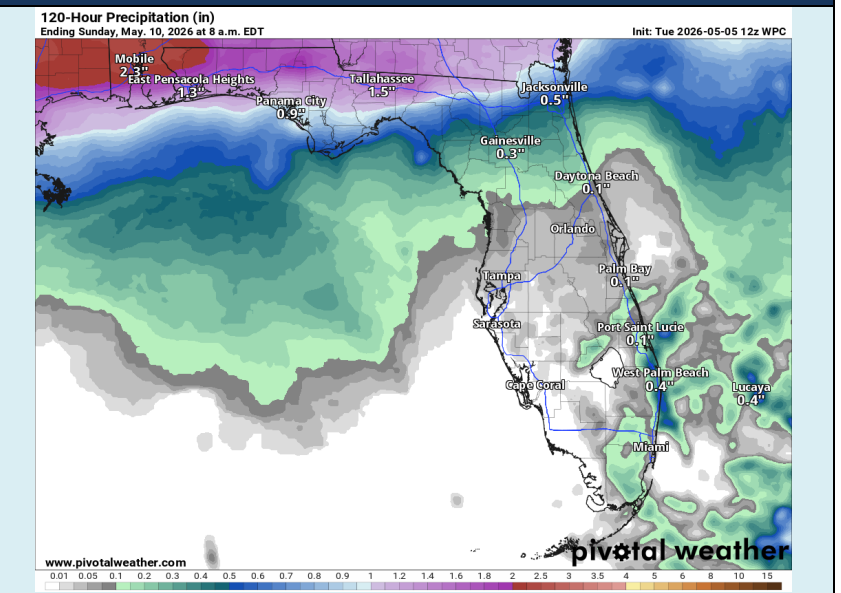
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue	Iso. Southeast FL					Locally Panhandle & Big Bend	Statewide	Palm Beach County Panhandle & East Coast West Coast
Wed					Locally West-Central FL Peninsula	Locally Panhandle & Big Bend	Statewide	Panhandle & East Coast West Coast
Thu	Panhandle & Big Bend	Northern Panhandle	Northern Panhandle		Locally West-Central FL Peninsula	Locally West-Central & Southwest FL	Locally Central FL Peninsula	Panhandle East Coast West Coast
Fri	North Florida	Iso. Western Panhandle	Western Panhandle		Locally Southeast FL South & Central FL		Interior South & Central FL	Panhandle East Coast Southeast FL & West Coast
Sat	Statewide				Locally Southeast FL South & Central FL		Interior South & Central FL	Panhandle & East Coast Southeast FL & West Coast



Forecast Afternoon Feels-like Temperatures: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday



Severe Weather Outlook: Thursday

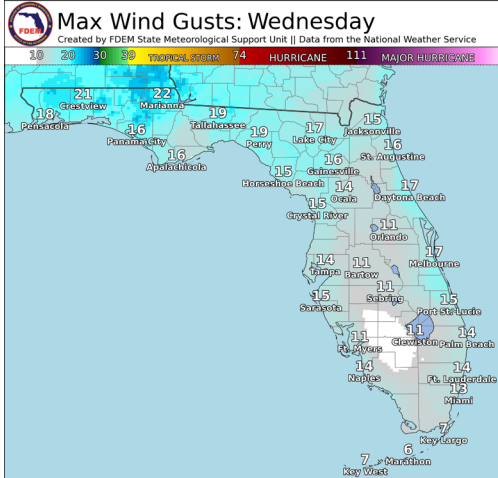


5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening



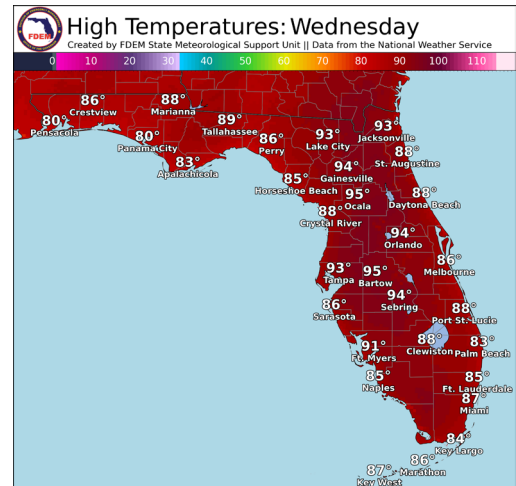
...Summertime Heat to Make an Appearance Across the Peninsula this Week Ahead of an Approaching Cold Front... Elevated Wildfire Conditions Persist Early this Week... Scattered Showers and Storms Possible Throughout North Florida Beginning Thursday... A Few Storms Could Become Severe Across the Panhandle with Gusty Winds and Heavy Downpours... Rainfall Amounts Could Be Beneficial to the Ongoing Extreme to Exceptional Drought in North Florida...

Tuesday – Wednesday:



Mostly sunny and dry conditions will prevail to start the week across the Sunshine State as high pressure builds in across the area. A slight chance for an isolated shower or storm exists today across Southeast Florida (15-30% chance of rain), though any activity is expected to be light and brief in nature. Drier continental air will continue to filter into the state with relative humidities dipping to **near critical thresholds** across interior portions of Florida both this afternoon and Wednesday afternoon. As such, **elevated wildfire conditions** are expected to persist given the ongoing extreme to exceptional drought in place. Winds will begin to turn from the east to southeast across the Peninsula and south across the Panhandle. Winds gusts **upwards of 20 mph** are expected along the I-95 corridor and across the entire Panhandle this afternoon, with locally higher gusts across coastal Northeast Florida. Winds will increase across the Panhandle Wednesday afternoon, gusting **upwards of 25 mph**.

Temperatures will be on a warming trend across the state this week, reaching some of the warmest values we've seen yet this year. High temperatures will climb into the 80s for much of the state this afternoon, with some lower 90s possible along the I-75 corridor. On Wednesday, highs will reach the **lower to middle 90s** throughout the Peninsula and interior Panhandle. Paired with increasing humidity, some locations will feel like the **upper 90s** Wednesday afternoon. Low temperatures will similarly be increasing this week, reaching the 60s throughout North and Central Florida, with 70s across South Florida. These warm temperatures with clear and calm skies overnight will promote **patchy fog development** across the Panhandle and Big Bend Wednesday and Thursday mornings, some of which could become **locally dense**.



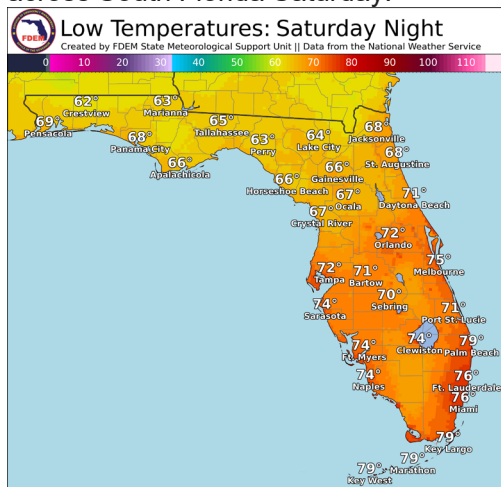
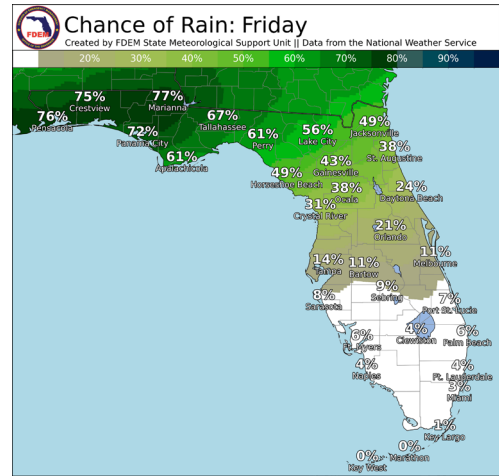
Thursday – Saturday:

The weather becomes more active as we approach Thursday this week as a cold front swings through the Southeast U.S. with a few waves of low-pressure riding along the front. The front is expected to near the Panhandle Thursday with scattered showers and thunderstorms ahead of and along the front. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is currently outlooked for the Panhandle on Thursday for a few storms that could become **locally strong to severe**. However, the exact timing of the front will determine the severity of storms with uncertainty remaining regarding if the front will arrive during peak heating hours of the day. The greatest hazards with any of these thunderstorms will be **locally heavy downpours**, frequent lightning, and gusty winds. There also remains disagreement in our computer forecast models regarding how strong and how far south the front dips into the northern Gulf and/or North Florida which will determine how much rain makes it into North Florida. For now, the greatest chances of rain are reserved for the Panhandle on Thursday (50-80% chance of rain), with a slight chance of isolated activity



making it into the Big Bend and Northeast Florida (15-35% chance of rain). Southerly winds will increase throughout North Florida on Thursday, with gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** expected.

Showers and storms may linger into the evening and overnight hours across the Panhandle Thursday night (35-60% chance of rain) before increasing again on Friday as a wave of low-pressure enhances the activity along the front (65-80% chance of rain). Scattered showers and storms may extend further south and east on Friday and Friday night into Northeast and North-Central Florida (25-55% chance of rain). On Saturday, isolated to widely scattered showers are currently forecast throughout the state (25-50% chance of rain), though details will be better refined as we get closer to the weekend. Wherever the cold front stalls across the state will determine if and where any locations see activity. Regardless, isolated sea breeze showers and storms may develop across South Florida Saturday.



High temperatures will remain very warm heading into the end of the week and weekend, especially throughout the Peninsula. High temperatures will climb into the upper 80s to middle 90s from the Big Bend through the Peninsula on Thursday. More abundant cloud cover will keep temperatures in check in the lower to middle 80s across the Panhandle. This cloud cover and associated rainfall will bring temperatures back down into the 70s and middle 80s throughout North Florida on Friday and Saturday. Across Central and South Florida, highs will remain in the lower to **middle 90s** with afternoon feels-like temperatures reaching the **upper 90s** to **100-degrees**. Low temperatures will reach the middle 60s to middle 70s throughout the state.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida in the next 5 days. However, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected ahead of and along a cold front that is anticipated to stall across North-Central Florida beginning on Thursday and into the weekend. Additionally, a few waves of low-pressure may ride along this front helping to enhance the activity. Rainfall totals are expected to be greatest across the Panhandle and Big Bend region, reaching 1-3” in most locations. However, any areas that see repeated rounds of **locally heavy downpours** could see totals tally up to **4-5” or more**. There is a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding outlooked just north of the Panhandle in Alabama where the heaviest rainfall is expected. However, some of this activity could make it into the northern Panhandle where instances of **flash flooding** or **nuisance urban flooding** cannot be ruled out. Given the dry background conditions though, much of this rainfall will be beneficial with little flooding concerns. Rainfall totals throughout the Peninsula are expected to be light and mainly below 0.5” through the end of the week. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](http://www.weather.gov).

There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. Many waterways throughout the state remain well below normal or even near record low levels due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](http://www.fws.gov/riverforecastcenter/).

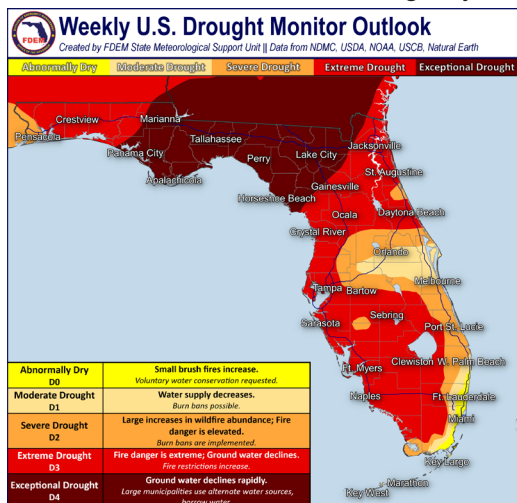
Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.57 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.96 feet below normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

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

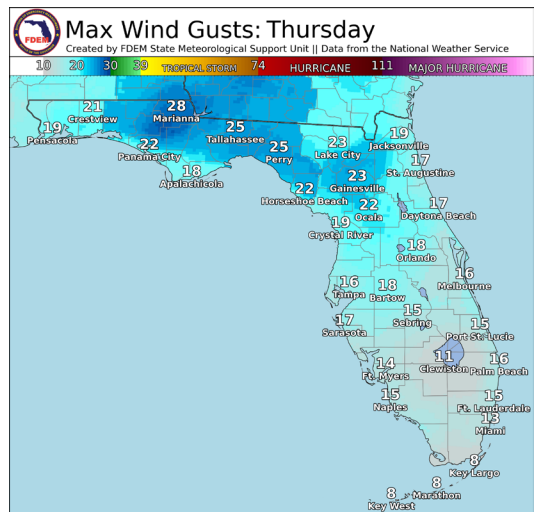


Exceptional Drought area. Little change was noted east of US-301 in Northeast Florida where **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** continues. Throughout West Central and Southwestern Florida, **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** expanded further inland. In East Central Florida, **moderate to severe drought (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 the latest 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.

On this coming week's Drought Monitor update, some recent rainfall from the weekend across the Panhandle and Big Bend may lead to some drought category reductions. However, very little improvements are expected elsewhere where rainfall was sparse or non-existent. Additionally, record warm temperatures this week throughout the Peninsula will continue to dry out and cure sensitive vegetation, likely leading to worsening drought conditions.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **503** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **37** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

High pressure will briefly build across the state to start this week with dry continental air filtering into the state. As such, relative humidities will dip to **near critical thresholds** in pockets throughout interior Florida each afternoon. **Elevated wildfire conditions** will persist with the drier air and ongoing drought. Winds will gust **upwards of 20 mph** across the Panhandle and I-95 corridor today, increasing across the Panhandle on Wednesday and Thursday with gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph**. Winds will shift from the east to the south and southwest across the state as the cold front approaches later this week and weekend. Fire weather danger will diminish under the rainfall and cloud cover of North Florida later this week, though **sensitive wildfire conditions** will still remain throughout Central and South Florida. Any thunderstorms along and ahead of the front may be accompanied by lightning, which can spark new fires or reignite existing ones. Areas of **patchy fog** may also develop Wednesday and Thursday mornings across North Florida which can significantly reduce visibilities near active wildfires. According to the **Florida Forest Service**, there are currently 69 wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,308 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Breezy easterly onshore winds will continue to bring a **moderate risk for rip currents** along all East Coast beaches through the week. Southeast Florida beaches may dip to a low risk come Friday as winds turn offshore ahead of the approaching frontal system. Panhandle beaches will continue to see a **moderate risk** as well, increasing to a **high risk** on Thursday as breezy onshore winds increase ahead of the cold front. A low risk will persist for all West Coast beaches.

A calmer sea state is expected through the end of the week along all statewide shorelines. Waves will increase from a base 1' height to 2-3' along the Panhandle by Thursday ahead of the next cold front. Along the East Coast, waves will similarly remain near 1-3' through the week.



The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 83 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed within the Upper St. Johns River basin in Crescent Lake. **Moderate levels** have been observed in other locations of the upper St. Johns River, Lake Harris, Lake Denham, Blue Cypress Lake, and Lake Avalon in the Big Cypress Swamp

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Have a wonderful rest of your week!
Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

