



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, May 17, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
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 Expo
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

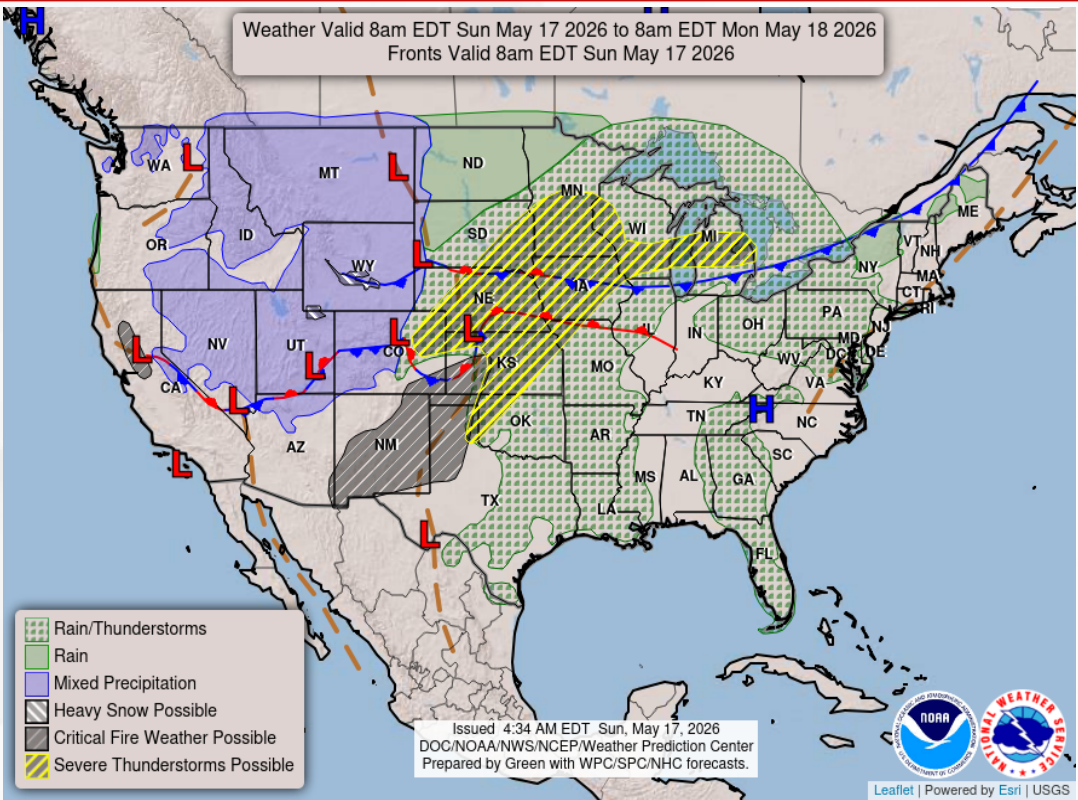
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 10 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

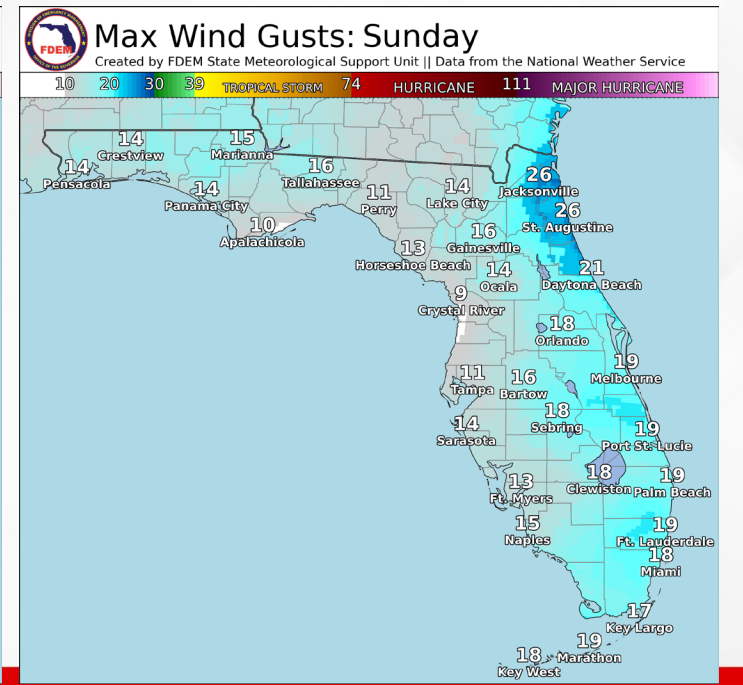
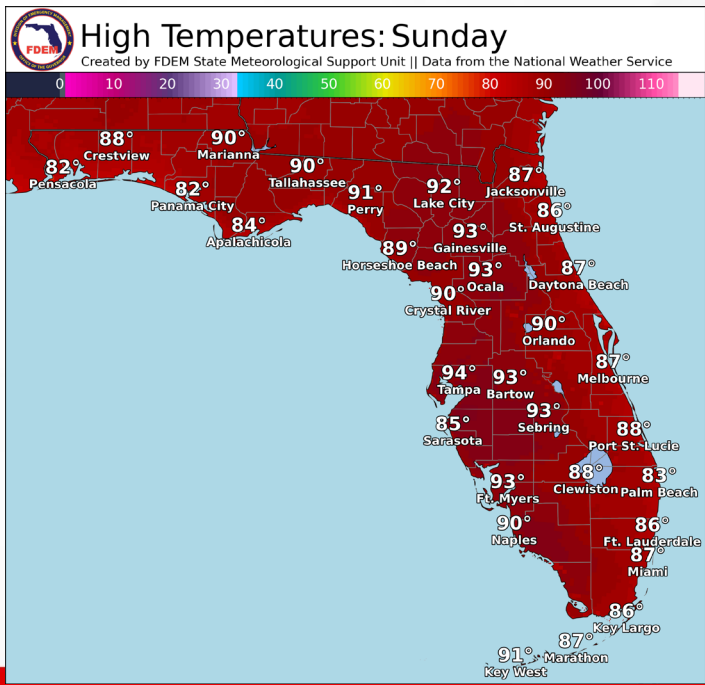


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning		L	H	M	H	H	M	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
Hail			L	L	L					
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat						L	L		L	
Fog (Overnight)	L	L								
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
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)									





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Onshore winds and elevated surf will keep a **high risk for rip currents** outlooked for all East Coast beaches today, with a **moderate risk** 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'**. A few waves may reach **upwards of 5'** in the surf zone. Panhandle and West Coast beaches can expect surf near 1'.

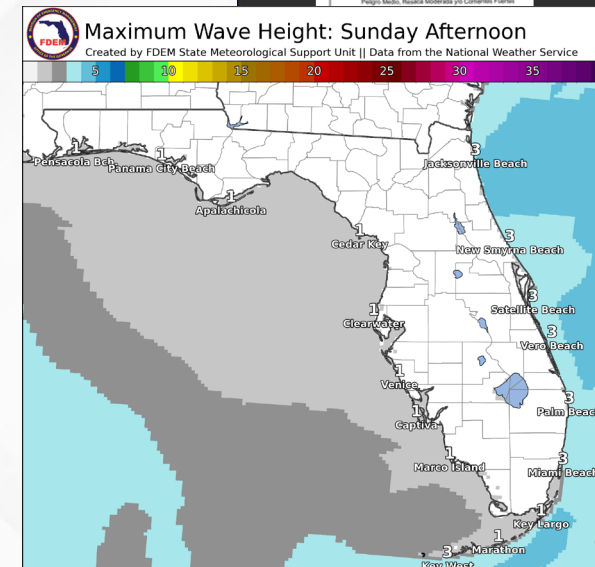
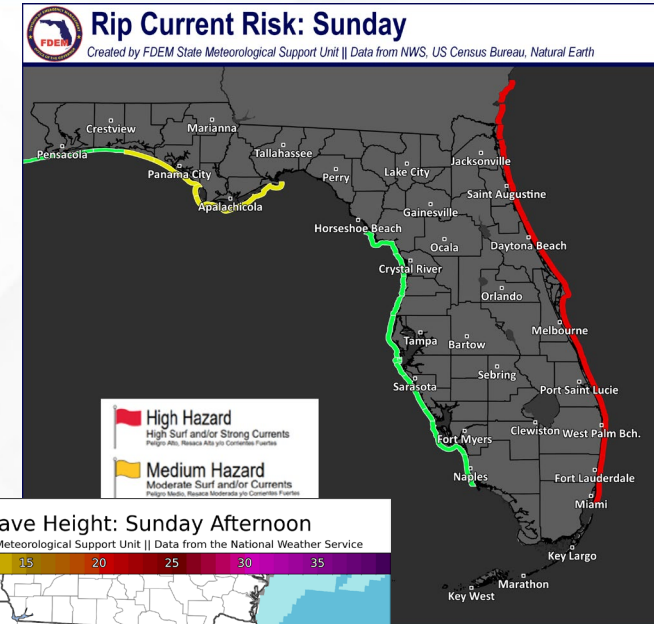
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. However, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected along the I-75 corridor this afternoon and evening, extending through the entire Peninsula and Suwannee River Valley. A few of these storms may be **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing **locally heavy downpours**. Rainfall amounts will be localized in nature, with most locations seeing generally below 1". However, any areas that see repeated rounds of heavy downpours could receive upwards of **3-5" of rain**.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.40 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.89 feet below normal for this time of year.



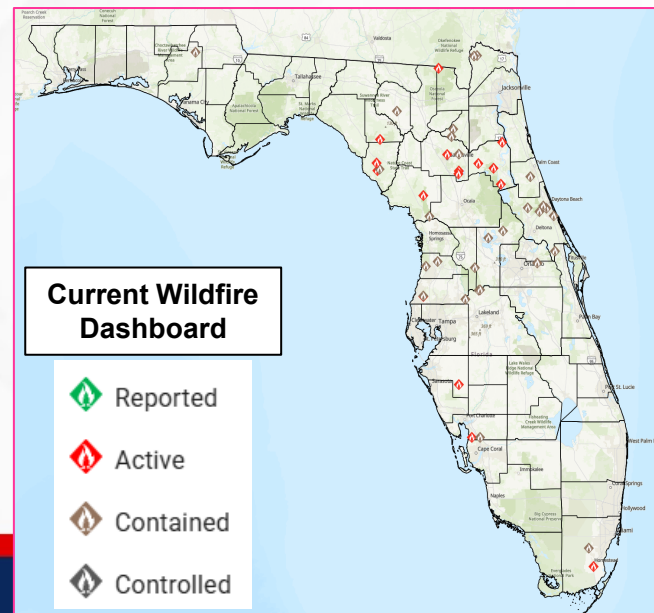
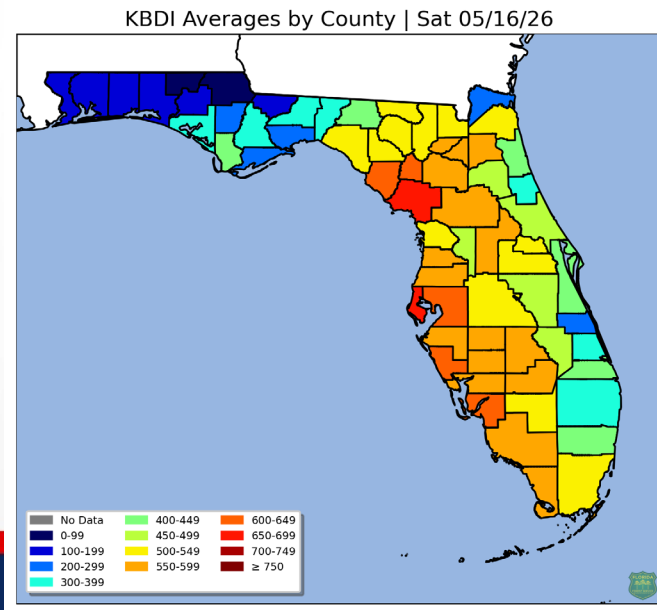
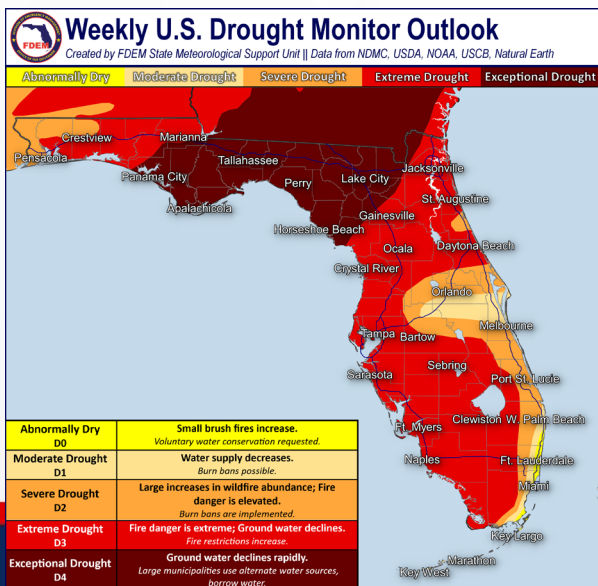


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure will continue to shift further east into the western Atlantic today, bringing the return flow out of the south to southeast which filter more moisture throughout the state. Relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds today statewide, through scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop along the sea breeze boundaries along the I-75 corridor and through the Suwannee River Valley. Any thunderstorm activity may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. Breezy wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** are expected along the entire East Coast today, with locally higher gusts **upwards of 30 mph** across coastal Northeast Florida. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 52 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,666 acres.

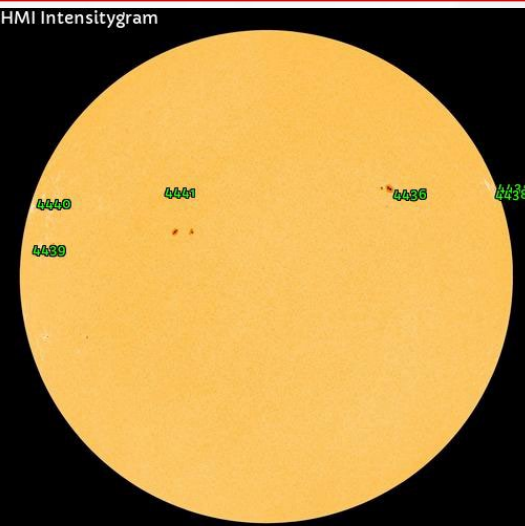
Drought (5/12/26): Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme 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 **456 (+11)** 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).

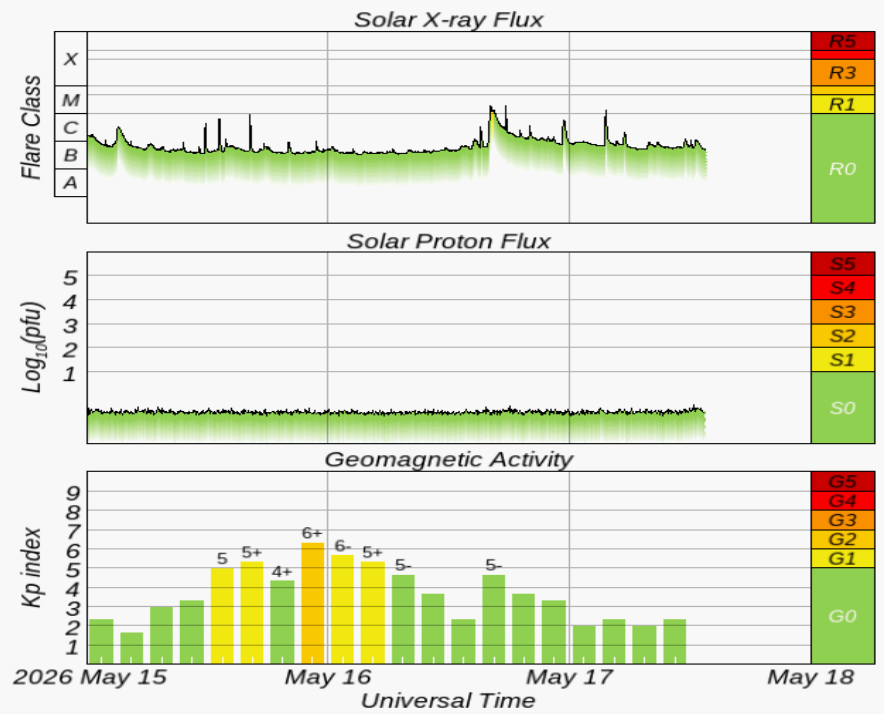
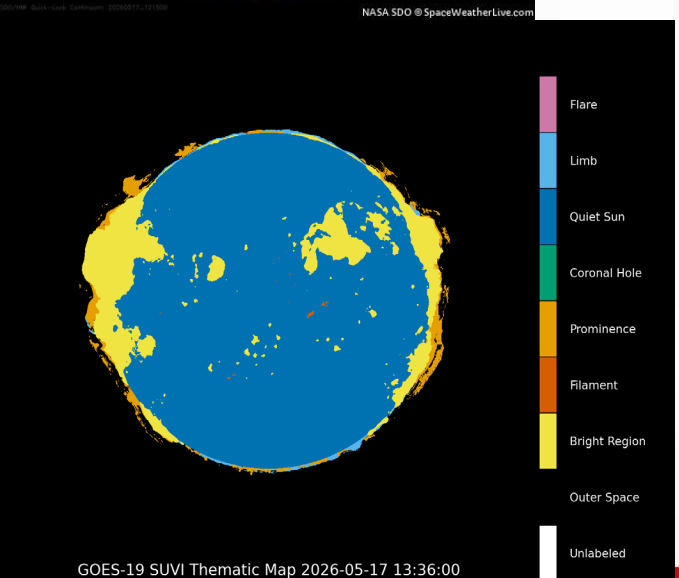




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/17	5/18
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%	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 beginning of the week due to negative recurrent coronal hole influences. Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach periods of Minor (G1) to Moderate (G2) storming levels today and tomorrow due to the coronal hole influences and a glancing coronal mass ejection (CME). Active to Minor (G1) storm levels will prevail on Tuesday. 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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