



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, May 6, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850)-241-5606	Evan.Newman@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	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call	Brandon Gore	(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

Region 1: Jim Roberts	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 8: Amber Durden	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Leon	Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit



Region 3 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3
 Region 4/5 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 6/7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 8/9/10 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington/Leon	LMS/HQ Visit
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Lafayette	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St. Johns	EM Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Manatee	EM Meeting
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	Miami-Dade	Executive Director Support

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 1/3

Region 5 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 7/8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

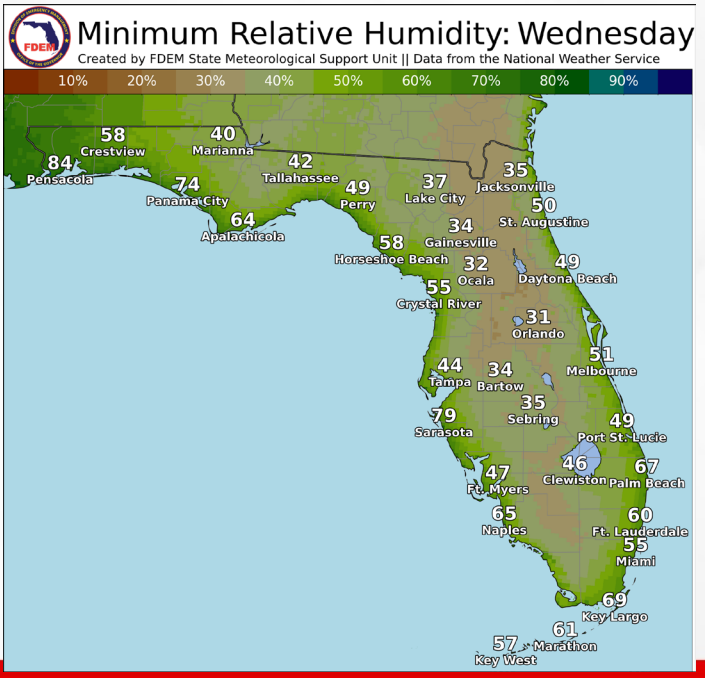
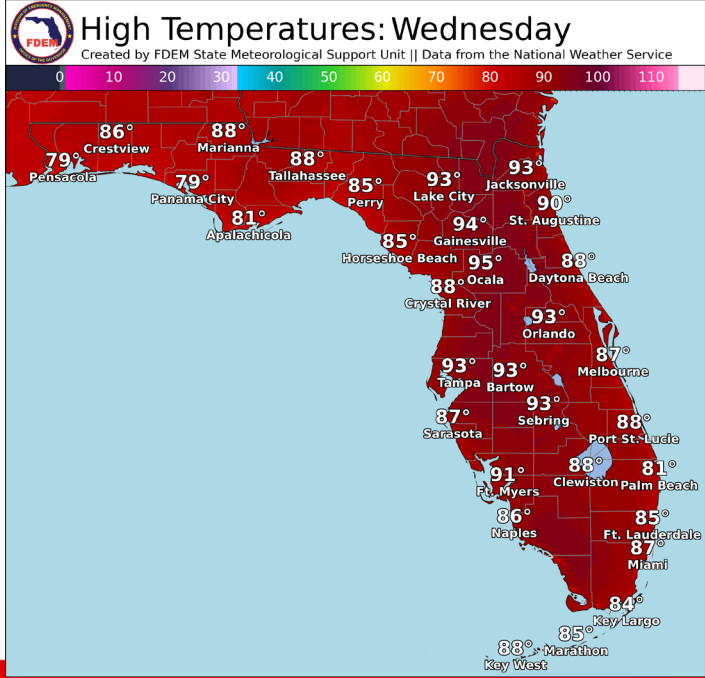
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10

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



Meteorology Summary

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L									
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L									
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L									
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	L	M	M	M	L	L				
Wildfire	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.54 ft. (1.97 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	508 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Today's Weather Map

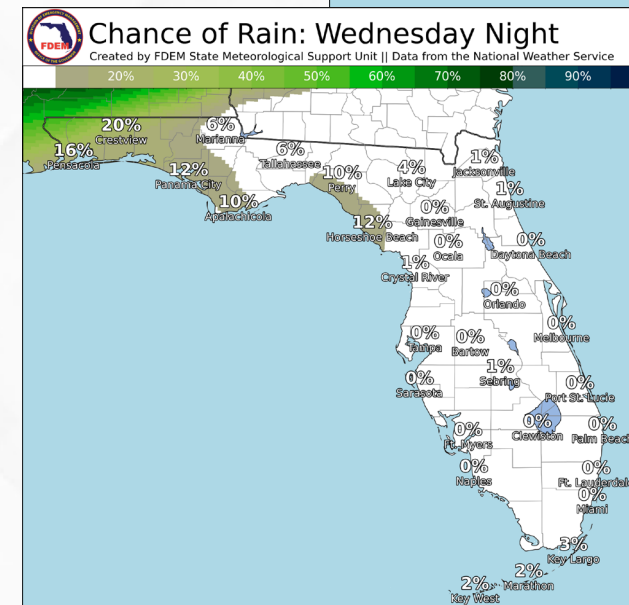
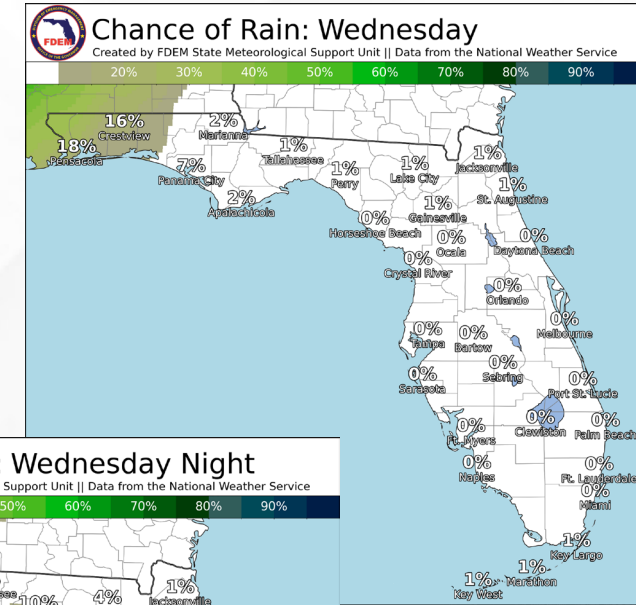


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy dense fog** have developed throughout the Big Bend this morning and will slowly lift and dissipate as the sun rises. Otherwise, a mostly sunny and dry day is on tap for the Sunshine State as high pressure remains overhead. An isolated shower or two cannot be ruled out across the far western Panhandle later this afternoon and evening, closer to our next approaching cold front (15-20% chance of rain). Chances of rain will remain near zero elsewhere statewide as relative humidities dip to **near critical thresholds (30-40%)**. Breezy **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will overlap these dry conditions across much of the state, bringing **elevated wildfire danger** this afternoon. High temperatures will climb into the upper 80s to middle 90s throughout much of the state. Southeast Florida and the Panhandle will remain a few degrees cooler.

Tonight, the cold front will continue its approach towards the Panhandle with additional isolated to scattered showers and storms possible after midnight (15-30% chance of rain). There is a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** outlooked across the northwestern Panhandle tonight for an isolated **strong to severe thunderstorm** or two that could produce gusty winds, frequent lightning, and **locally heavy downpours**. Mostly dry conditions will prevail elsewhere tonight. Low temperatures will fall into the upper 60s to middle 70s throughout much of the state with instances of **patchy fog development** after midnight across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida, some of which could become **locally dense**.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds will continue to promote a **moderate risk for rip currents** to all Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. A low risk is expected for all West Coast and Southeast Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: A mostly calm sea state is expected for all West Coast and Panhandle beaches today, with waves near 1-2' for all beaches. Along the East Coast, surf of **2-3'** is expected for all beaches as seas begin to subside from their higher levels this past weekend.

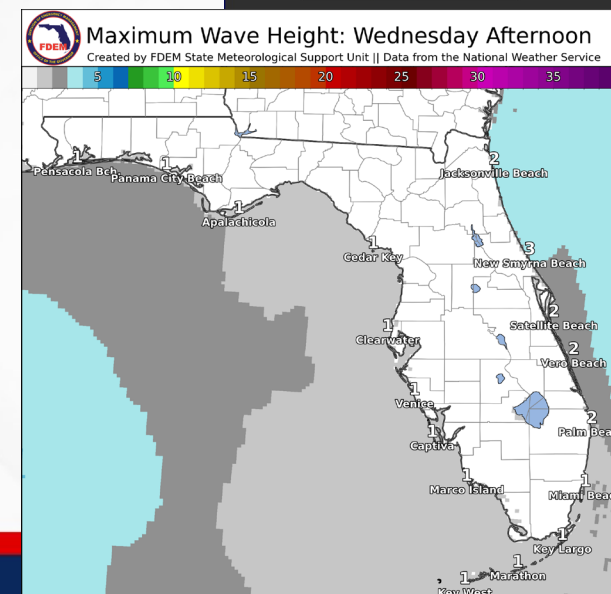
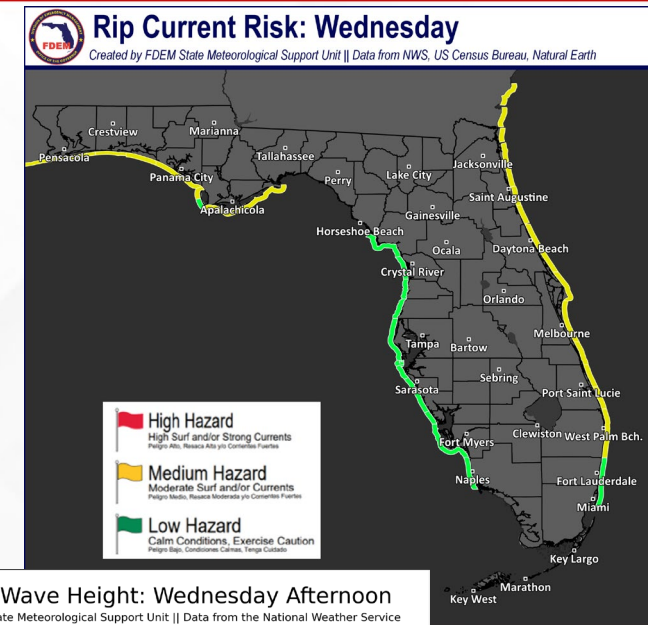
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/1/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the northwestern Panhandle tonight for a few **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing **locally heavy downpours**. The dry background conditions will limit the flooding threat, and most activity is expected to remain north of Florida through the nighttime hours. However, any storms that do develop could lead to a quick **1-2" of rain** and instances of **nuisance street flooding**.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.54 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.97 feet below normal for this time of year.



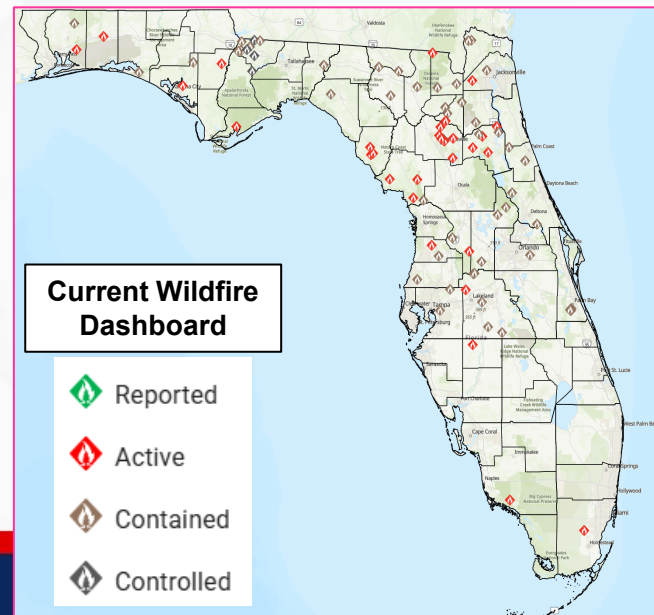
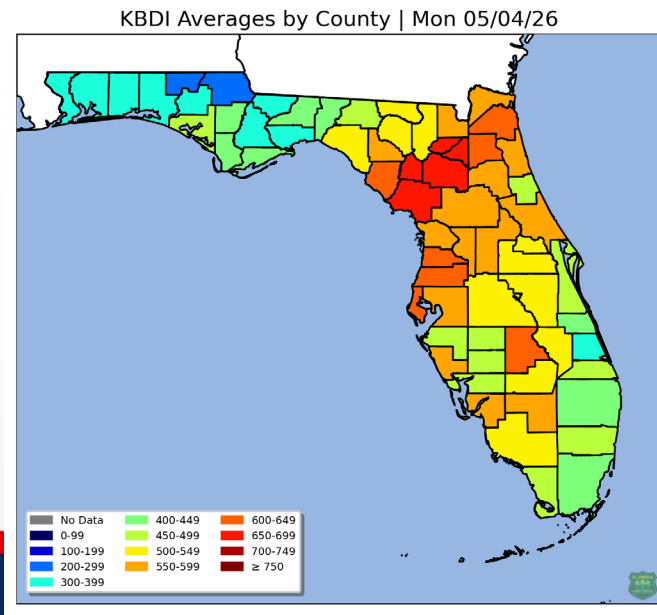
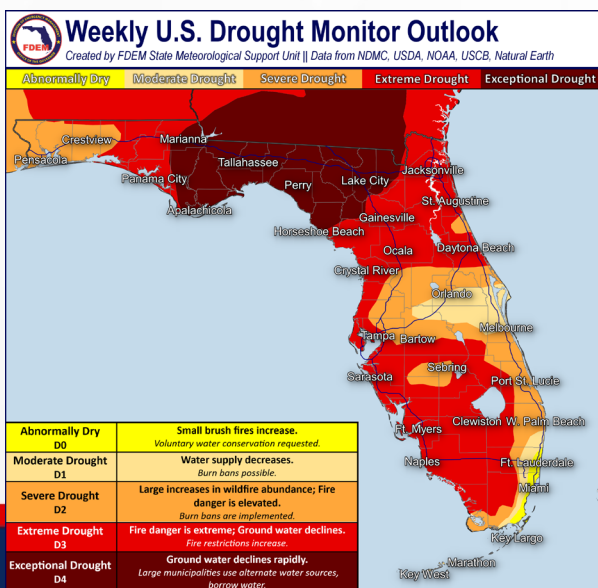


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure will continue to filter in drier continental air into the state today, with relative humidities dipping to **near critical thresholds (30-40%)** from the Big Bend through the Peninsula. Breezy wind gusts of **15-25 mph** will overlap these drier conditions, promoting **elevated wildfire danger** this afternoon. Ongoing extreme to exceptional drought throughout much of the state will also encourage this elevated wildfire risk. Tonight, **patchy fog** may develop across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of ongoing wildfires. A strong thunderstorm or two may also approach the western Panhandle towards daybreak on Thursday. Any thunderstorms may be accompanied by lightning, which can spark new fires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 70 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15,148 acres.

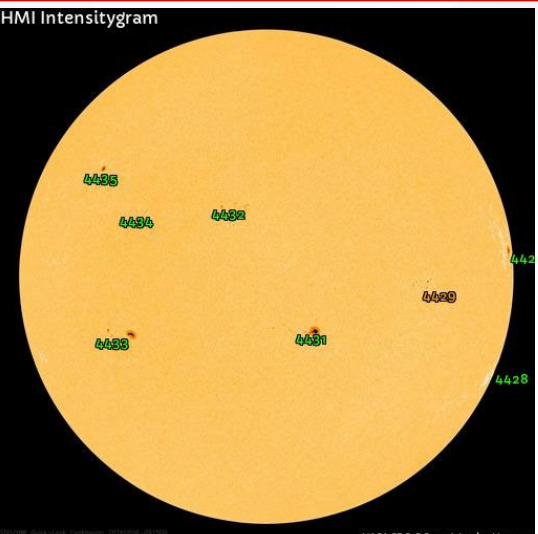
Drought (4/30/26): 98% of Florida remains in at least a severe drought, with 25% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought. This is the highest percentage area of drought since the U.S Drought Monitor was created in 2000. **Exceptional Drought (level 4 of 4)** expanded 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 **508 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **39 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

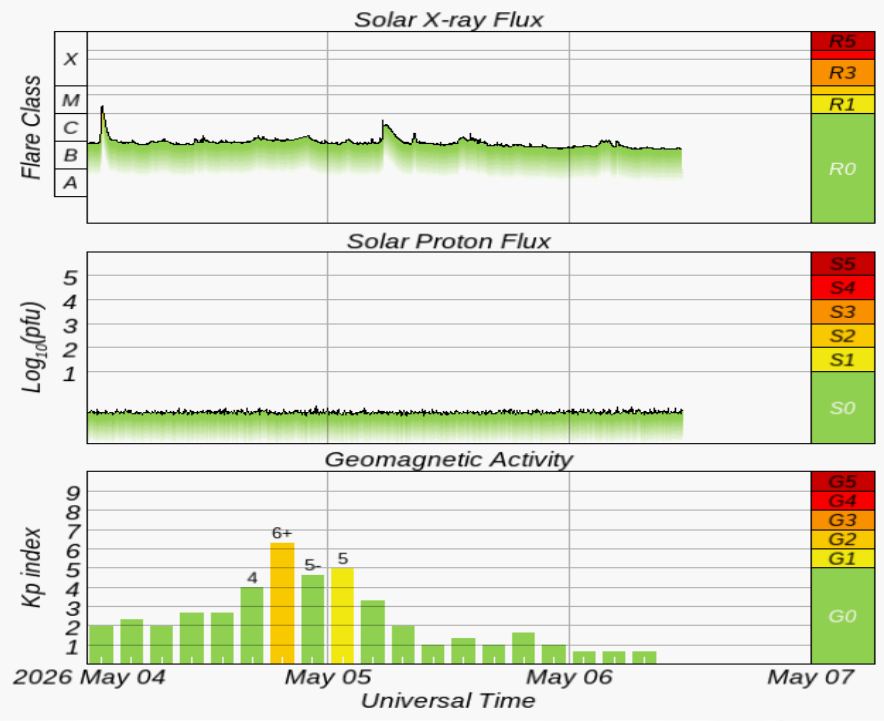
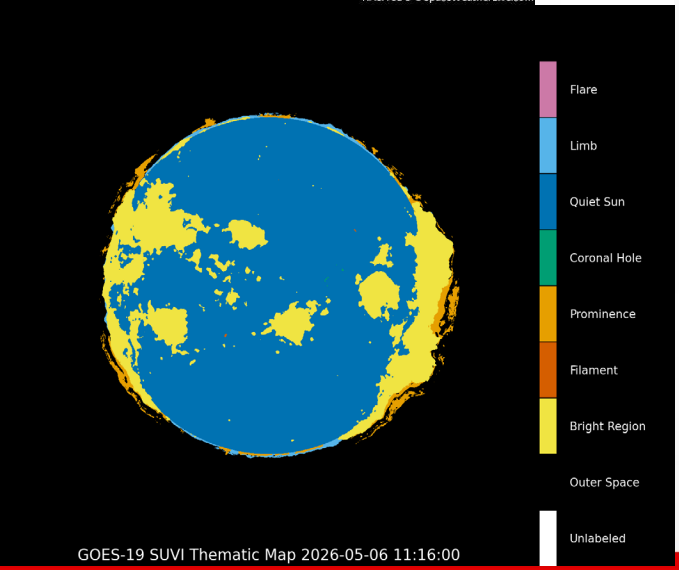




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/6	5/7
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with chance for significant (M-class) solar flares through Friday primarily due to sunspot #4429. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to continue declining towards nominal background levels as recent CME effects wane. Some slight enhancements may return by Friday as positive coronal hole influences return. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at mostly quiet levels today before active to G1 levels return on Thursday and Friday. 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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