



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 8, 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	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	FDEM Everbridge / IPAWS Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson	Outreach Materials Delivery
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafayette	Wildfire Coordination / Executive Director Support
Region 4: Tara Kostich	St Johns	County Grants Desktop Monitoring Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-300 Instruction Prep / Vehicle Maintenance / Annual Inventory Review
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Leon, Hillsborough	Travel Back to Region 6
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	EPAC Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	Leon, Indian River	Travel Back to Region 8
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Leon, Lee	Travel Back to Region 9
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Leon, Miami-Dade	Travel Back to Region 10 / FIFA Meeting



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	EX Planning Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Lafayette	EM/Stakeholder Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Communications Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	FEPA Mitigation 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	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

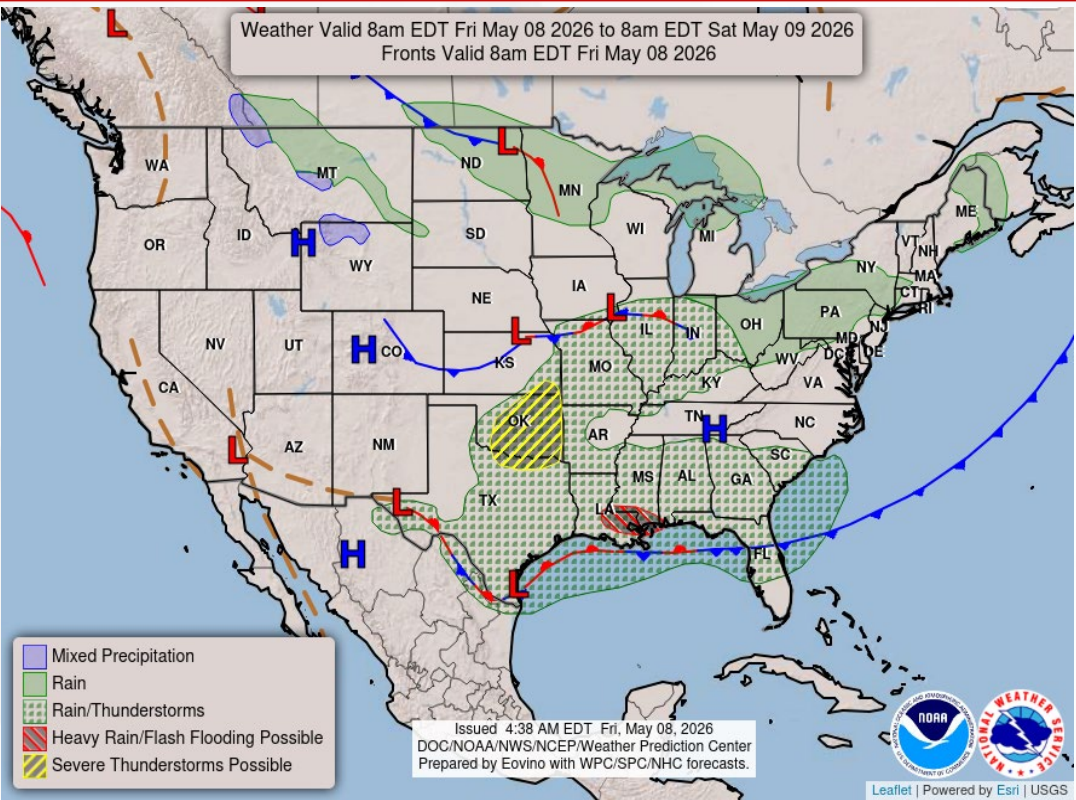
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

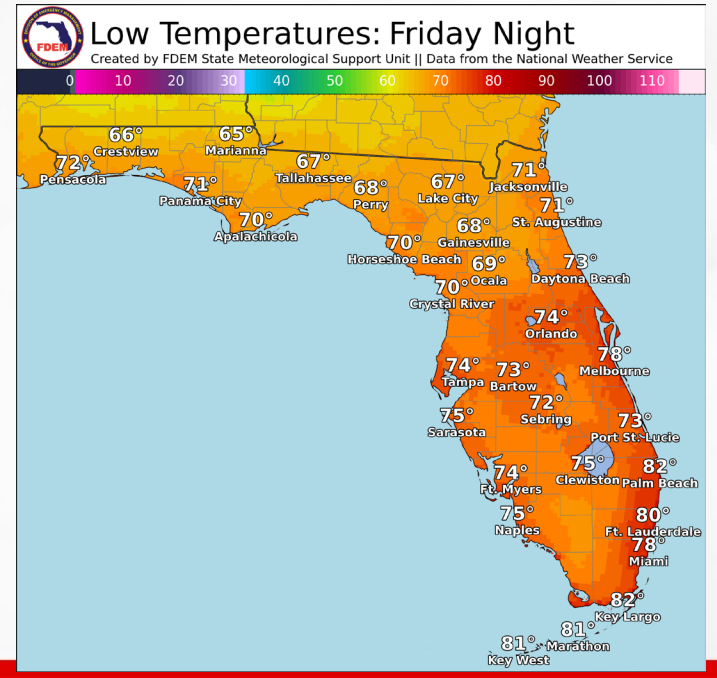
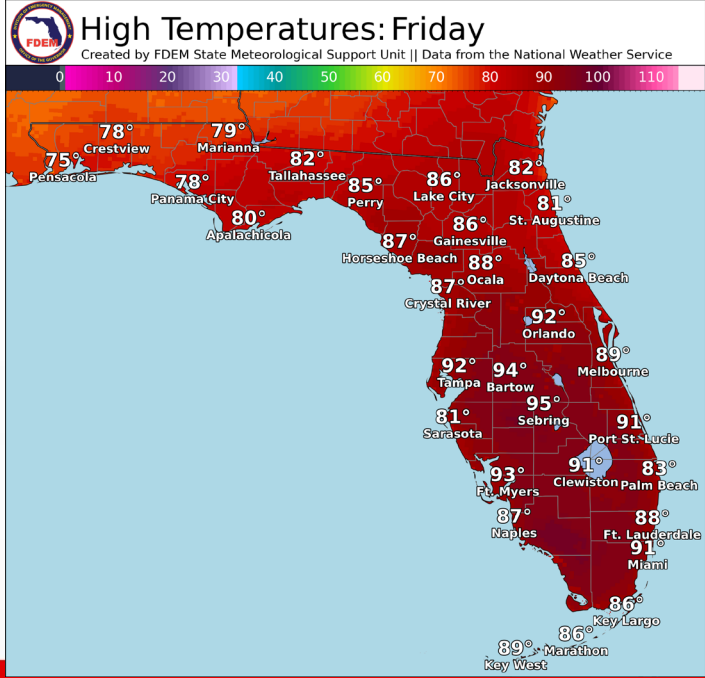


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L					
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L	L	L	L					
Hail	L	L	L							
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Extreme Heat						L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.47 ft. (1.99 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	525 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





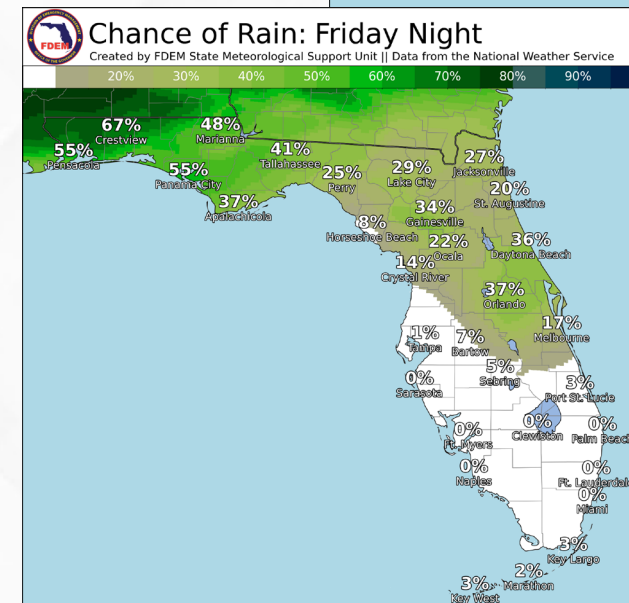
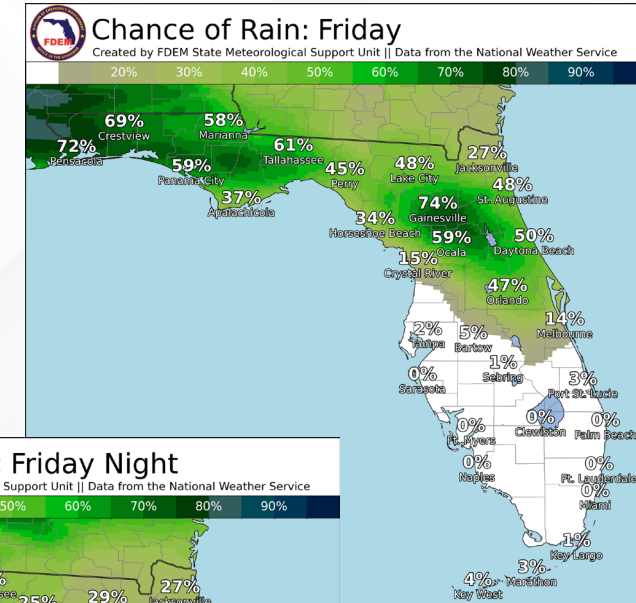
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy dense fog** throughout Southwest Florida will continue to slowly lift and dissipate as the sun rises this morning. Meanwhile, a few isolated showers are ongoing along the I-10 corridor this morning along a cold front draped across the region. This front will stall across North to North-Central Florida this afternoon, helping to focus additional scattered showers and thunderstorms across the area (50-75% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** has been outlooked across North Florida today for a few storms that could become **locally strong to severe**. The primary hazards with this activity will be frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60 mph), and small hail. Additionally, a few storms could be accompanied by **locally heavy downpours** which could produce a **quick 1-2 inches of rain**.

Although winds are expected to be on the lighter side today, relative humidities will fall to **near critical thresholds (30-40%)** throughout interior South Florida which will continue to promote **elevated wildfire conditions**. High temperatures will climb into the **lower to middle 90s** throughout Central and South Florida this afternoon. Abundant cloud cover and rainfall will keep temperatures in the 70s and 80s across North Florida.

Tonight, isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue to linger overnight throughout North and North-Central Florida (25-50% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions are expected across South Florida where instances of **patchy dense fog** are possible by daybreak on Saturday. Low temperatures will dip into the upper 60s to middle 70s across much of the state, with the Southeast metro and Keys remaining in the 80s.





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 Southeast beaches, with a **moderate risk** persisting for all other East Coast beaches. A low risk is also expected for all West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: A mostly calm sea state is expected for all beaches today with surf near 1-2'.

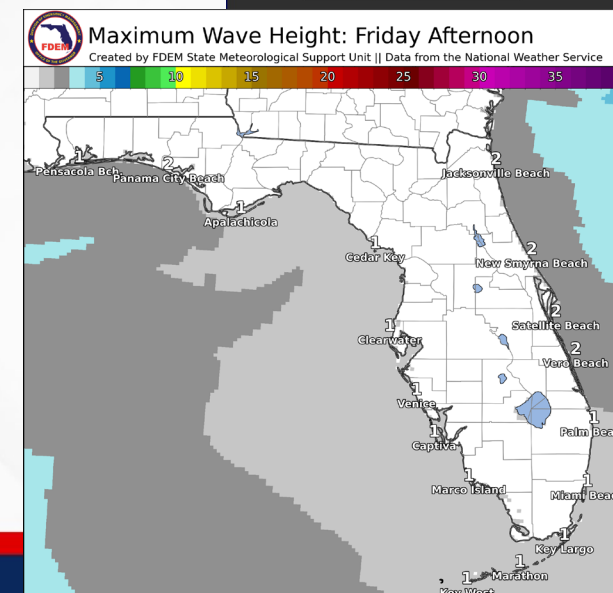
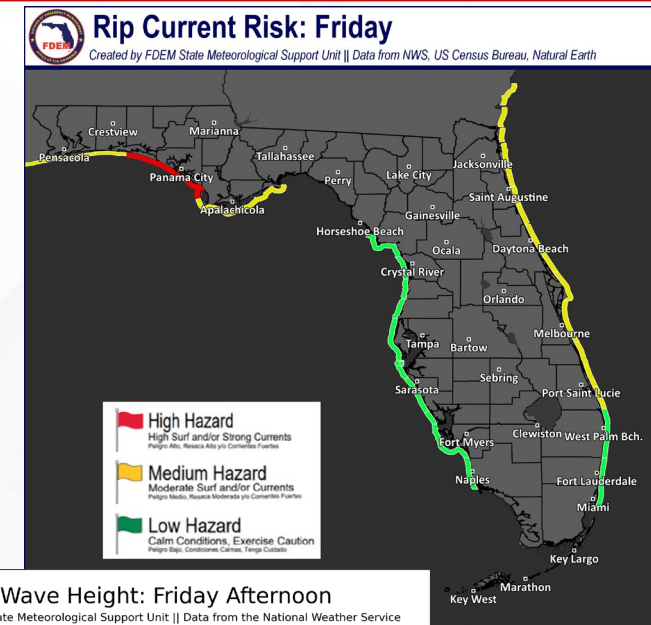
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/1/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida today. However, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop along the stalled frontal boundary draped across North Florida today. A few of these **locally severe thunderstorms** may lead to **locally heavy downpours** and **nuisance street flooding**. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1 inch for most locations, however locally heavier amounts **upwards of 2-3 inches** 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 11.47 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.99 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



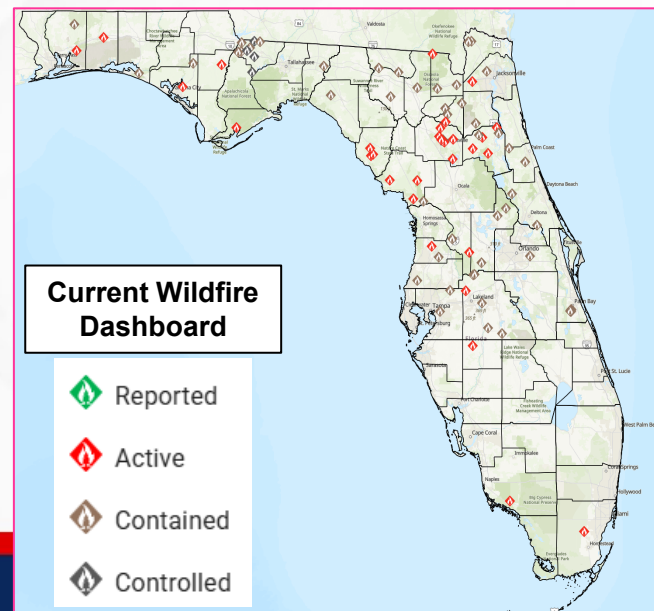
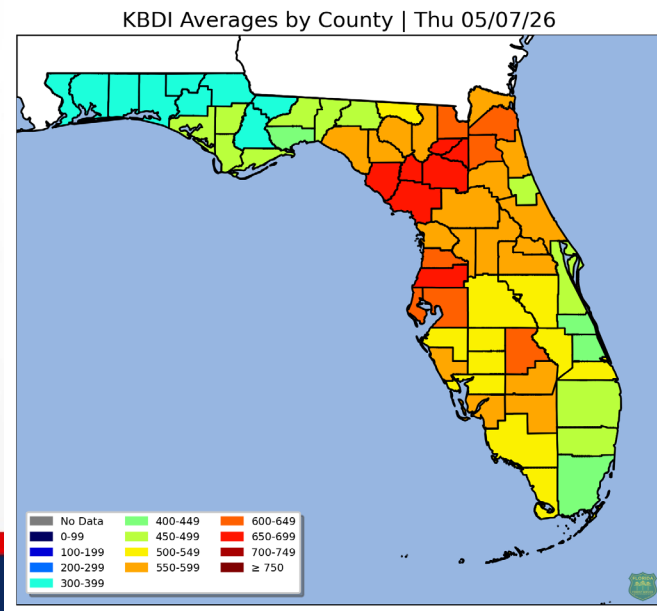
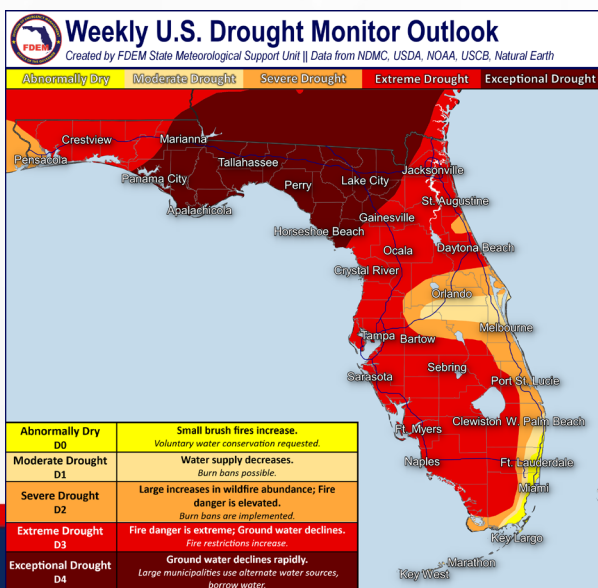


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry air will continue to linger throughout interior South Florida today where relative humidities will fall to **near critical thresholds (30-40%)** this afternoon. Although southwesterly winds are expected to be on the lighter side, ongoing drought will continue to foster an environment conducive to wildfire development with **elevated conditions** persisting today. Abundant cloud cover and rainfall throughout North Florida will keep the wildfire threat low, though lightning from any thunderstorms could spark new fires or reignite existing ones. Areas of **patchy dense fog** cannot be ruled out by daybreak on Saturday throughout the state, which could lead to reduced visibilities in and around active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 64 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 16,878 acres.

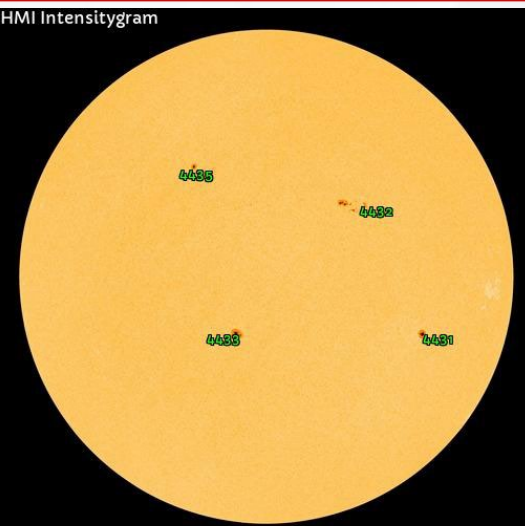
Drought (5/5/26): No improvements to the drought were made on this weeks latest update, with last weekends rainfall across the Panhandle and Big Bend doing little more than stabilizing the current drought situation. Rainfall amounts tallied up to 2-3" across much of the Panhandle and Big Bend, though 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 **525 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **42 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

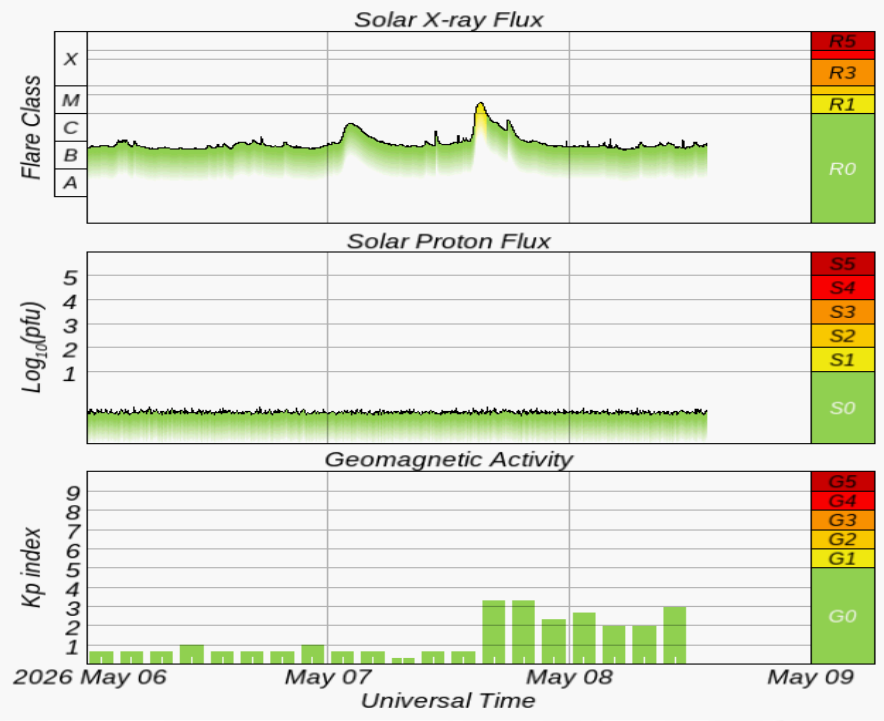
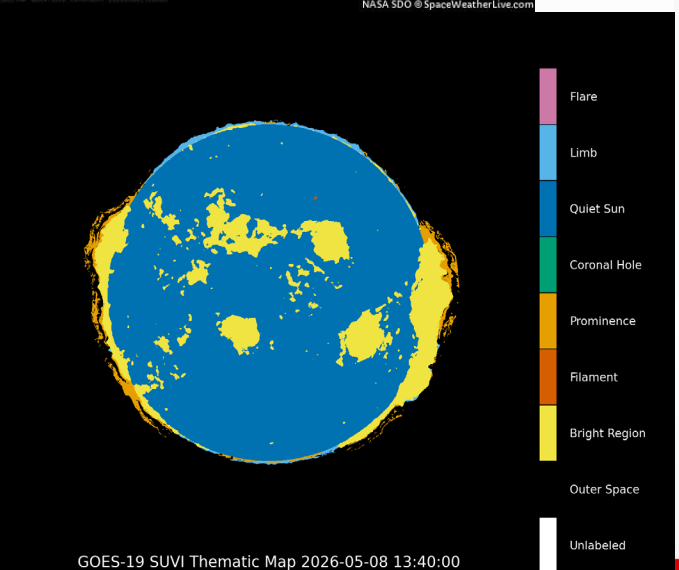




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 45%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/8	5/9
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a chance for a significant (M-class) flare through the weekend. 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 become enhanced under positive coronal hole influences. The geomagnetic field is expected to reach active levels through Saturday, with quiet to unsettled levels on Sunday. 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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