



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Thursday, May 7, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	<a href="mailto:Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com">Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850) 241-5606	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Branch Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services Branch Director	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com">Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
ESF 14: Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Finance Chief	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

<b>Region 1:</b> Jim Roberts	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>
<b>Region 2:</b> Enrique Gaston	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>
<b>Region 3:</b> Glen Hammers	<b>Leon, Columbia</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit / Travel Back to R3</b>
<b>Region 4:</b> Tara Kostich	<b>Leon, Clay</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit / Travel Back to R4</b>
<b>Region 5:</b> Austin Beeghly	<b>Leon, Seminole</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit / Travel Back to R5</b>
<b>Region 6:</b> Paul Siddall	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>
<b>Region 7:</b> Kathryn Hollenbeck	<b>Leon, Polk</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit / Travel Back to R7</b>
<b>Region 8:</b> Amber Durden	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>
<b>Region 9:</b> Brittany Bremer	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>
<b>Region 10:</b> Claudia Baker	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Response Coordination Team Bi-Annual Visit</b>



Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6  
 Region 8 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 7  
 Region 9 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 7  
 Region 10 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 7

<b>Status</b>
<b>Normal Operations</b>
<b>Out of Service / Unavailable</b>



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Instructor Prep
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	COAD & EM Partners Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Suwanee	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St. Johns	EM Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Clay	EM Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	FDEM Coordinators Call
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	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 5 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4

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

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

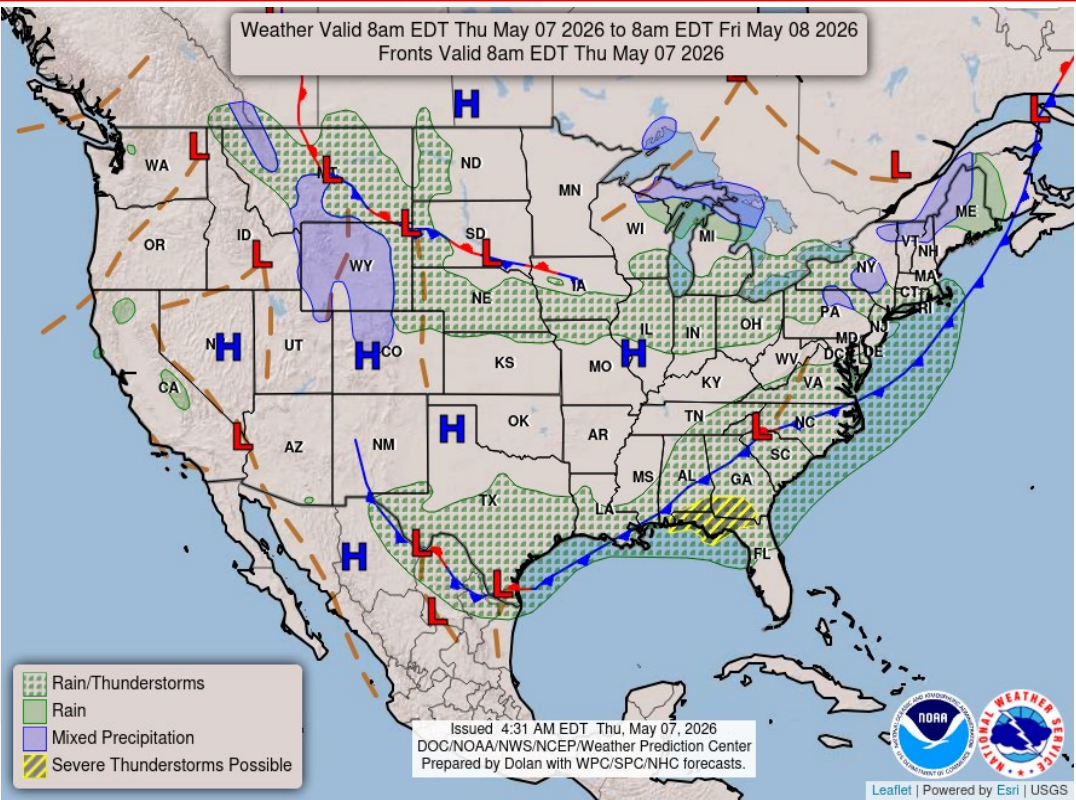
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

Region 10 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

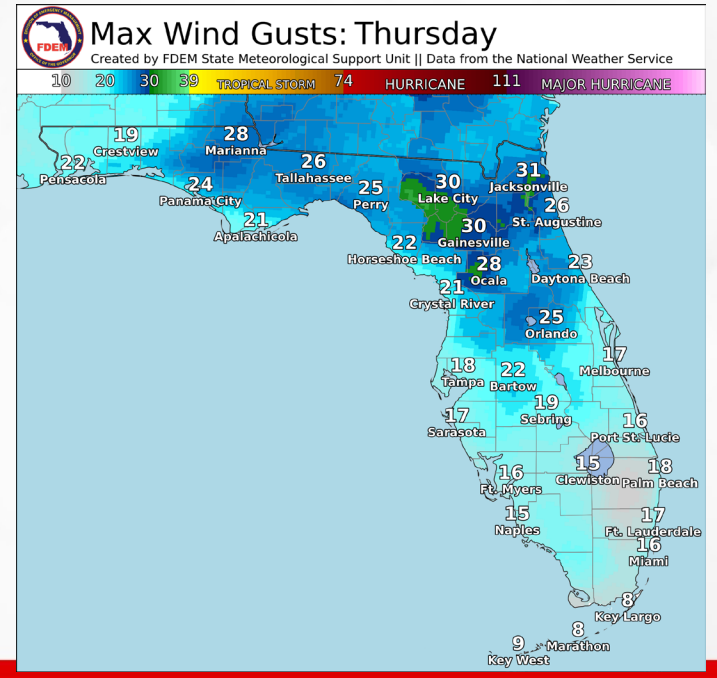
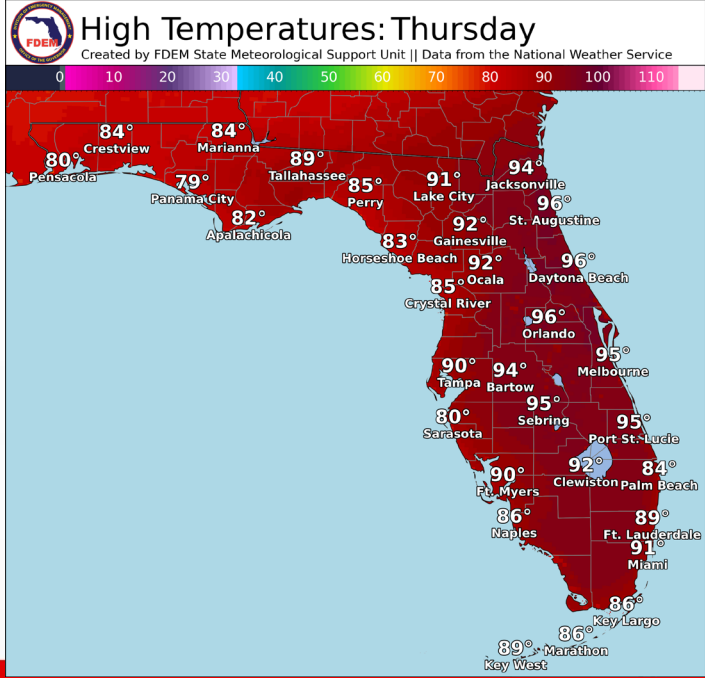


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L						
Tornado	M	M	L	L						
Damaging Wind	M	M	M	L	L					
Hail	L	L	L							
Flash Flooding	L	L	L							
Extreme Heat					L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)						L	L	L	L	L
Wildfire	L	L	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.51 ft. (1.97 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	516 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





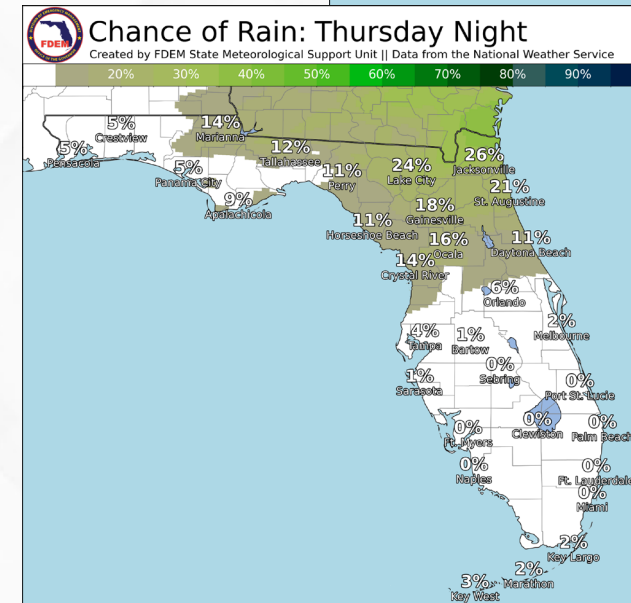
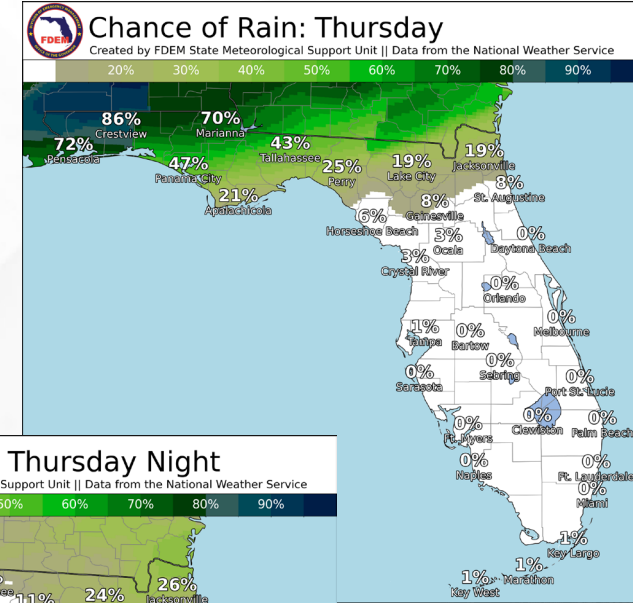
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A line of **strong** to **locally severe thunderstorms** ahead of a cold front are moving east-southeast across southern Alabama this morning, knocking on the door of the Florida Panhandle. These storms will begin to sag southward into the northern Panhandle and Big Bend through the morning and early afternoon hours (45-85% chance of rain). A **Tornado Watch** remains in effect until mid-morning throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend for a few storms that could produce frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60 mph), and possibly an isolated tornado. A **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** has been outlooked throughout much of the Panhandle and Big Bend and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** along the I-10 corridor, east of the I-75 interchange. Additionally, these storms will be capable of producing **locally heavy downpours** that could lead to isolated instances of **flash flooding** or **nuisance street flooding** and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the I-10 corridor. This line of activity will begin to weaken and dissipate as it moves eastward along the I-10 corridor today, though some lingering showers or a storm will be possible across Northeast Florida this evening and early overnight (15-25% chance of rain).

Ahead of this front, southwesterly winds will begin to increase with gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** across North and Central Florida. These breezy winds will overlap with **critically low relative humidities** across Northeast and East-Central Florida (25-35% RH values), bringing **locally critical wildfire danger** this afternoon where a **Red Flag Warning** is in effect until this evening. **Elevated wildfire conditions** are expected throughout the remainder of the Peninsula.

High temperatures this afternoon will climb well into the 90s throughout the Peninsula, while cloud cover and rain may keep highs in the middle 80s across the Panhandle. Low temperatures tonight will fall into the 60s across North Florida, with 70s throughout Central and South Florida. Areas of **patchy dense fog** cannot be ruled out by daybreak Friday across West-Central and Southwest Florida.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Increasing onshore winds will bring a **moderate** to **high risk for rip currents** to all Panhandle beaches today. Diminishing surf and winds oriented offshore will bring a low risk to Northeast and Southeast beaches, with a **moderate risk** persisting for Space and Treasure Coast beaches. A low risk is also expected for all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** A mostly calm sea state is expected for all East and West Coast beaches today, with surf generally near 1-2'. Waves will increase along the Panhandle today with breezy winds, with surf of **2-4'** expected.

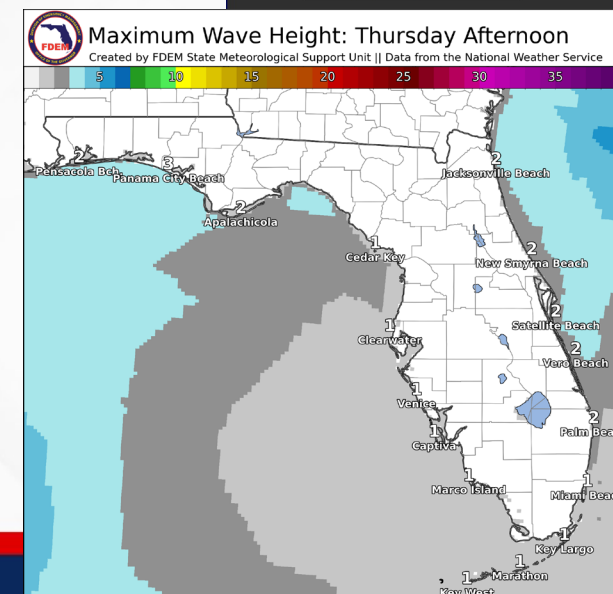
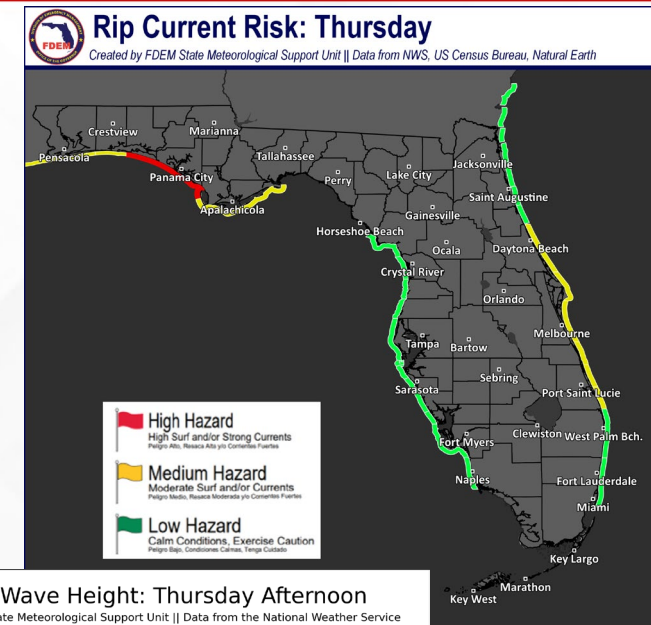
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Escambia County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/1/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the I-10 corridor today, west of the I-75 interchange. Showers and thunderstorms are expected ahead of and along an east to west oriented frontal boundary across the Panhandle and Big Bend today. Some of these thunderstorms may become **strong to severe** and capable of producing **locally heavy downpours**. Given the general west to east motion of these storms, multiple rounds of heavy rainfall cannot be ruled out in localized areas which could lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 0.5" for most locations, though totals **upwards of 2-4"** cannot be ruled out.

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

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 11.51 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.97 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



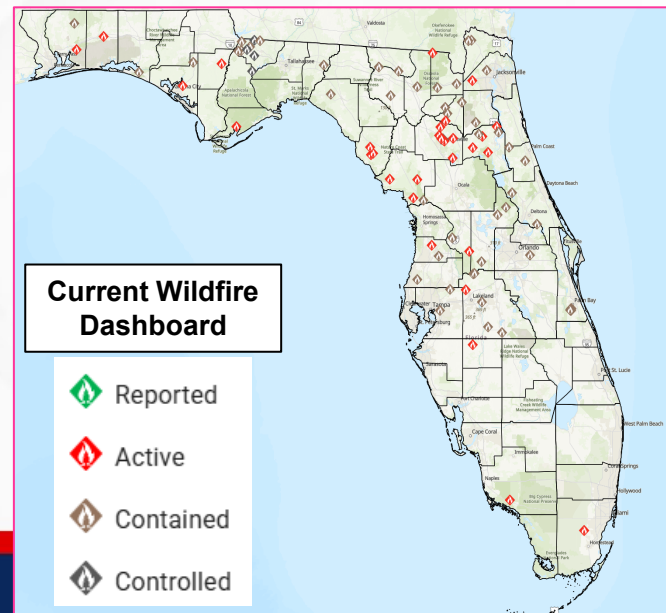
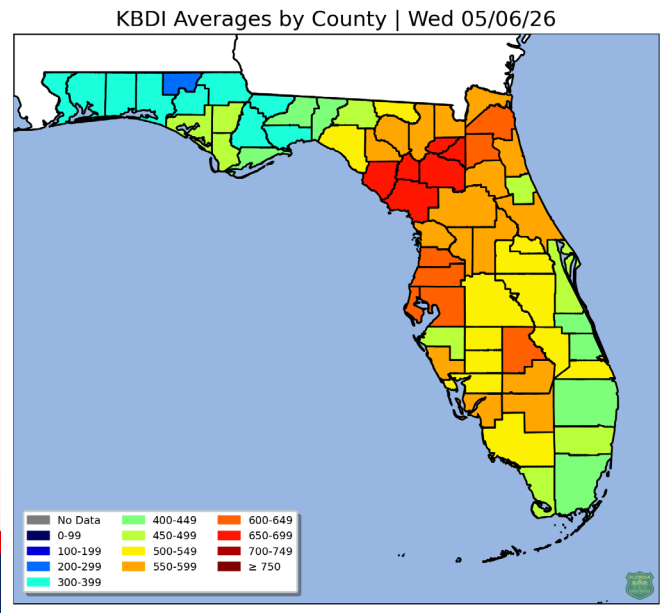
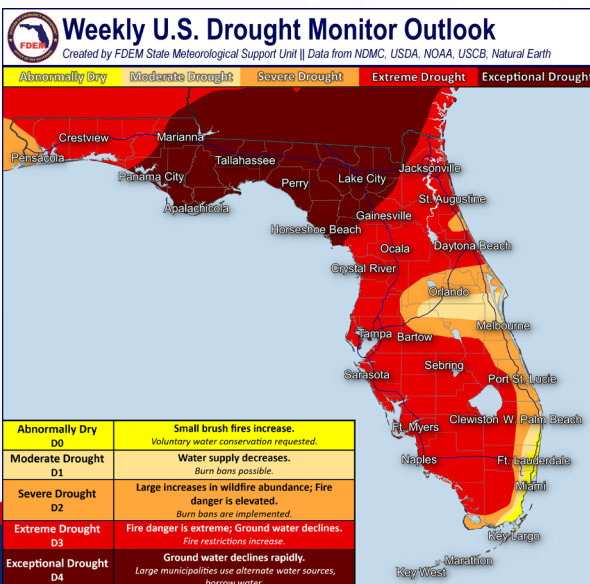


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Dry air will continue to linger throughout the Peninsula today ahead of our next approaching cold front across the Southeast U.S. This front is not expected to penetrate deep into the state, but rather remain oriented east-west across North Florida where a few severe thunderstorms are possible. As such, scattered showers and storms are not anticipated to dip into Northeast and East-Central Florida where relative humidities will dip **near critical thresholds (25-35%)** this afternoon. Breezy southwesterly winds will overlap these dry conditions, with winds of 15-20 mph expected and gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** throughout North and Central Florida. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect across coastal Northeast and East-Central Florida today where the combination of these breezy winds and dry air will lead to **critical wildfire danger**. Lower relative humidities and ongoing drought will continue to promote at least **elevated wildfire conditions** across the Peninsula. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 61 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 16,563 acres.

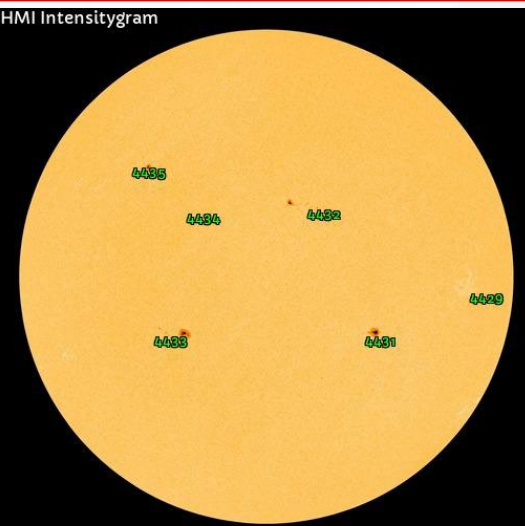
**Drought (5/5/26):** No improvements to the drought were made on this weeks latest update, with last weekends rainfall across the Panhandle and Big Bend doing little more than stabilizing the current drought situation. Rainfall amounts tallied up to 2-3" across much of the Panhandle and Big Bend, though streamflows and soil moisture levels remain paltry and near or surpassing record lows. Lighter rainfall fell throughout the Peninsula, with spotty showers and storms bringing rainfall totals of 0.5-1.5" to most locations. Increasing temperatures with this lighter rain brought worsening drought conditions throughout the Peninsula. Expansion of the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** was added across West-Central Florida, further inland to include all of Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus counties. Some expansion eastward was also made throughout South Florida, closer to the Southeast metro region. Along the I-4 corridor in Central Florida, the area of **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** has shrunk even further. **Extreme (level 3 of 4)** to **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** was untouched throughout North Florida on this week's update where rainfall deficits since the beginning of the water year (October 2025) are still near 12-18 inches across the area. 98% of Florida remains in at least a moderate drought, with 25% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought. Looking ahead, some additional waves of showers and thunderstorms may bring beneficial rainfall to North Florida through the weekend and early next week. However, a widespread slow drenching rainfall is not expected.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **516 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **41 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

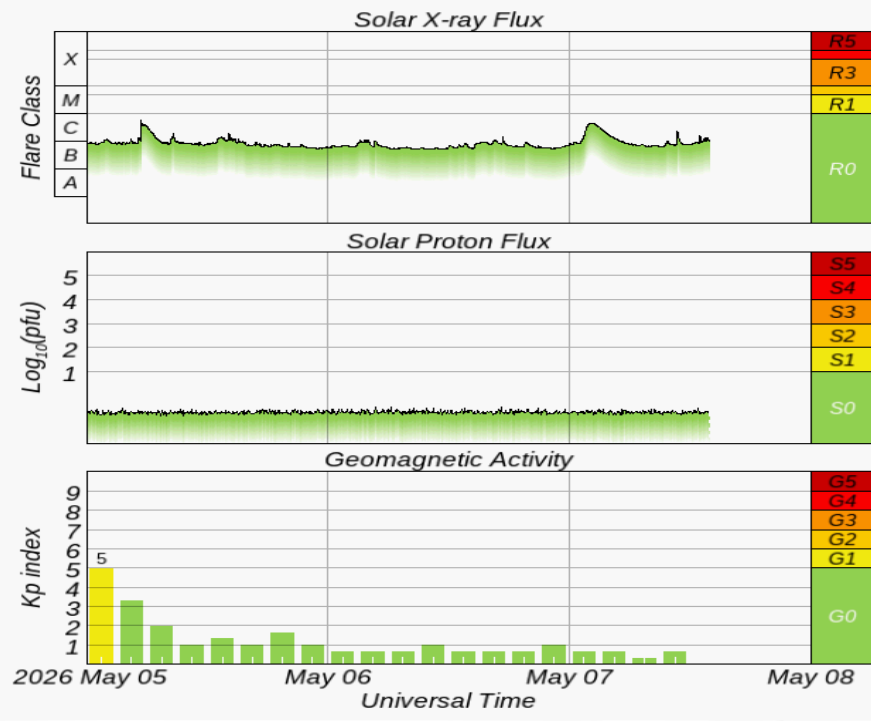




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/7	5/8
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at low levels today, with a slight chance for a significant (M-class) flare. Activity will increase heading into the weekend as the Earth-facing sunspots become more magnetically complex and large, with increasing chances of M-class flares and a slight chance of an X-class flare. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts and any X-class flares accompanied by strong (R3 or greater) blackouts. Solar wind conditions will remain near nominal background conditions before onset of positive coronal hole influences bring enhancements on Friday. This will also increase the geomagnetic field levels to active conditions, with the potential for minor to moderate (G1-G2) storming late on Thursday through Friday. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
<b>Phone:</b>	850-815-4001; 800-320-0519; 850-591-0071	Operational	
<b>Fax:</b>	850-815-4979	Operational	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
<b>SWO Tracker:</b>	<a href="https://swo.floridadisaster.org">https://swo.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	
<b>SLERS:</b>	DEM Statewide	Operational	
<b>FNARS:</b>	WGY974	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Federal NAWAS:</b>	State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Message:</b>	FL.000 - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Voice:</b>	FL SWP - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>IPAWS:</b>	300006 - FL Florida Division of Emergency Management	Operational	
<b>FIN:</b>	SOFEOC	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Satellite Phones:</b>	MSAT 888-890-5178; Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://floridadisaster.org">https://floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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