



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, May 19, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	Walton	Preparedness Event Planning Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson	Hurricane Season Partners Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Gilchrist	COAD Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval, St Johns	NDEMU Advanced Academy / FIFA ROC Drill
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia	CURSE UAS Exercise
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Regional Training Manager Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	Martin	County EM Visit
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	SFWMD High Water & Flood Training
Region 10: Claudia Baker	St Johns, Miami-Dade	FIFA ROC Drill / Travel Back to Region 10

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	Escambia	Follow Up
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	Hurricane Season Partners Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Taylor / Gilchrist	Recovery Coordination / Disaster Assistance Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	Instruction 681
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Okeechobee	Hurricane Planning 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	Whole Community / Respose On Call Region10

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

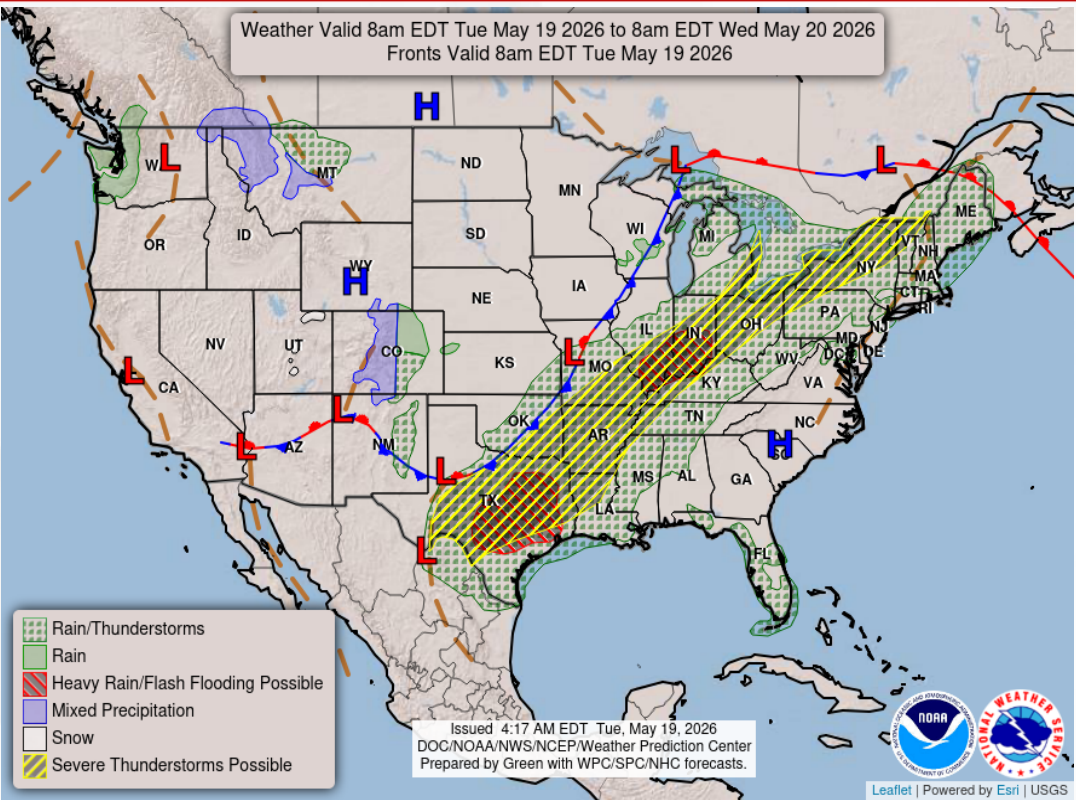
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

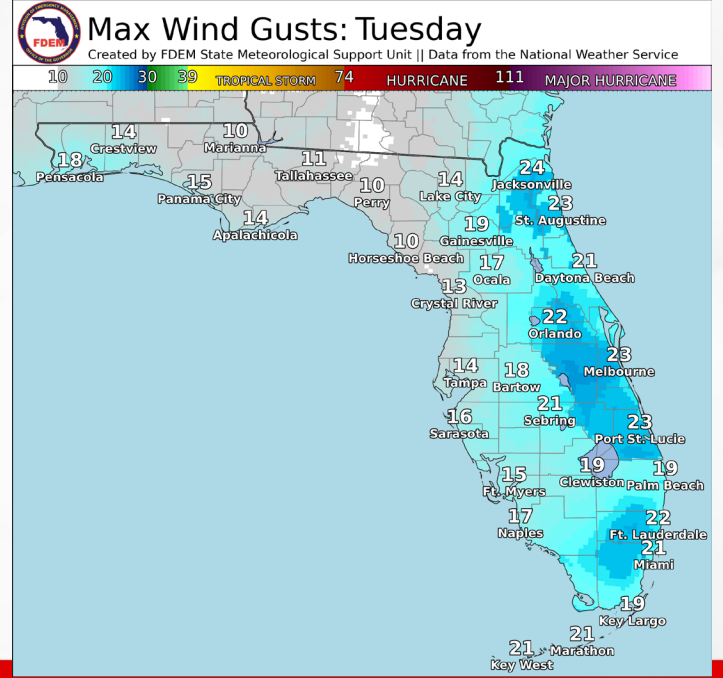
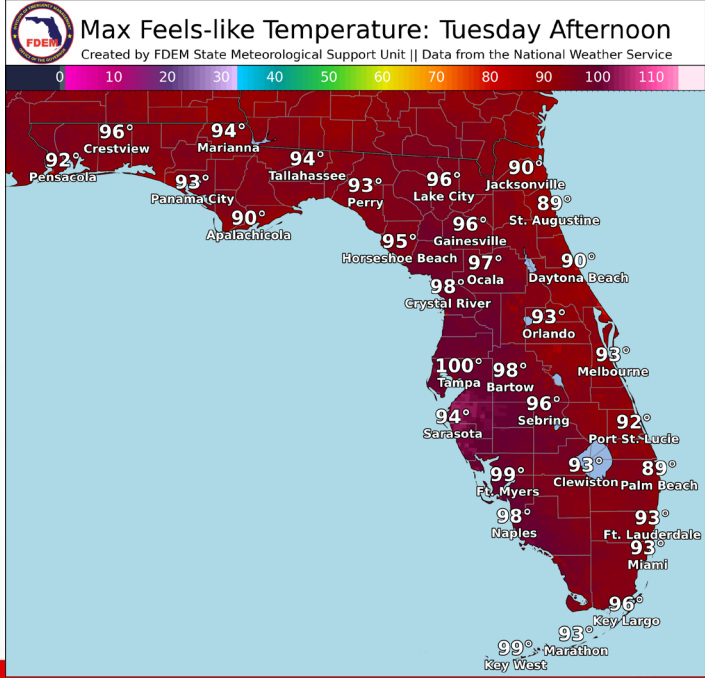


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat						L	L		L	
Fog (Overnight)	L		M	M	L					
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.38 ft. (1.87 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	460 (-5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





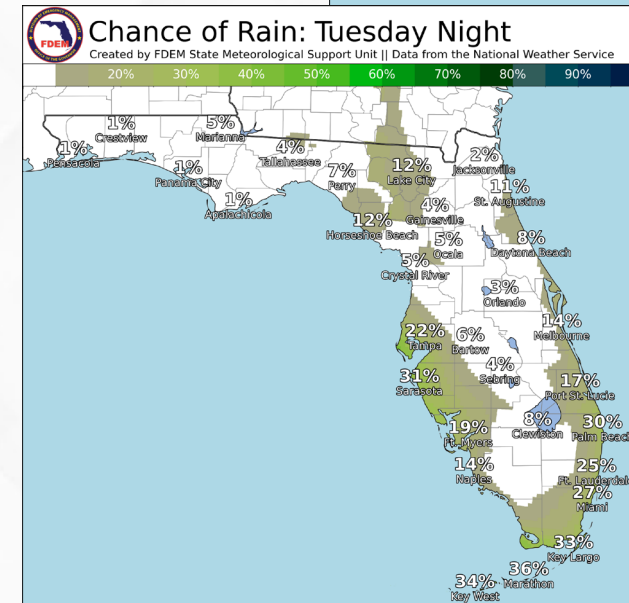
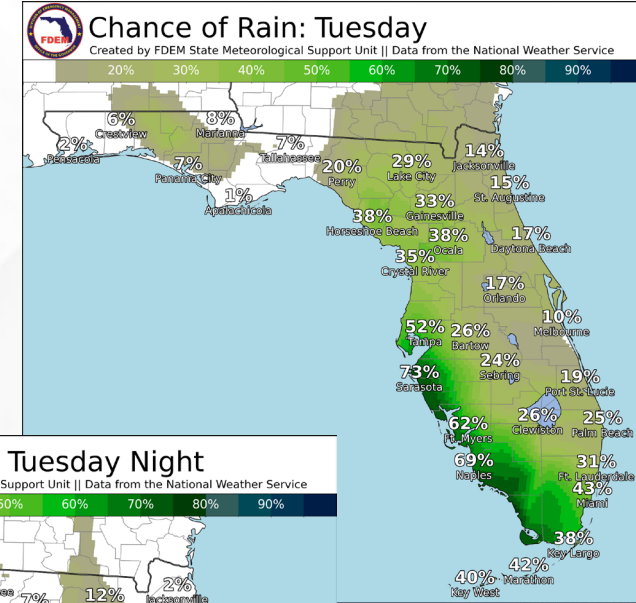
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Any areas of **patchy fog** throughout Northeast Florida will dissipate by mid-morning as the sun rises. Otherwise, another rinse and repeat of yesterday is expected today as high pressure brings persistent east to southeasterly flow over the state. This will help to push the East Coast sea breeze towards the I-75 corridor this afternoon, colliding with the West Coast sea breeze and helping to spark isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms (30-65% chance of rain). Any of this activity could become **locally strong** and capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds (30-50 mph), and **locally heavy downpours**. Rainfall amounts will generally remain below 1", though localized areas could see **upwards of 2-4"**.

Wildfire danger will remain lower today given relative humidities above critical thresholds, though breezy winds are expected throughout the Peninsula gusting **upwards of 20-25 mph**. High temperatures will climb into the upper 80s to **middle 90s** statewide, with afternoon feels-like temperatures approaching the **upper 90s** to **near 100-degrees** across West-Central and Southwest Florida.

Tonight, any lingering shower or storm activity will shortly dissipate after sunset. Mostly clear and calm conditions will prevail, which will encourage the development of **patchy fog** throughout Northeast Florida and the western Panhandle, some of which could be **locally dense**. 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.





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.

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'.

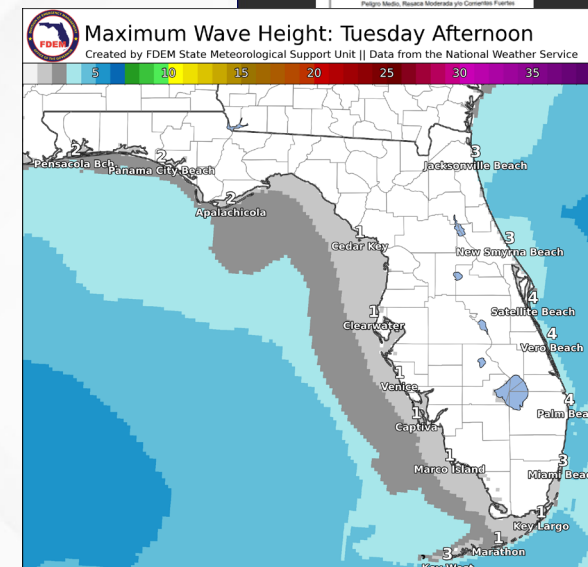
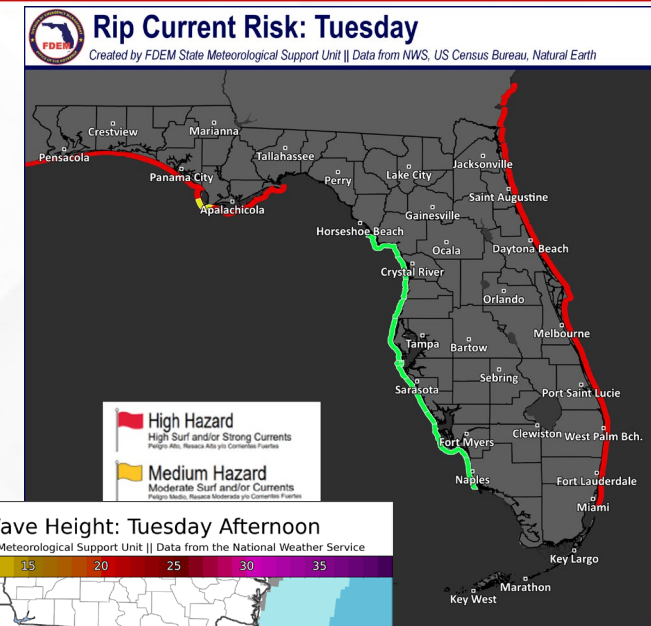
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/8/26).

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 along and west of the I-75 corridor 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 1.87 feet below normal for this time of year.



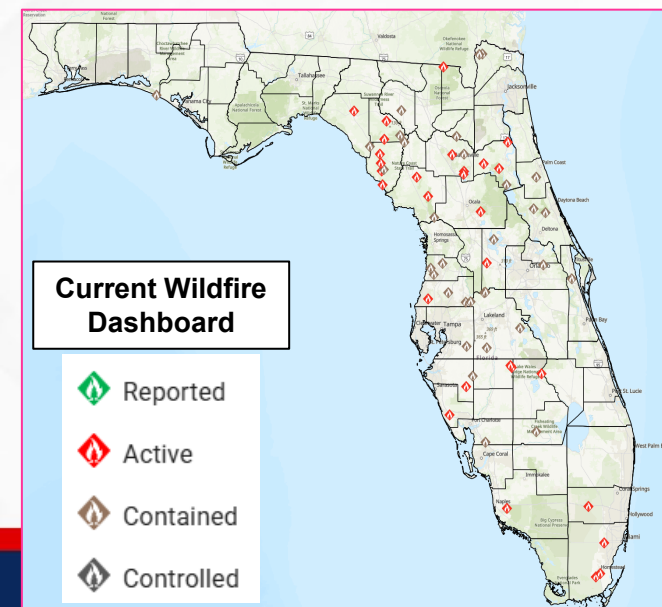
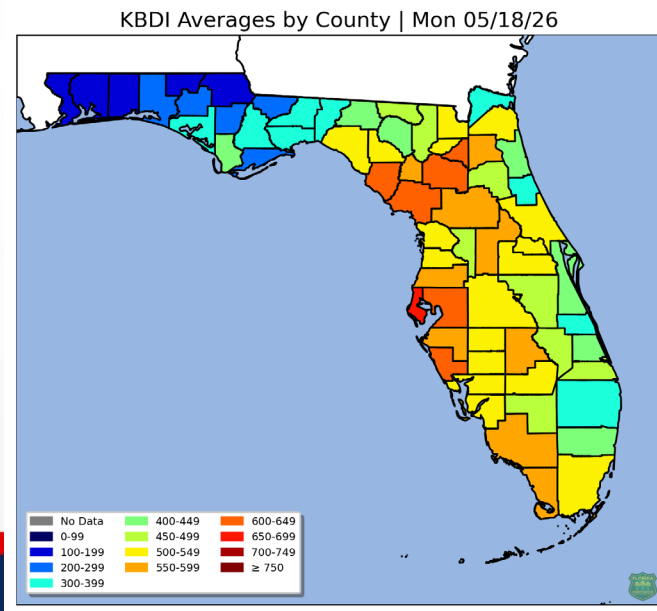
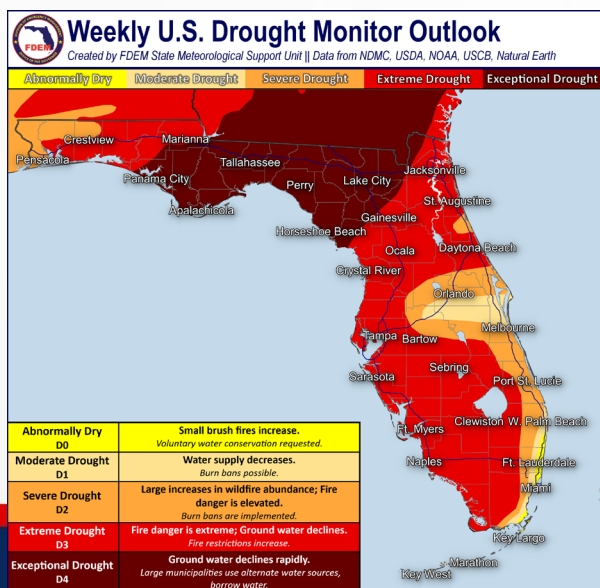


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today with east to southeasterly winds persisting across the state. These winds will bring gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** throughout the Peninsula this afternoon. However, moisture will increase today keeping relative humidities above critical thresholds which will keep the wildfire danger lower. Still, ongoing drought will encourage at least **sensitive conditions** this afternoon throughout the state. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected along the I-75 corridor this afternoon, which could be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds capable of sparking new wildfires or reigniting existing ones. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop across Northeast Florida towards daybreak Wednesday which can lead to significantly reduced visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 70 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,627 acres.

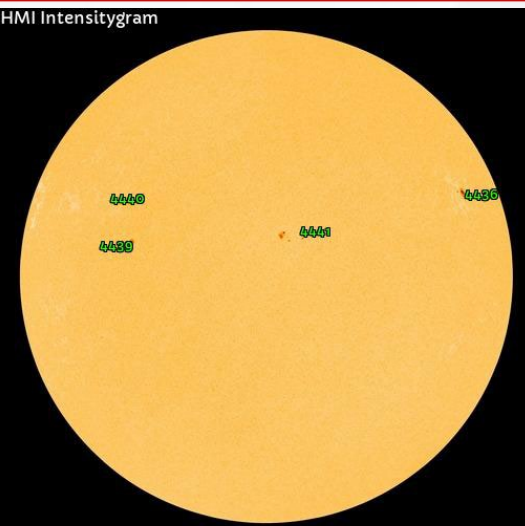
Drought (5/12/26): Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme 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 **460 (-5)** 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).

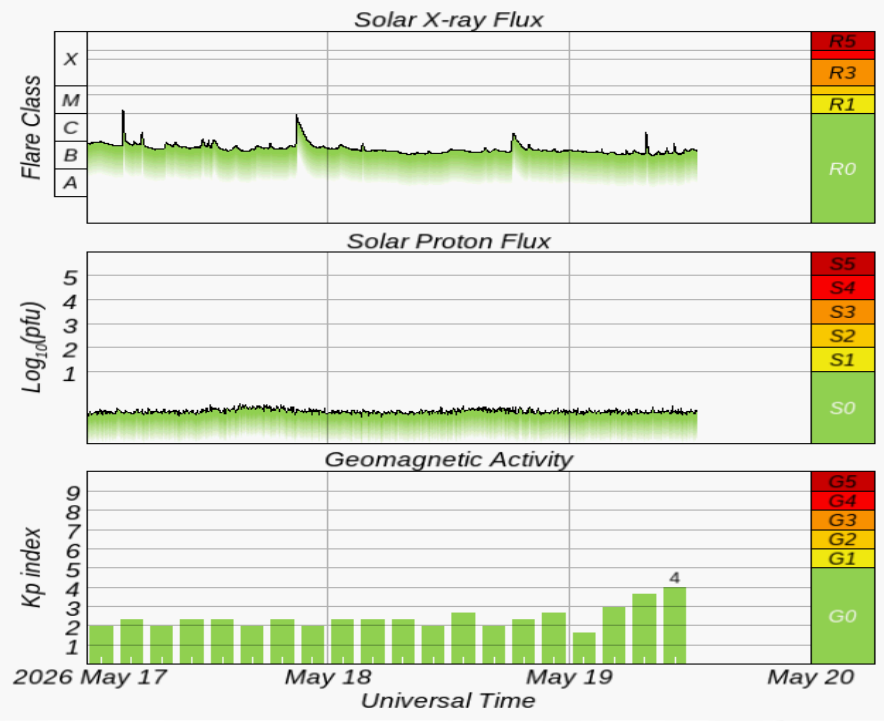




Space Weather

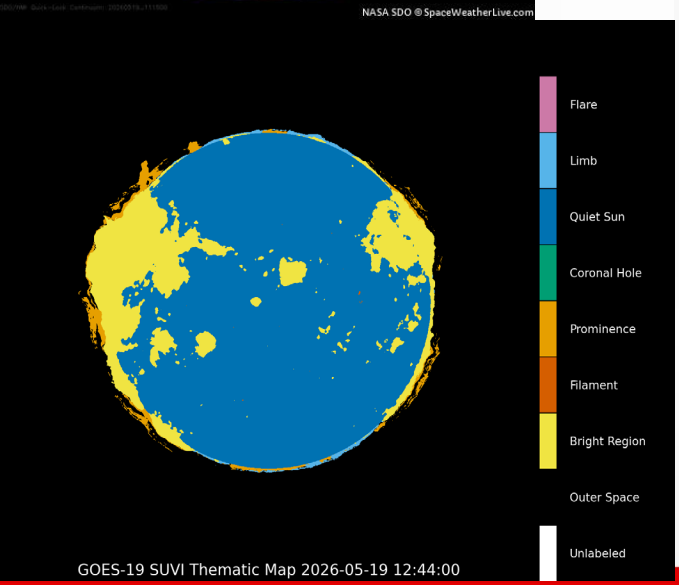


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/19	5/20
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at predominately low levels with a chance for a significant (M-class) flare driven by sunspot regions #4441 and #4436. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to continue trending downward towards background levels through Wednesday, with some enhancements by Thursday as recurrent coronal hole influences return. Isolated periods of Minor (G1) geomagnetic storming are possible today before returning to mostly quiet levels on Wednesday and Thursday. The overall space weather 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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