



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, May 16, 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	Daniel Leader	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lake	Hurricane Expo Outreach Event
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2
 Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 5

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	Lafayette	Hurricane Event
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Okeechobee	Hurricane Event
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 10: Brian Lee	In Region	Off & Monitoring

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

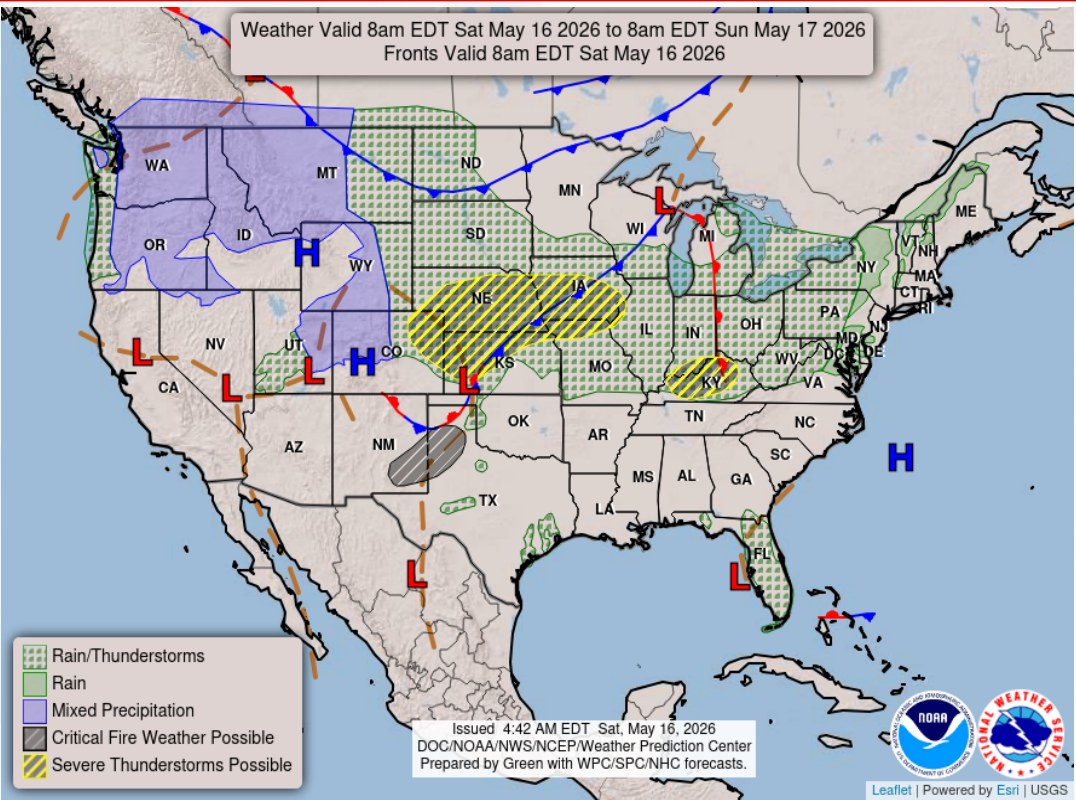
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

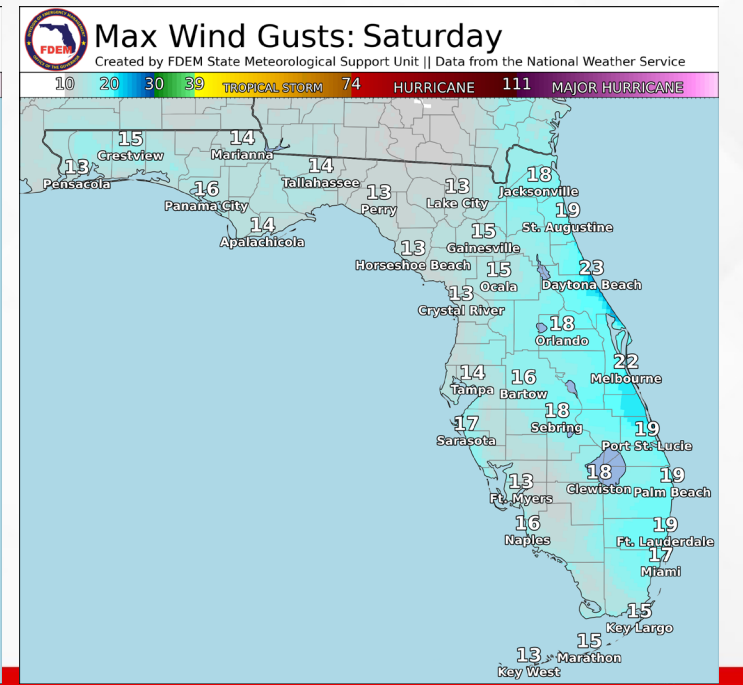
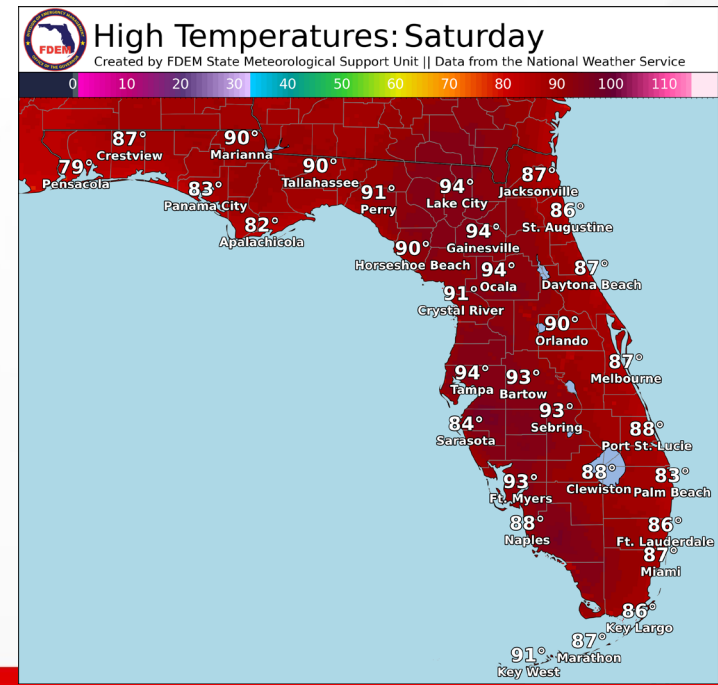


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)		L	L	L	L					
Wildfire	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.42 ft. (1.88 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	445 (+10) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





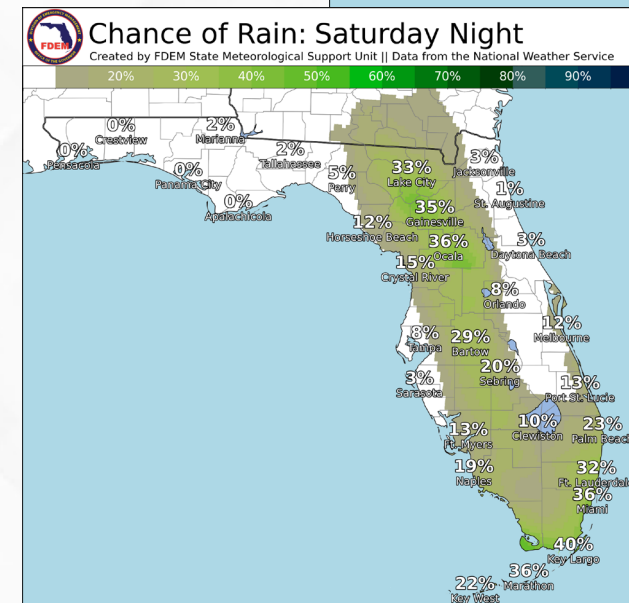
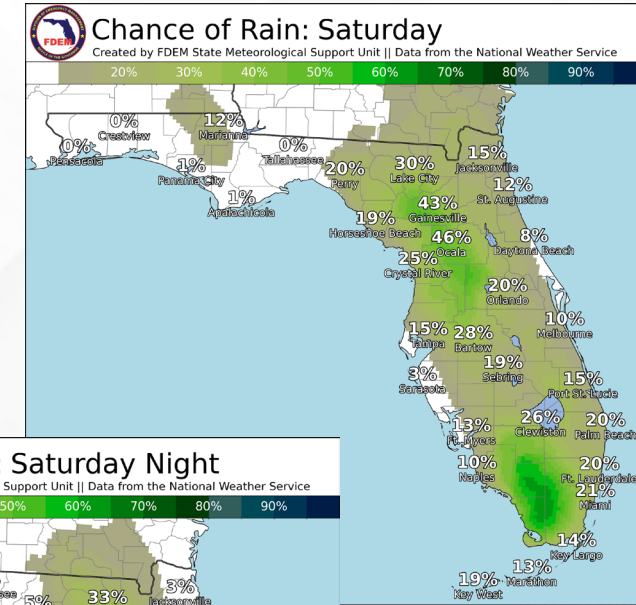
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Area of high pressure will remain anchored across the Southeast U.S. today, though it's axis will shift slightly east into the western Atlantic allowing for moisture to gradually increase within south and southeasterly flow. A mostly dry day is expected for much of the state, however isolated showers and thunderstorms will develop along the sea breezes through the spine of the Peninsula this afternoon (15-40% chance of rain). A few of these storms could become **locally strong** and capable of producing lightning and **locally heavy downpours**.

Fire weather conditions are expected to remain lower today due to relative humidities remaining above critical thresholds. However, ongoing drought and breezy easterly wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** along the East Coast of Florida will allow for **locally sensitive** to **elevated conditions** to develop throughout portions of the Peninsula this afternoon. Any thunderstorms could be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. High temperatures will reach the middle 80s to **middle 90s** throughout the state.

Tonight, any showers or thunderstorms throughout the Peninsula will linger into the evening before dissipating after dark (15-35% chance of rain). Otherwise, mostly clear and calm conditions will prevail. Lows will only fall into the upper 60s to upper 70s statewide. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop throughout portions of the Big Bend and Northeast Florida by daybreak Sunday.





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 Panhandle beaches. A low risk remains for West 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'**. Panhandle and West Coast beaches can expect surf near 1'.

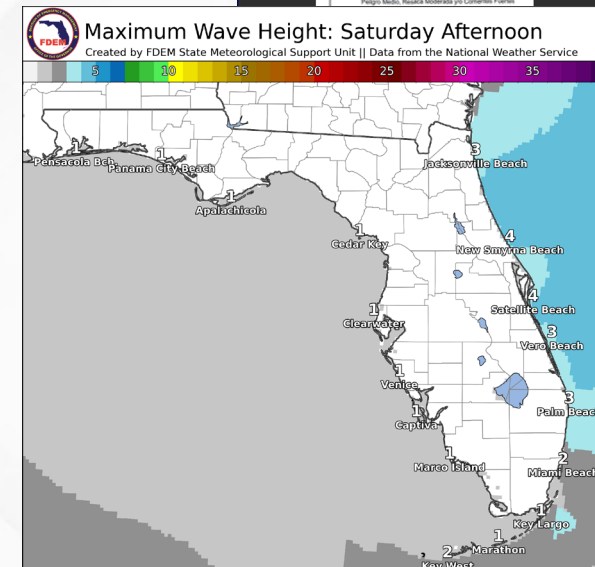
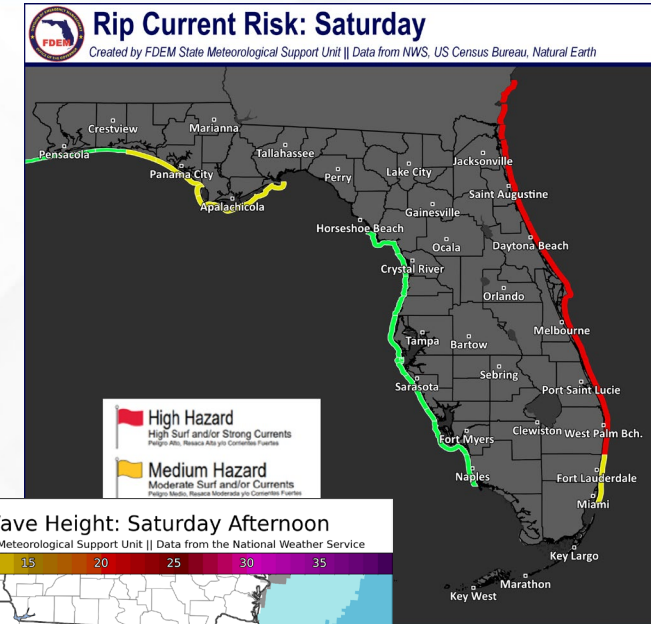
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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 and through the spine of the Peninsula 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 11.42 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.88 feet below normal for this time of year.



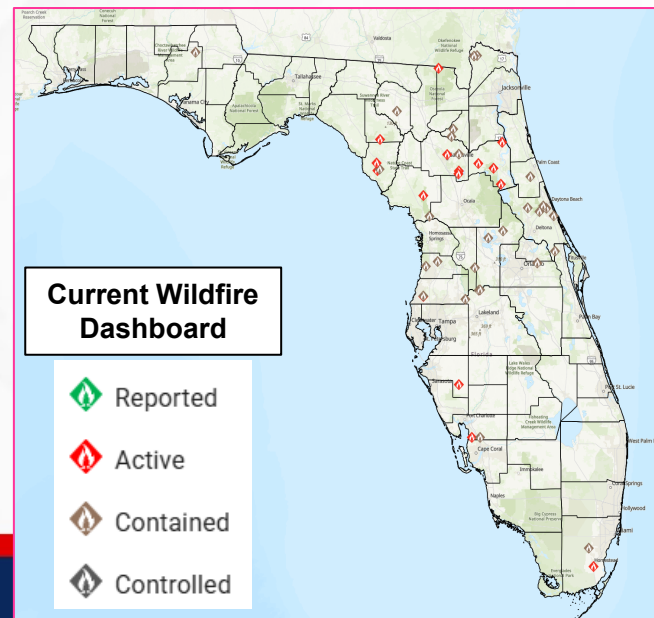
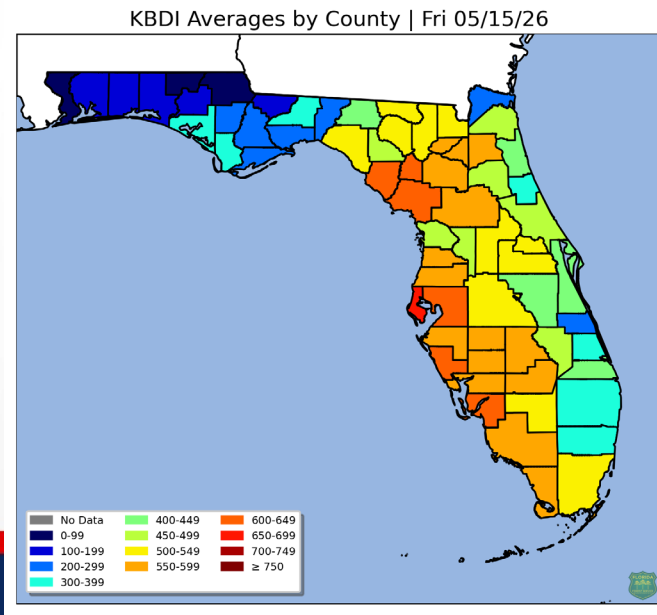
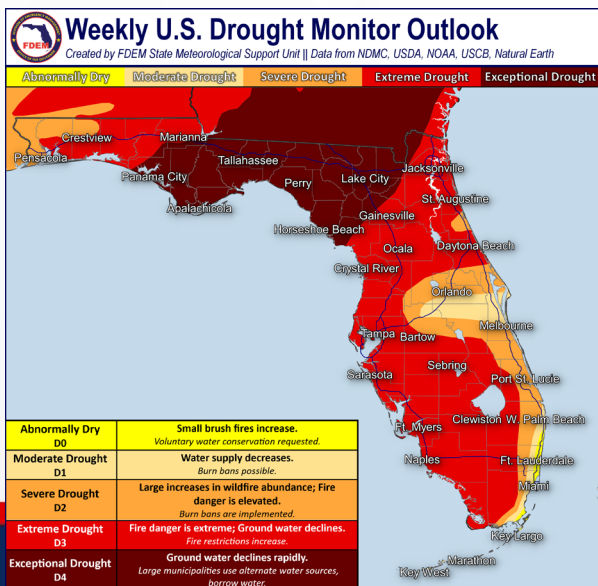


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure will remain settled across much of the state today, keeping mostly dry conditions in place outside of a few isolated showers or thunderstorms throughout the Peninsula. Any thunderstorms could be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. Relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds statewide today, though breezy wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** are expected along the East Coast. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop throughout Northeast Florida tonight which can significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 50 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,687 acres.

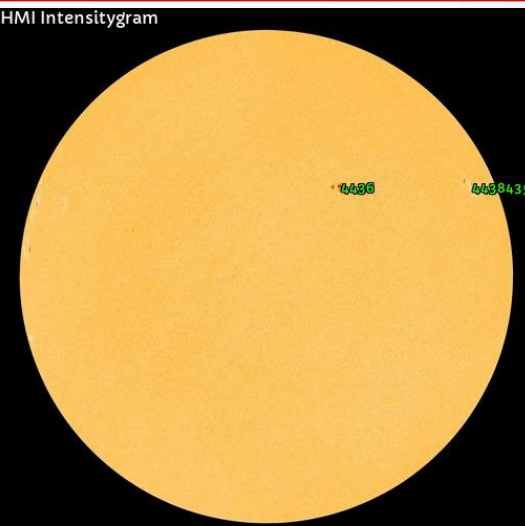
Drought (5/12/26): Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme 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 **445 (+10)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **33 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

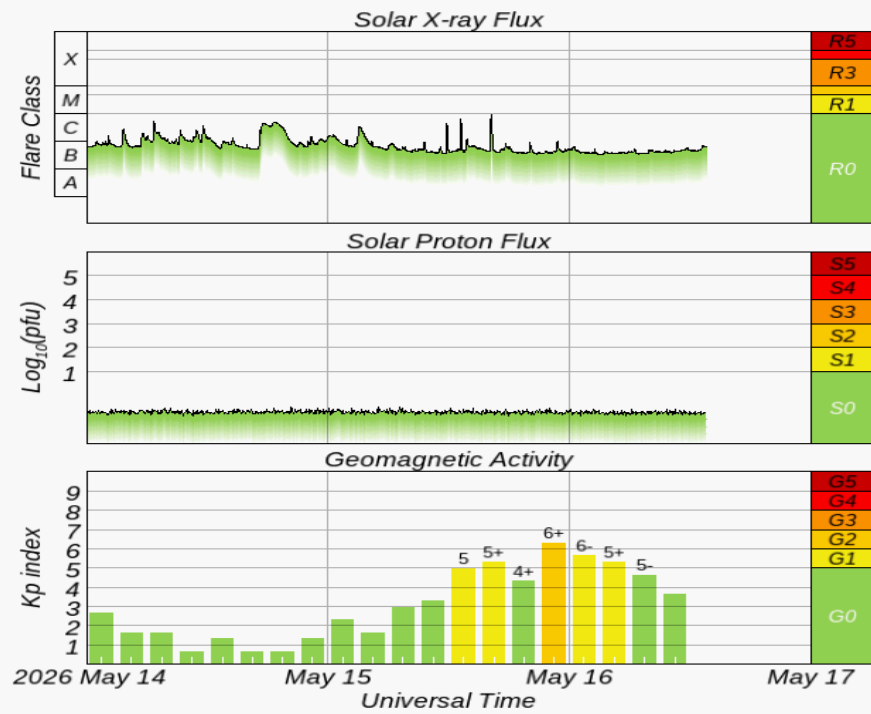




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C9 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/16	5/17
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%

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 Minor (G1) to Moderate (G2) storming levels today due to the coronal hole influences. Active to Minor (G1) storm levels will prevail tomorrow before waning further on Monday. The overall space weather threat to Florida is 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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