



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, May 9, 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	Cody Nowak	(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	Okaloosa	Crestview USA 250 Event
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	City of Fort Myers Hurricane Expo
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Region	Leave
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Not Available	Leave
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Brian Lee	Out of Region	Leave

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

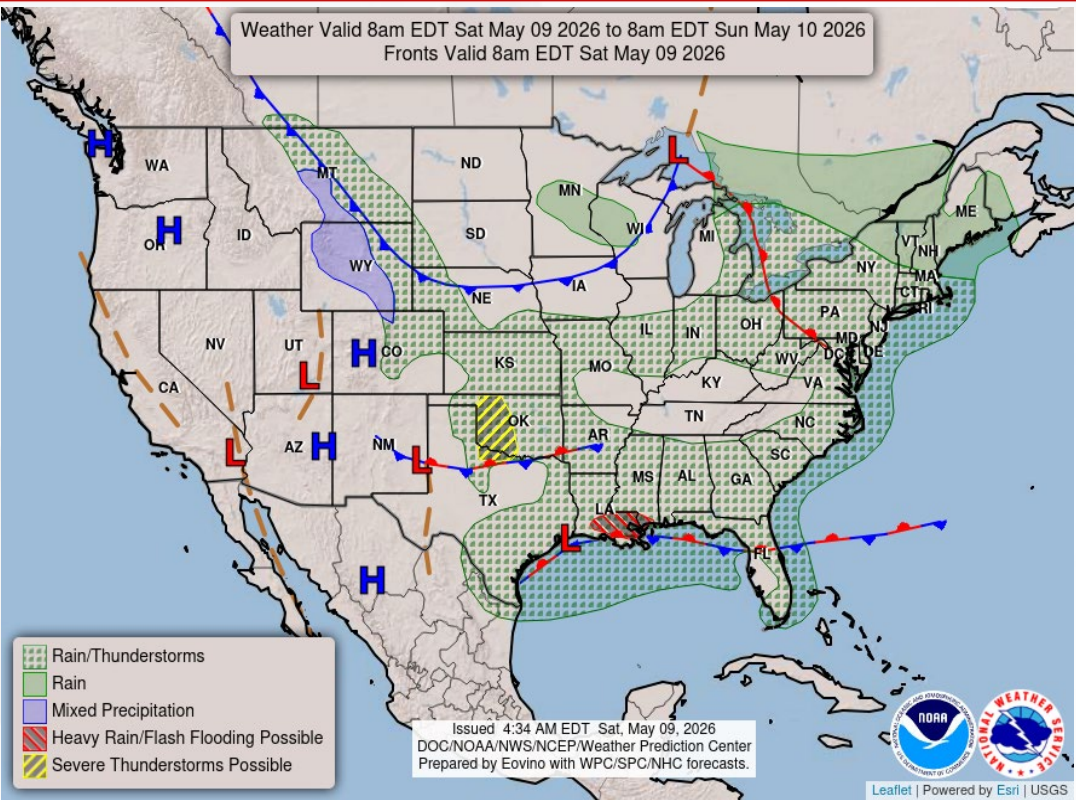
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

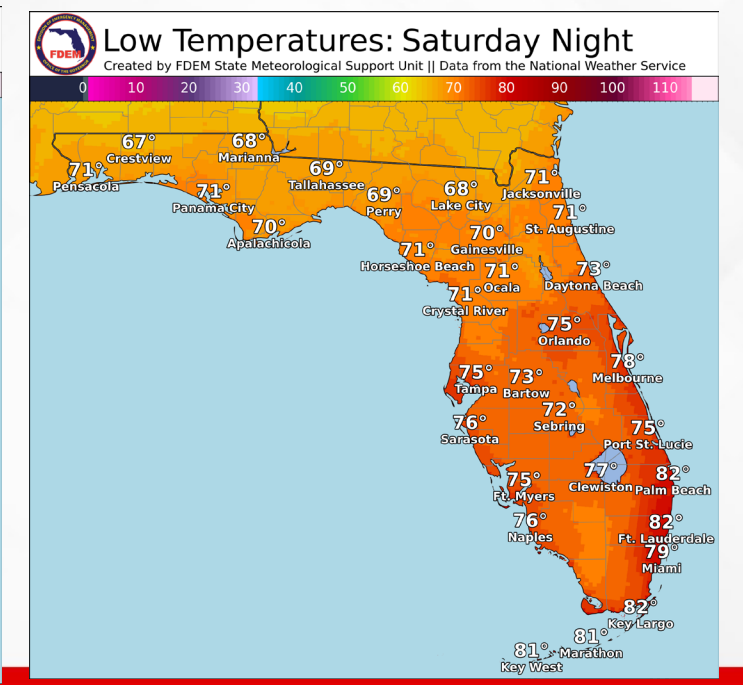
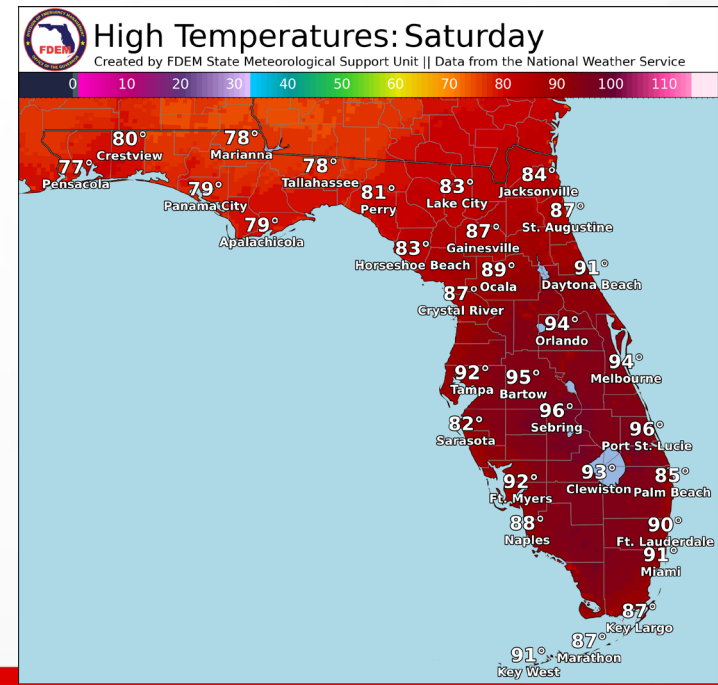


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L		L	L		
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L	L	L	L					
Hail										
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	L	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.43 ft. (2.00 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	518 (-7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





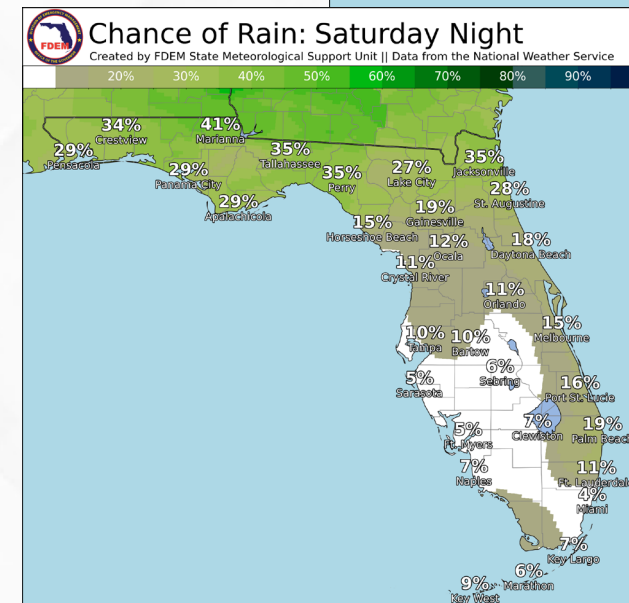
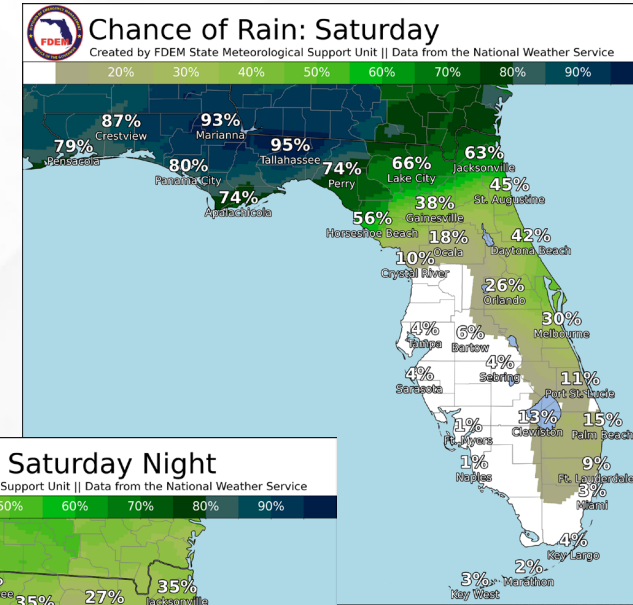
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Another wet and active weather day is expected across the northern tier of the state as a frontal boundary remains stalled across the region. Additional waves of scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected along this front this afternoon across North Florida (55-90% chance of rain), some of which could be **locally strong to severe** where a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked. The primary hazards with any storms that do develop will be frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60 mph), and **locally heavy downpours**. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across much of the Panhandle and Big Bend today for isolated instances of **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. Across the Peninsula, rainfall chances will be much lower however a few isolated showers or storms may develop along the East Coast sea breeze pinned along the I-95 corridor today (30-45% chance of rain).

West to southwesterly winds will increase today across the Peninsula, gusting **upwards of 20-25 mph** this afternoon. These winds will overlap with **near critically low relative humidities (35-45%)** throughout interior Central and South Florida, which will encourage another day of **elevated wildfire conditions**. High temperatures will climb well into the **lower to middle 90s** throughout Central and South Florida today with feels-like temperatures approaching or **exceeding 100-degrees**. 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 (25-35% chance of rain). A few isolated showers may also linger along the East Coast before dissipating after sunset (15-25% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions are expected across South Florida where instances of **patchy dense fog** are possible by daybreak on Sunday. 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 and Northeast 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'. Some waves may reach near 3' for the Treasure Coast.

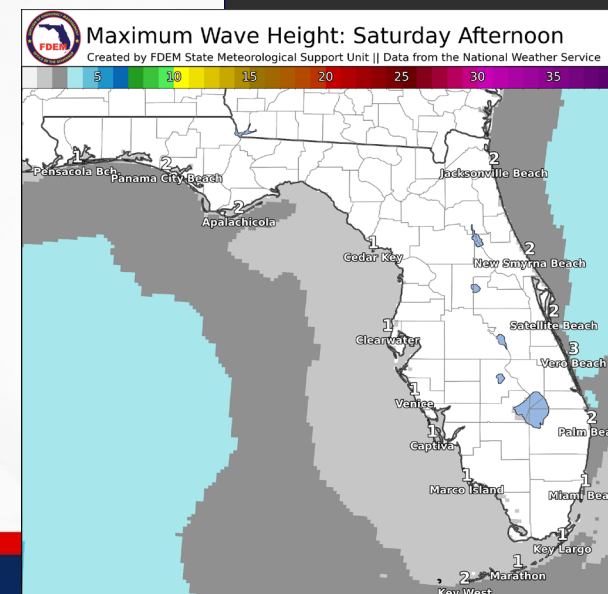
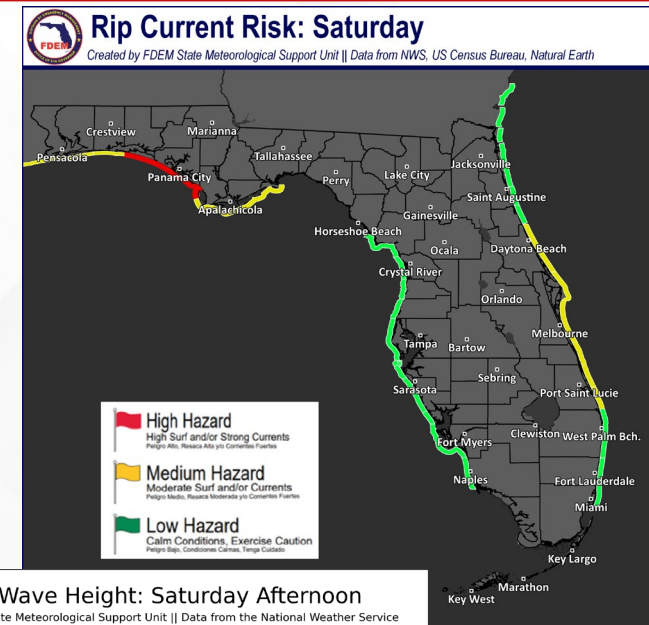
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, and Sarasota counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked for the Florida Panhandle and much of the Big Bend today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop and overspread the region this afternoon, some of which could be **locally heavy**. Although the ongoing drought and dry background conditions will keep the overall flooding threat lower, any areas that see repeated rounds of **heavy downpours** could experience **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations. Rainfall totals will tally up to 0.5-1 inch for most locations, though localized amounts **upwards of 2-4 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 11.43 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.00 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



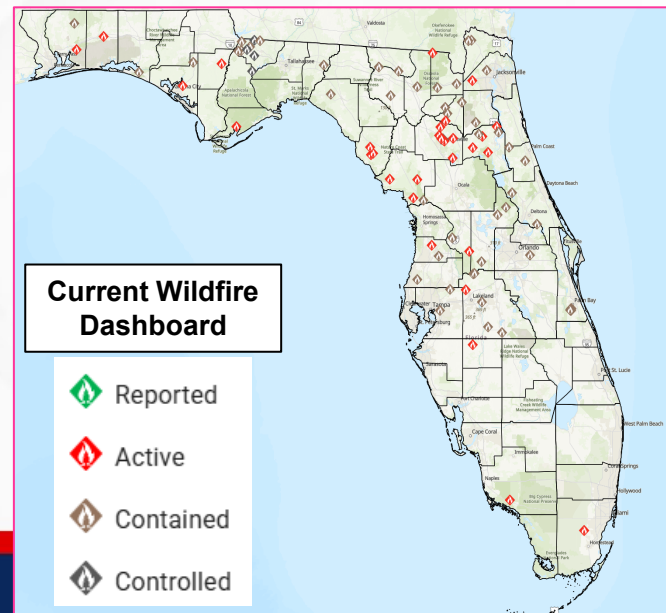
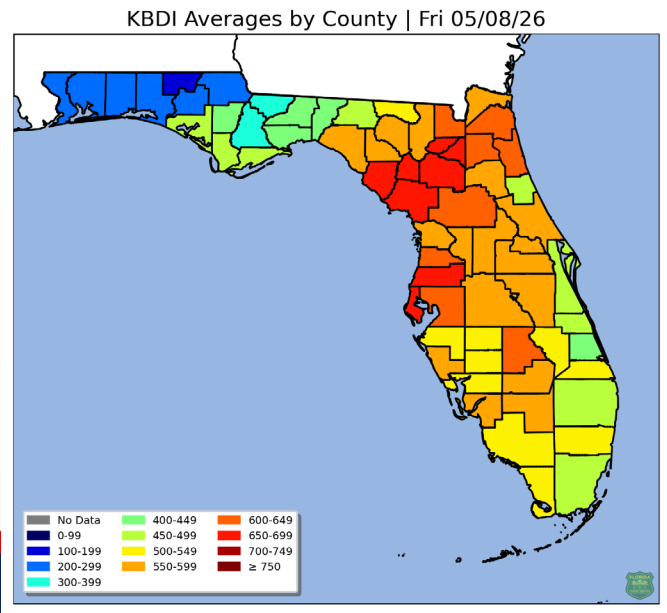
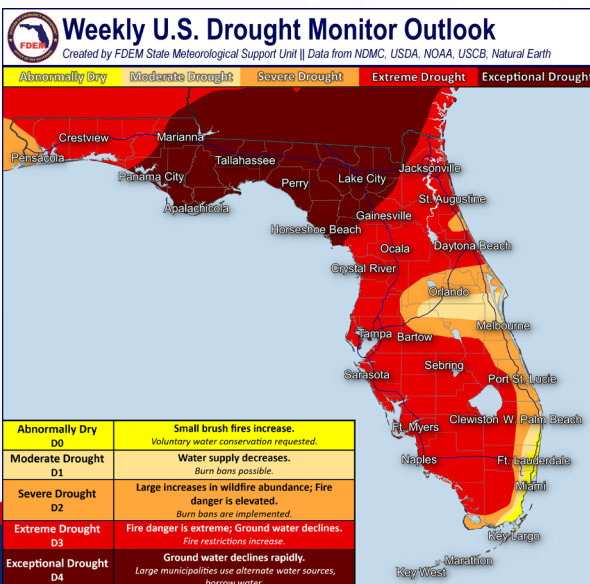


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Low relative humidities are expected this afternoon throughout interior Central and South Florida, dipping to **near critical thresholds (35-40%)**. This paired with breezy wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** will foster **elevated wildfire conditions** this afternoon. The wildfire risk will be very low across North Florida given abundant cloud cover and scattered showers and thunderstorms, though any lightning strikes from storms can spark new fires or reignite old 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 66 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,690 acres.

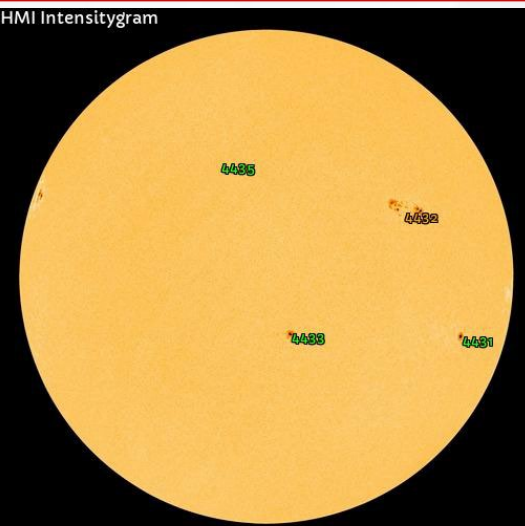
Drought (5/5/26): No improvements to the drought were made on this weeks latest update, with last weekends rainfall across the Panhandle and Big Bend doing little more than stabilizing the current drought situation. Rainfall amounts tallied up to 2-3" across much of the Panhandle and Big Bend, though 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 **518 (-7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **44 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

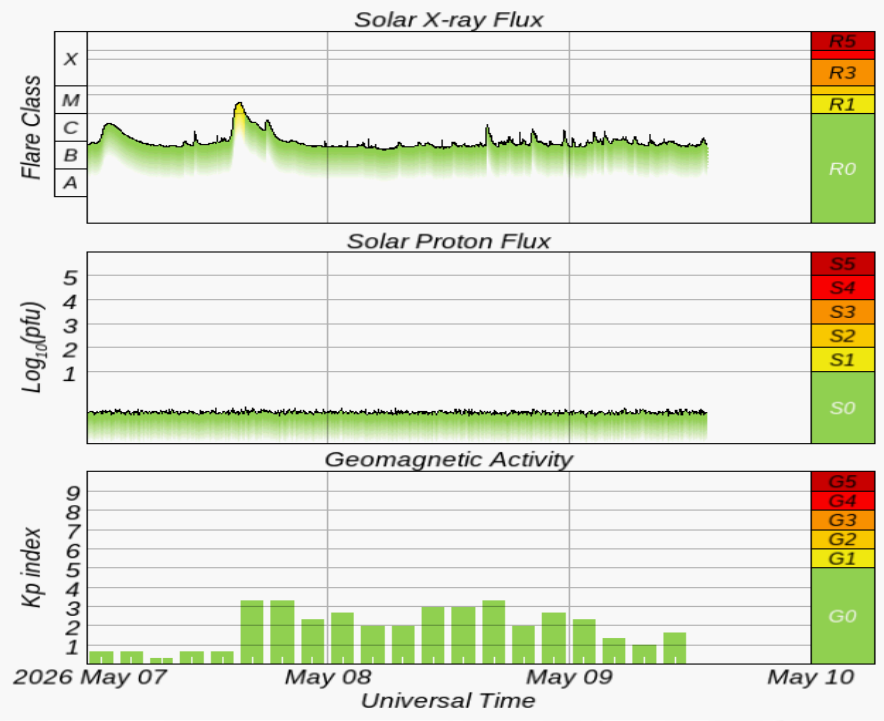




Space Weather



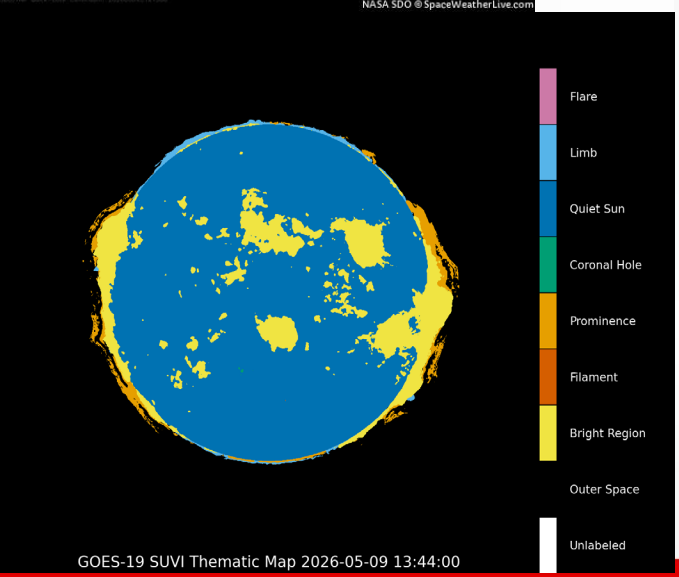
Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 45%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	A1 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/9	5/10
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a chance for a significant (M-class) flare through the weekend and a slight chance for a severe (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 mildly enhanced under positive coronal hole influences. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels through the weekend. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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Sam Walters
 Sam Walters (May 9, 2026 10:11:33 EDT)

Austin Johnson
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 Date: 2026.05.09 09:59:38 -04'00'







5-9-2026 SWO Morning Situation Report

Final Audit Report

2026-05-09

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By:	Austin Johnson (Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAzn37xWloyqIR9nsgj3p_nWINNxHPwoi2

"5-9-2026 SWO Morning Situation Report" History

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2026-05-09 - 1:59:38 PM GMT
-  Document created by Austin Johnson (Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com)
2026-05-09 - 2:01:31 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sam Walters (Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com) for signature
2026-05-09 - 2:02:11 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sam Walters (Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com)
2026-05-09 - 2:10:43 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sam Walters (Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com)
Signature Date: 2026-05-09 - 2:11:33 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_TYPE
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