



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Monday, May 18, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Joel Lalog	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850) 241-5606	<a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Branch Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services Branch Director	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	<a href="mailto:Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com">Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
ESF 14: Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Finance Chief	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team



Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Leon, Gadsden	Vehicle Maintenance / Inventory / NWS Partners Heat Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Office Administration
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Seminole	FTEM Meeting / CURSE UAS Exercise / T&E / Support
Region 6: Paul Siddall	<b>Out of Service</b>	<b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	NOAA Hurricane Preparedness Briefing
Region 8: Amber Durden	Palm Beach	Red Cross Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Administration
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, St. Johns	FDLE RLECT Meeting / Region 10 T&E Meeting / Travel to Region 4

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2  
 Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 5  
 Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Internal Stakeholders Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Madison	Pre-Hurricane Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Marion	Finance Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Recovery Coordination Meeting
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	Recovery Coordination Meeting / Response On Call Region 10

Region 7 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

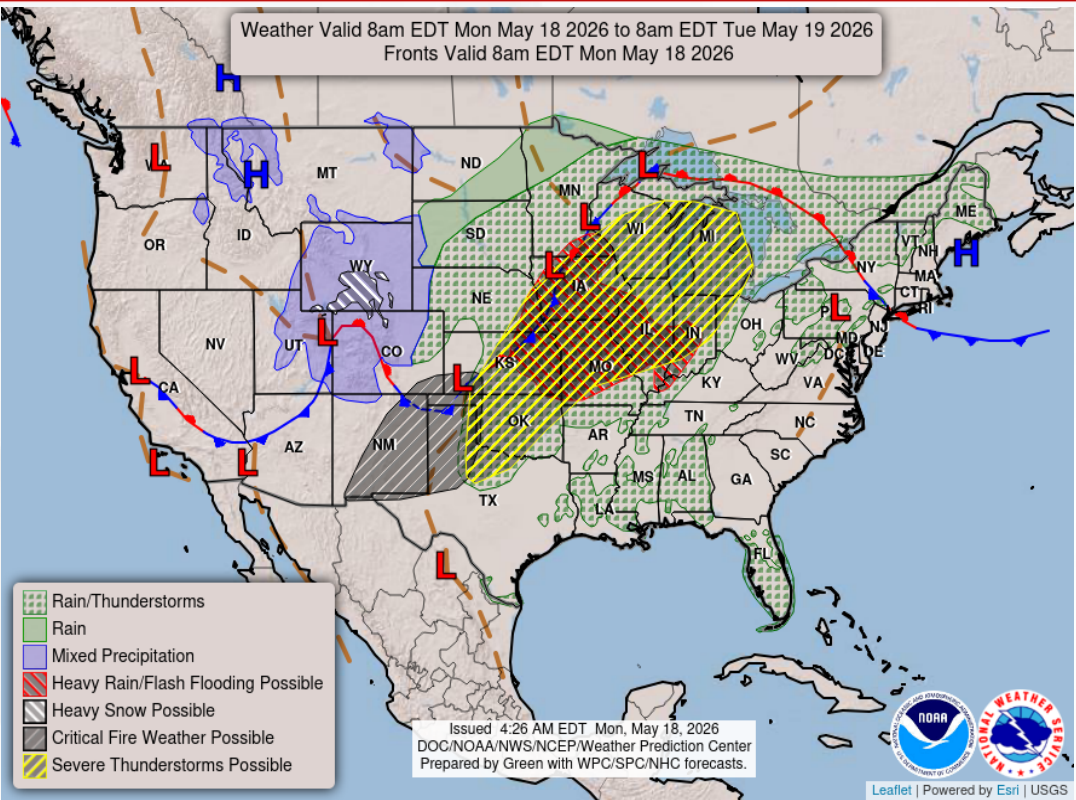
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

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

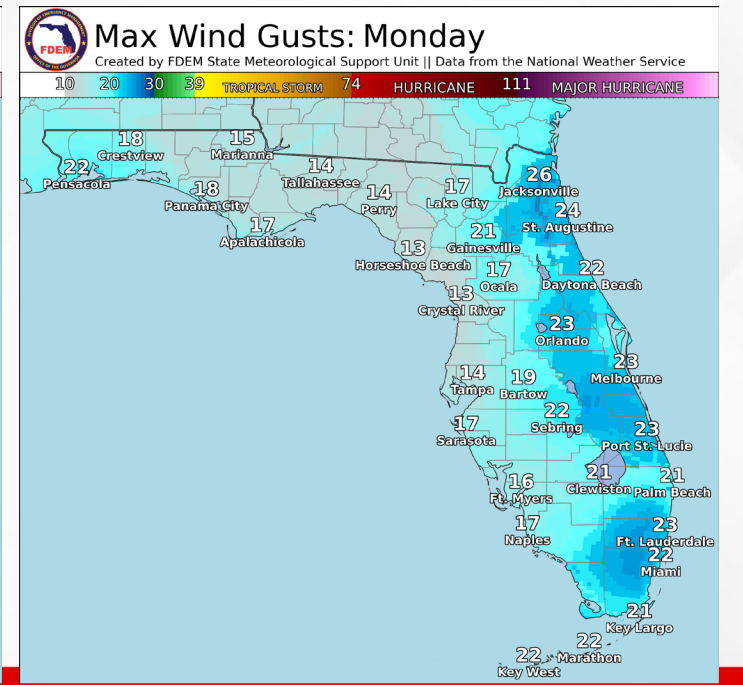
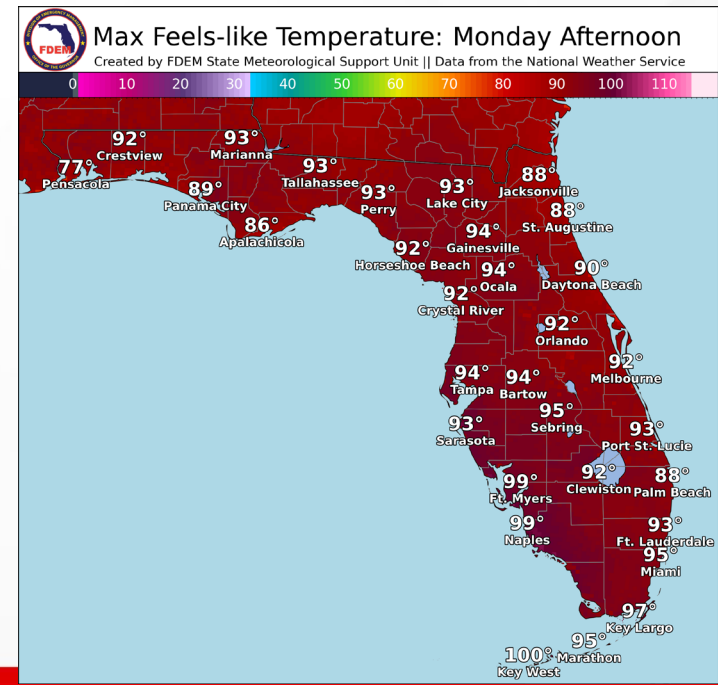


# Meteorology Summary



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	
Hail										
Flash Flooding								L	L	
Extreme Heat						L	L		L	
Fog (Overnight)	L		L	L	L				L	
Wildfire	L	L	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.38 ft. (1.89 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	465 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





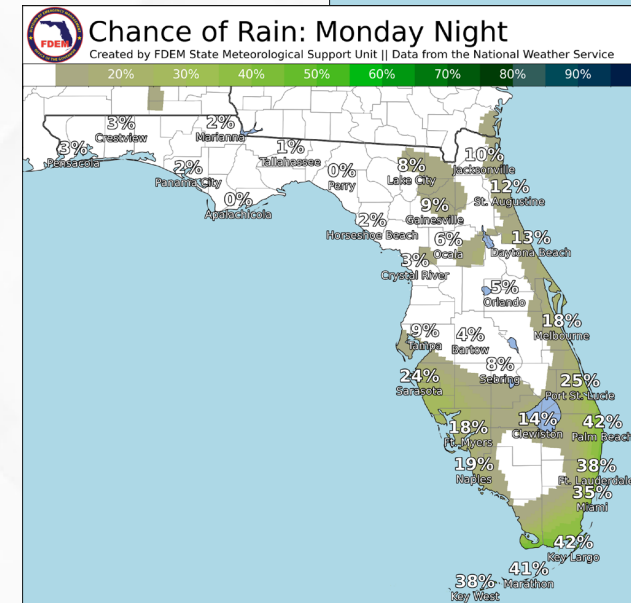
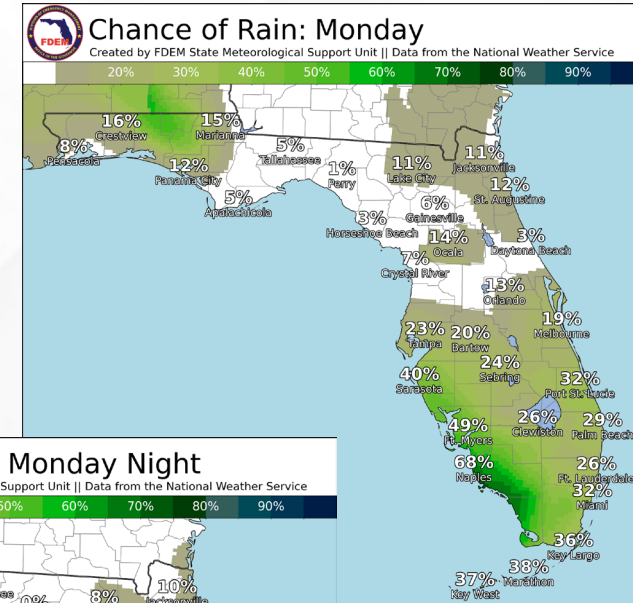
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today with mostly sunny skies and dry conditions prevailing throughout much of North Florida. Drier air will filter into Northeast and North-Central Florida today where chances of rain will remain near zero. With this drier air, relative humidities will approach **critically low values (35-45%)** and overlap with breezy winds gusting **upwards of 20-25 mph**, which will encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire danger** this afternoon. Moisture will linger south of the I-4 corridor and across the northern Panhandle where the sea breezes will help to spark isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms (25-50% chance of rain). The highest chance of rain (50-75%) exists along the Southwest Florida coast. Any thunderstorms that do develop will be capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds (30-50 mph), and **locally heavy downpours**. Rainfall amounts will remain generally below 1" in most locations, though localized areas could see **upwards of 2-4"** should they see repeated rounds of heavy downpours.

High temperatures will climb into the **90s** throughout much of the state, with breezy winds gusting **upwards of 25 mph** along the I-95 corridor keeping temperatures a few degrees cooler. Feels-like temperatures will approach the **upper 90s** to near **100-degrees** across Southwest Florida.

Tonight, any lingering showers and storms will dissipate shortly after sunset. A few coastal showers may push onshore throughout the overnight hours along the East Coast (15-25% chance of rain). Lows will fall into the upper 60s to middle 70s for much of the state, with upper 70s to lower 80s across the Southeast Metro and Keys. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop across Northeast Florida and the western Panhandle by daybreak Tuesday.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Onshore winds and elevated surf will bring a **moderate** to **high risk for rip currents** for all East Coast and Panhandle beaches today. A low risk remains for West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Seas will increase across Panhandle beaches today, with surf near **2-3'** expected. Surf along the East Coast will also remain elevated today, reaching **2-4'** this afternoon. A few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone for Treasure Coast beaches. West Coast beaches can expect surf near 1'.

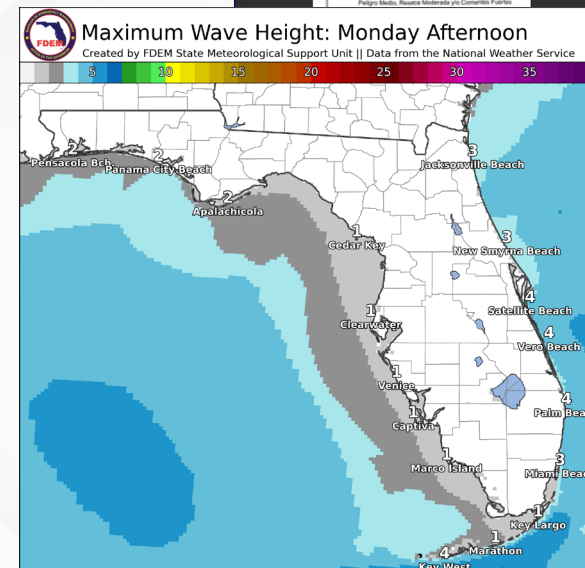
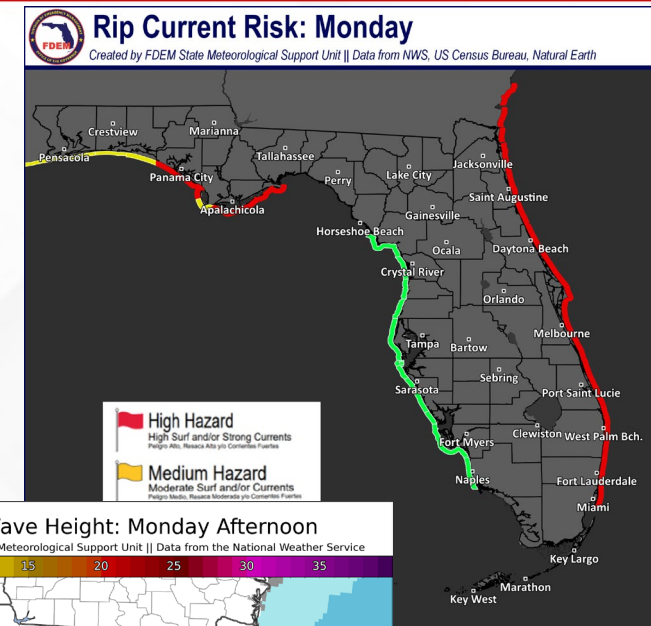
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop south of the I-4 corridor and across the northern Panhandle this afternoon. 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 **2-4" 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 11.38 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.89 feet below normal for this time of year.



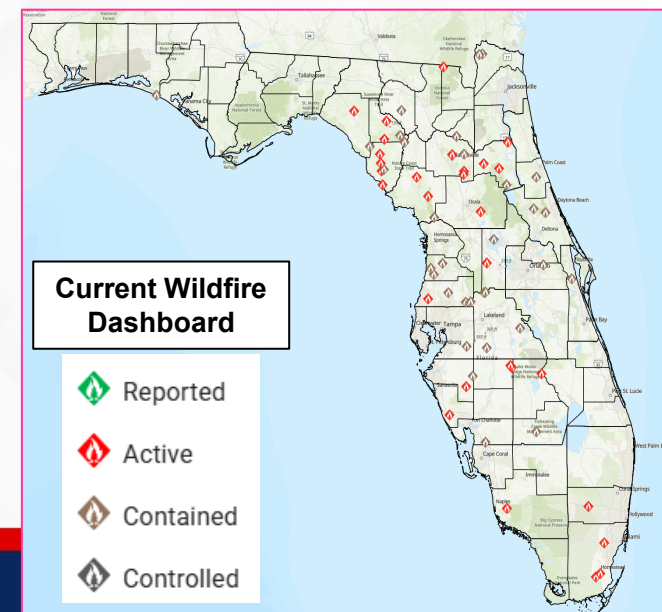
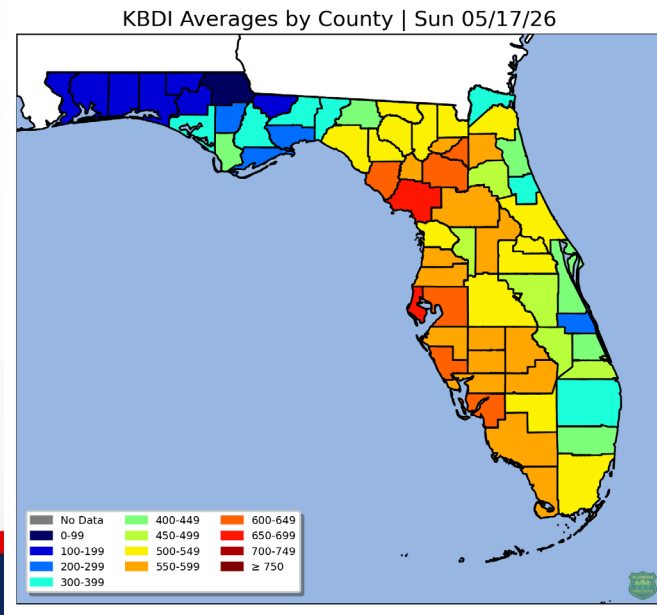
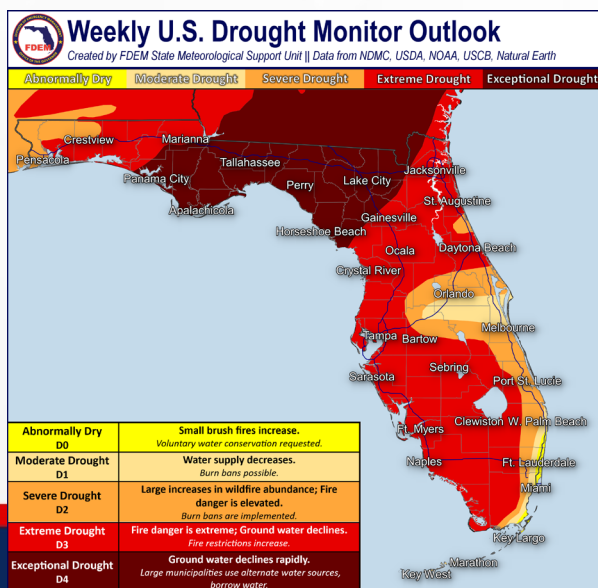


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today. Winds around this area of high-pressure will filter in a pocket of drier air with **near critically low relative humidities (35-45%)** across Northeast and North-Central Florida this afternoon. Breezy winds with gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** will overlap this drier air encouraging **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire danger**. These breezy winds are expected along the entire East Coast today, though greater moisture will linger throughout Central and South Florida where relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds. Scattered showers and thunderstorms across Southwest Florida and the northern Panhandle may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds, which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop across Northeast Florida towards daybreak Tuesday which can lead to significantly reduced visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 63 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,660 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.

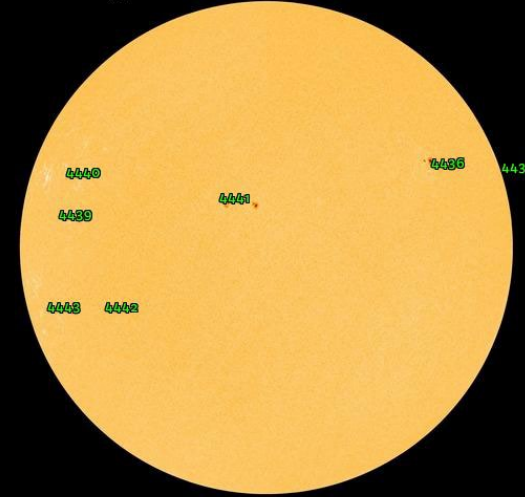
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **465 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **37 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





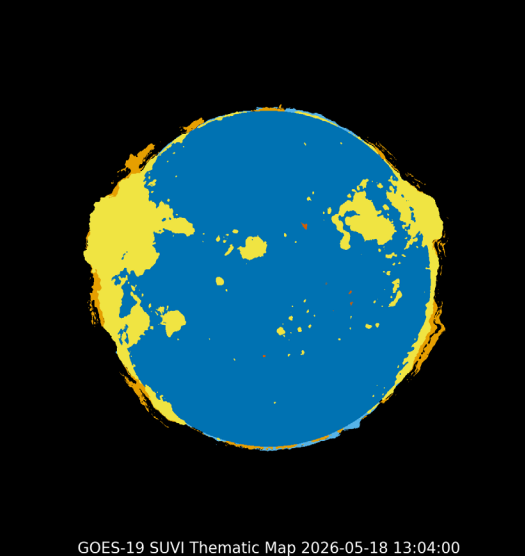
# Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram

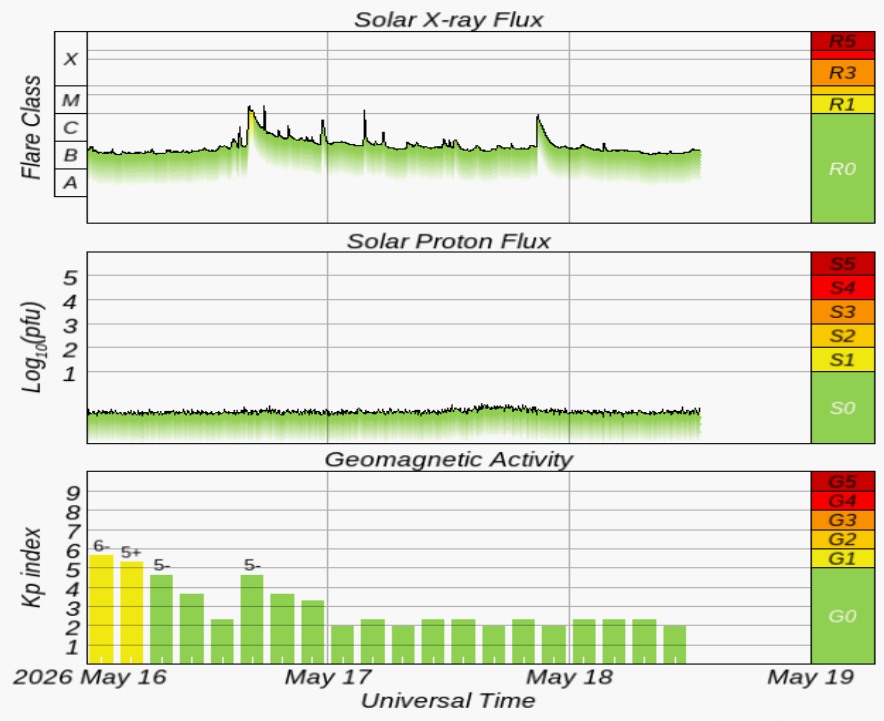


Current Sunspots

NASA SDO @ SpaceWeatherLive.com



GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-05-18 13:04:00



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	
5/18	5/19
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%

**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 mildly disturbed through the beginning of the week due to negative recurrent coronal hole influences. A glancing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) will bring periods of Minor (G1) storming with isolated Moderate (G2) storming levels through Tuesday. Quiet to unsettled conditions will return by Wednesday. The overall space weather threat to Florida is very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
<b>Phone:</b>	850-815-4001; 800-320-0519; 850-591-0071	Operational	
<b>Fax:</b>	850-815-4979	Operational	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
<b>SWO Tracker:</b>	<a href="https://swo.floridadisaster.org">https://swo.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	
<b>SLERS:</b>	DEM Statewide	Operational	
<b>FNARS:</b>	WGY974	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Federal NAWAS:</b>	State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Message:</b>	FL.000 - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>EMnet Voice:</b>	FL SWP - State Watch Office	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>IPAWS:</b>	300006 - FL Florida Division of Emergency Management	Operational	
<b>FIN:</b>	SOFEOC	Not Operational	System in Transition
<b>Satellite Phones:</b>	MSAT 888-890-5178; Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://floridadisaster.org">https://floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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