



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 15, 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	Connor Stolp	(850) 566-3044	Connor.Stolp@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	Lauren Warfield	(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	Washington	County EM Visit
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Taylor	County EM Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	FEMA Coursework
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Polk	IMT Meeting / T&E Support
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	County EM Visit / Annual Inventory
Region 8: Amber Durden	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Post Region 9 Quarterly Meeting Admin / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIU AIDP Field Course Program

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 1
 Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 5
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	Final Planning Exercise
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	DR-4749 Applicant follow up
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Suwannee	Regional Recovery Coordination
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	Instructing G-205
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	N/A	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami Dade	FUI Field Exercise

Region 4 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 13

Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10

Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10 & Recovery RC Supervisor

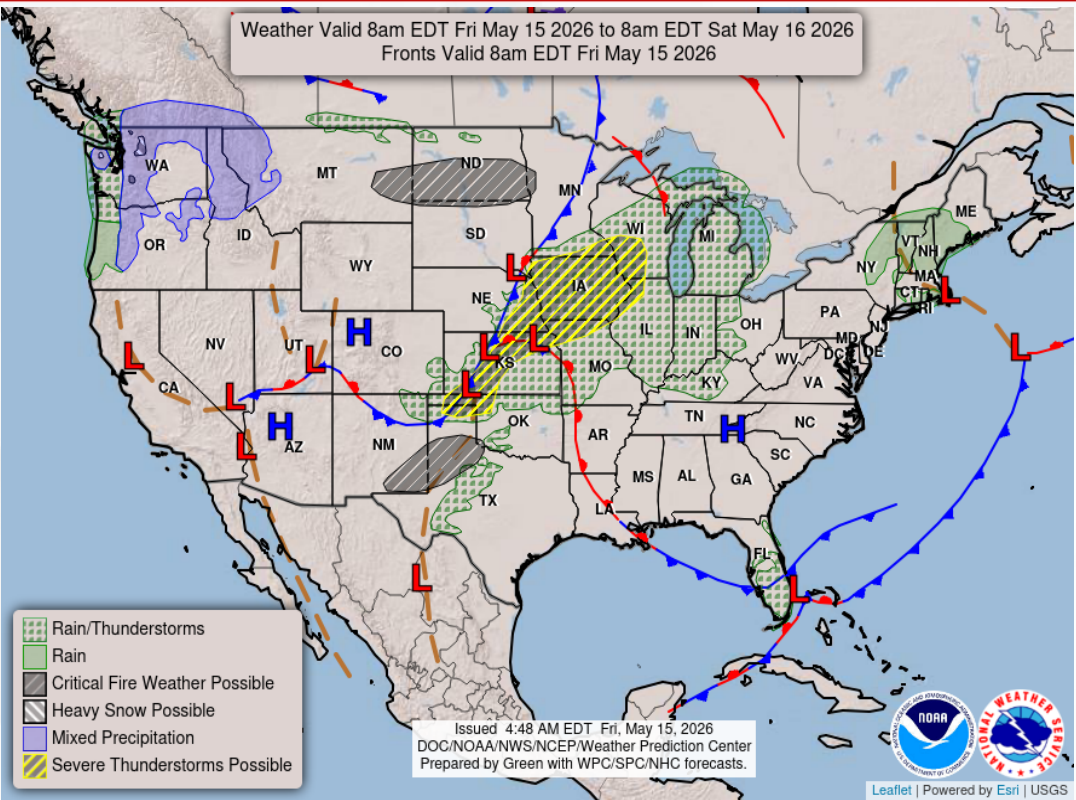
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10 & Recovery RC Supervisor

Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

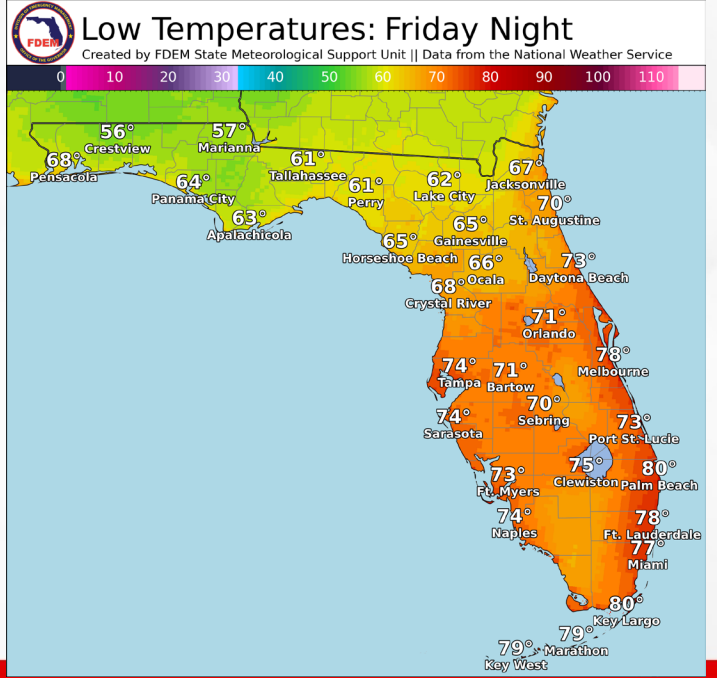
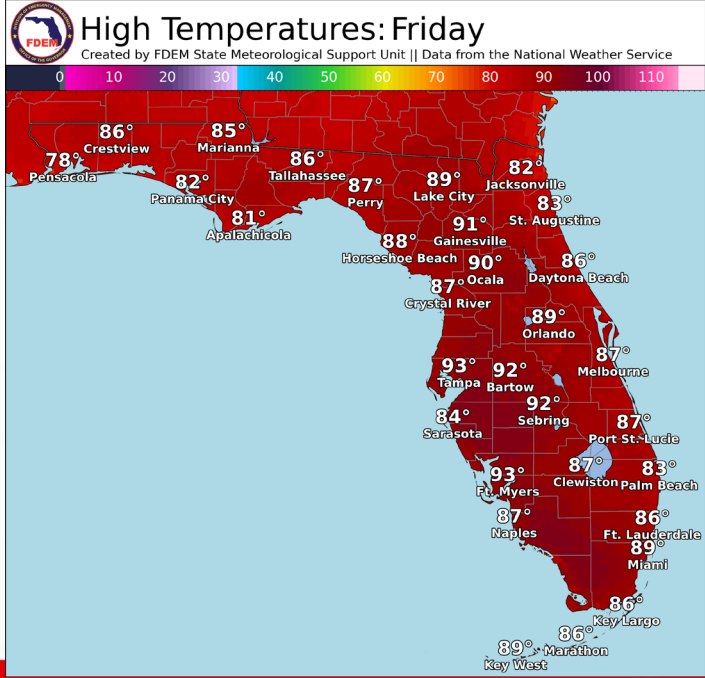


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning							L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	M		H	M	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.41 ft. (1.90 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	435 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Onshore winds and elevated surf will keep a **high risk for rip currents** outlooked for most East Coast beaches today, with a **moderate risk** across Southeast Florida beaches. A **moderate risk** is also expected for West Coast and Panhandle beaches. A low risk is expected for Nature Coast and Northwest Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Seas will remain elevated today along the East Coast, with waves reaching **2-4'**. Waves will also remain near 2-3' for West Coast beaches. Panhandle beaches can expect surf near 1'.

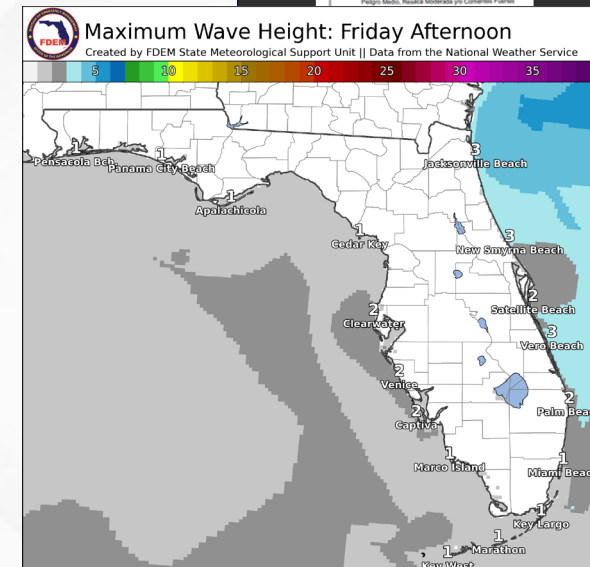
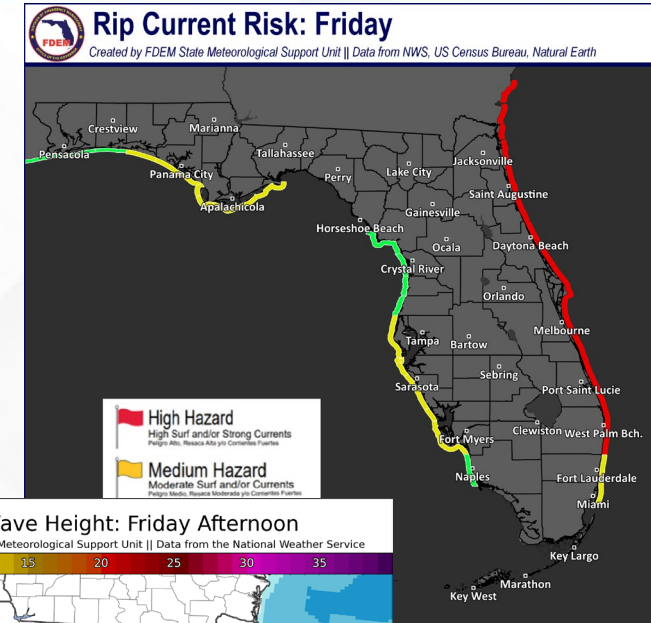
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, and Sarasota counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. However, isolated showers and thunderstorms across interior South Florida may be accompanied by a few **locally heavy downpours**. Rainfall amounts will remain generally below 1", though a few localized areas may receive **upwards of 2"**.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.41 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.90 feet below normal for this time of year.



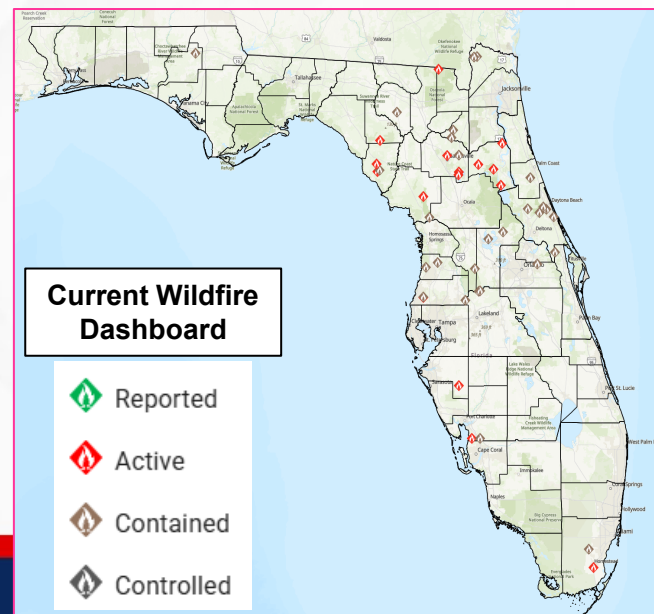
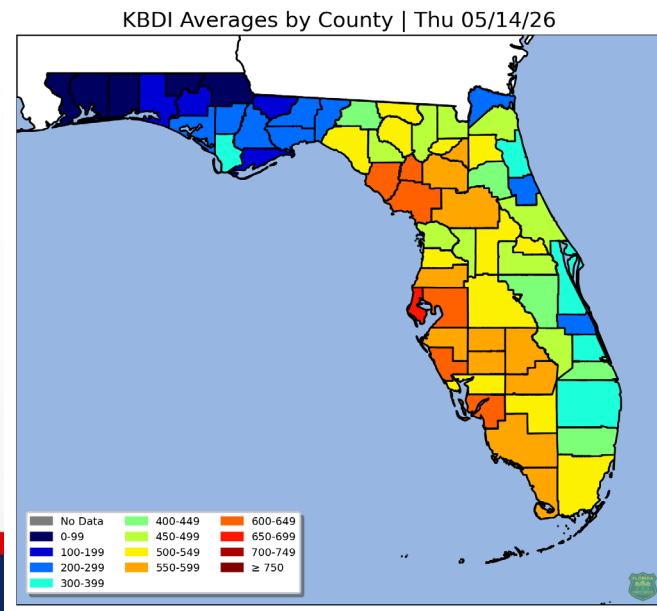
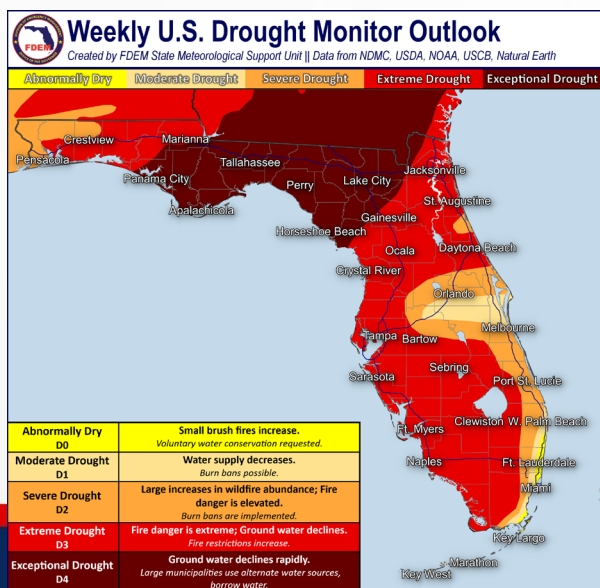


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure anchored across the Southeast U.S. will help to filter **critically low relative humidities (20-30%)** throughout North Florida this afternoon. Despite winds remaining generally calm this afternoon, the ongoing drought will encourage at least **sensitive wildfire conditions** with the potential for **locally elevated conditions** throughout the Panhandle. KBDI values remain well above 500 (critical drying) along the Nature Coast and West-Central Florida which will also encourage the **locally sensitive wildfire danger** despite RH expected to stay above critical thresholds. Isolated thunderstorms across interior South Florida this afternoon may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 44 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,646 acres.

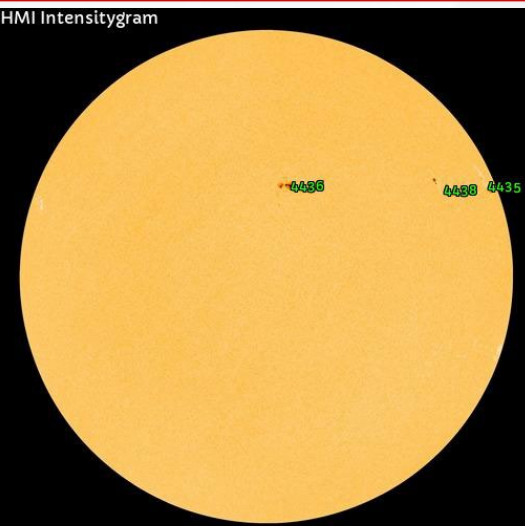
Drought (5/12/26): Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme drought across northern Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties has been downgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The exceptional drought across much of Jackson County has also been reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** due to this heavy rainfall. Despite rainfall adding up to 1 to 2 inches across the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley, the severity of the ongoing drought resulted in no changes to the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)**. Throughout the Peninsula, rainfall was mostly confined to the I-95 corridor and interior South Florida, with amounts generally between 1-2 inches. This was not enough for any improvements in the drought throughout the Peninsula, with areas of Southeast Florida actually seeing expanding **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. The larger drought picture was otherwise untouched. As a reminder, the cutoff for rainfall on this week's update was Tuesday (5/12) at 8 AM EDT, thus the heavy rainfall that fell on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week will be taken into account on next week's update. This rainfall will likely help with drought conditions across the state, though significant improvements are not expected given just how long this drought has been in place and how severe the long-term rainfall deficits are. 99% of Florida remains in at least a moderate drought, with 24% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **435 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

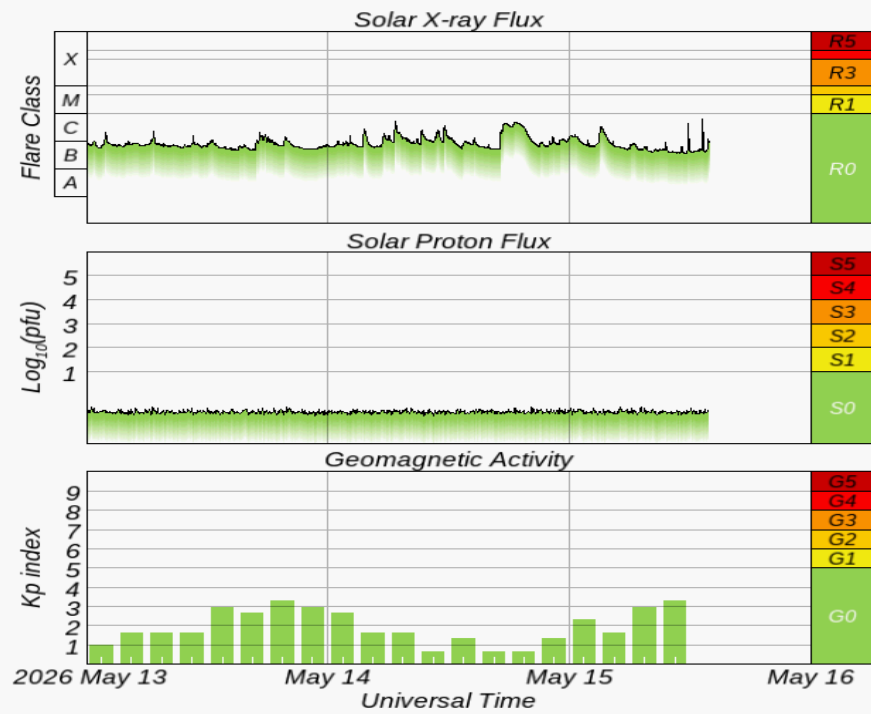




Space Weather



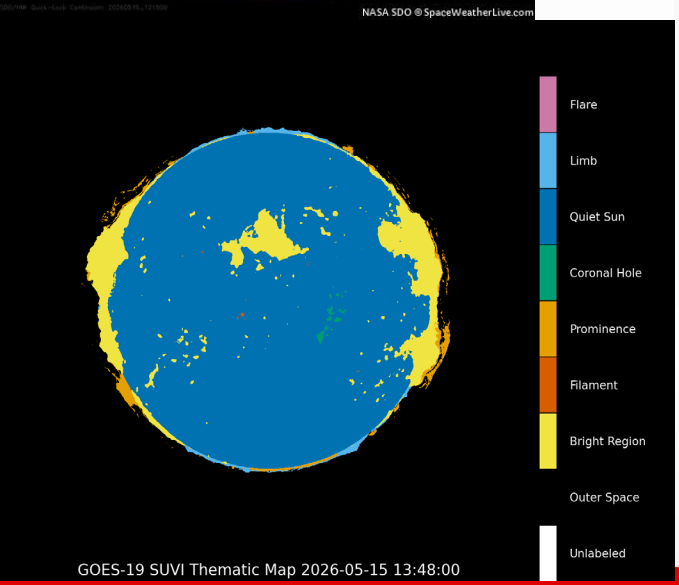
Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/15	5/16
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 40% severe activity = 20%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at predominately low levels with a chance for a significant (M-class) flare. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to remain disturbed through the weekend due to negative recurrent coronal hole influences. Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach Moderate (G2) storming levels today due to the coronal hole influences. Active to Minor (G1) storm levels will prevail this weekend. The overall space weather threat to Florida is low.



GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-05-15 13:48:00



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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