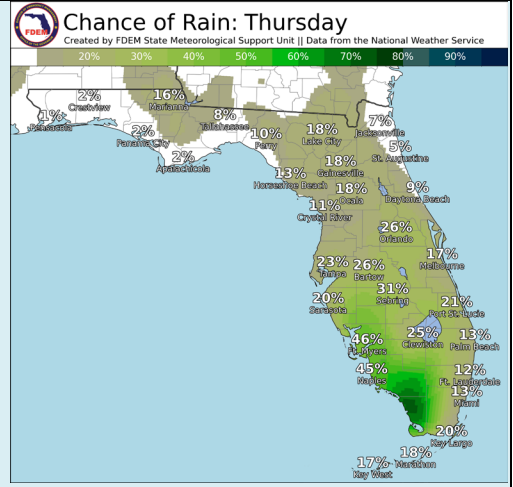
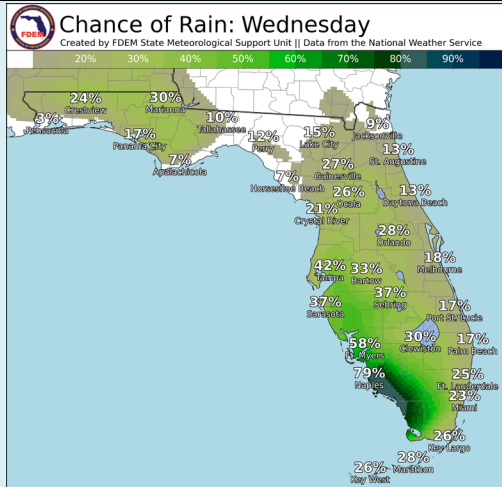
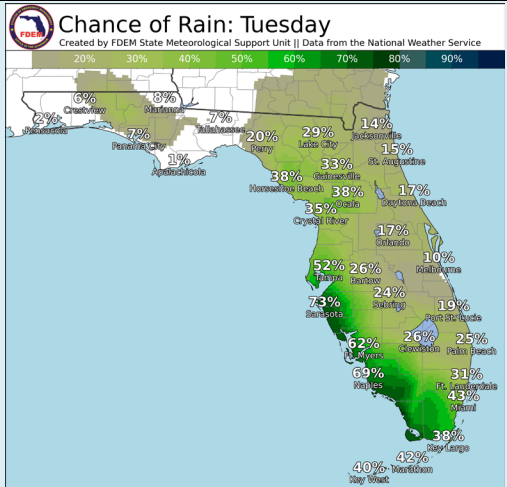


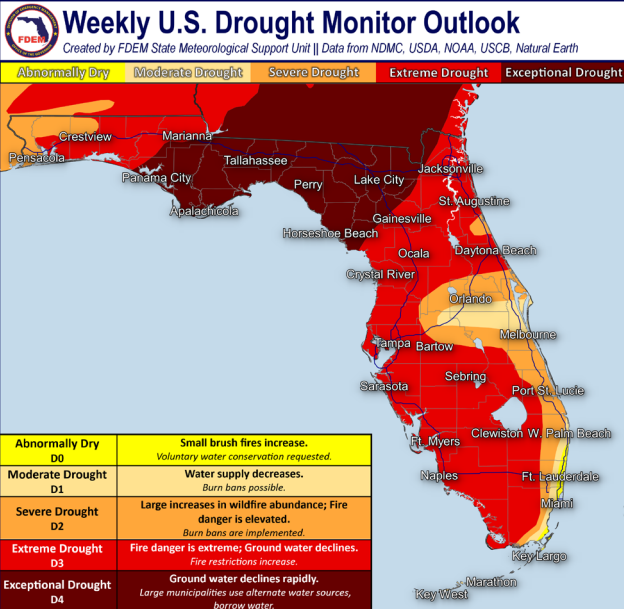
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

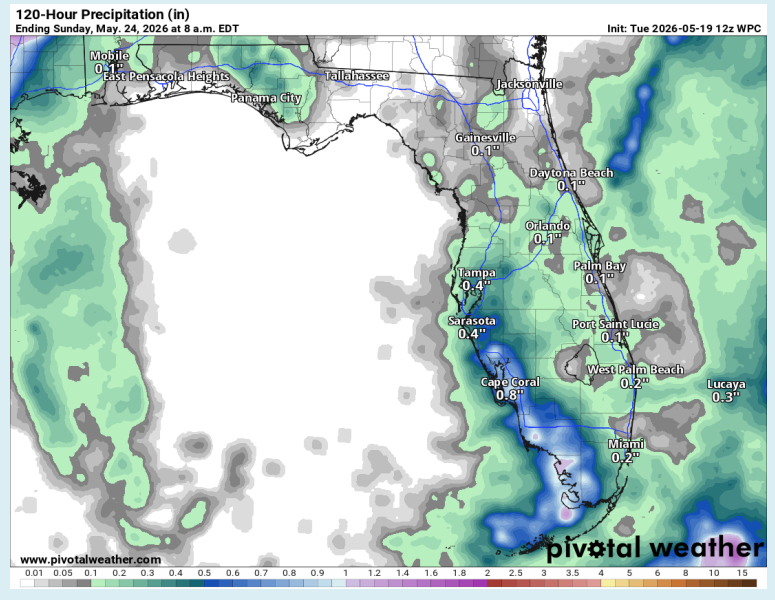
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Tornado	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue	Locally SW FL Peninsula	Iso. I-75 Corridor			Locally I-75 Corridor	Locally Northeast FL & Western Panhandle	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Wed	Locally SW FL Peninsula	Iso. I-75 Corridor				Locally Panhandle	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Thu	Locally SW FL Peninsula	Iso. Southwest FL				Locally Panhandle	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Fri	Locally SW FL Iso. I-75 Corridor	Iso. Southwest FL			Locally I-75 Corridor	Locally Big Bend & Panhandle	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle Southeast Coast West Coast
Sat	Peninsula	Iso. I-75 Corridor			Locally I-75 Corridor	Locally Big Bend & Panhandle	Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Chances of Rain: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday



Latest Drought Monitor Update – Valid 5/19



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening



the forecast period. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. Many waterways throughout the state remain well below normal or even near record low levels due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.38 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.87 feet below normal for this time of year.

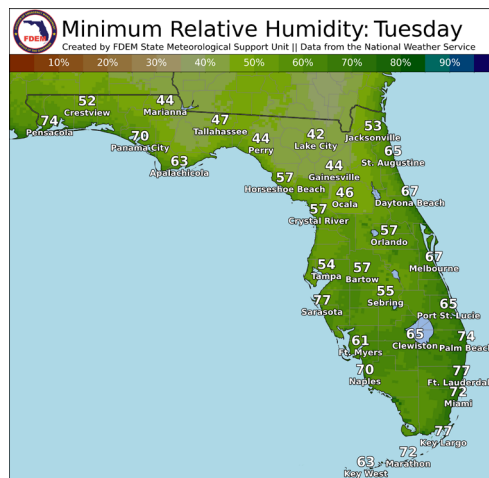
Drought & Fire Weather:

Some categorical improvements were made on last week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell over the update period. 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 seeing expanding **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. The larger drought picture was otherwise untouched. 99% of Florida remains in at least a **moderate drought**, with 24% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an **exceptional drought**.

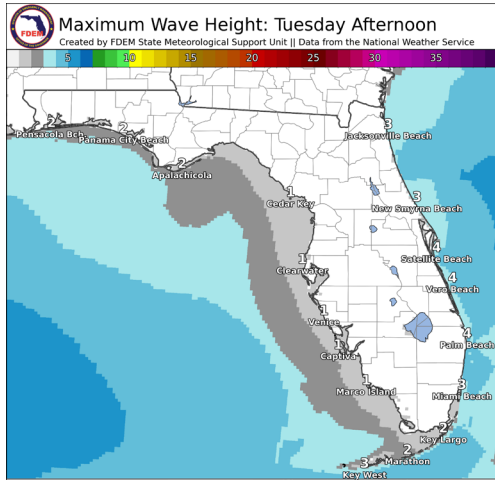
As a reminder, the cutoff for rainfall on last week's update was Tuesday (5/12) at 8 AM EDT, thus the heavy rainfall that fell on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week will be considered on this week's update which will be released later this week. This rainfall will likely help with drought conditions across the state, though significant improvements are not expected given how severe the long-term rainfall deficits are. This is especially true for portions of the Florida Panhandle that have seen no significant rainfall since Tuesday. Rounds of daily shower and thunderstorm activity have been ongoing for the southern half of the state and will continue through this forecast period. This will likely, at the very least, limit any drought expansions over the southern half of the state in the near-term. However, the scattered and localized nature of rainfall accumulations resulting from these showers and thunderstorms is unlikely to make significant improvements to the overall drought either.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **460** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **33** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Minimum RHs will not reach critical thresholds this afternoon, and an ongoing statewide moistening trend will help limit fire weather danger through the forecast period. Dry fuels from long-term drought conditions and gusty winds **upwards of 20-25 mph** along the East Coast will at least encourage **sensitive wildfire conditions**, especially for North-Central Florida and the Panhandle where drier RHs and low (0-30%) chances of rain exist. Wind gusts begin to taper off on Wednesday, and daily rounds of scattered showers and storms should help continue to saturate fuels in South Florida and further limit wildfire conditions there. Still, expected scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout Southwest Florida may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds, which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. Portions of Northern Florida and the Panhandle will likely still see at least **sensitive wildfire conditions** throughout the forecast period despite RH remaining above critical thresholds due to the lack of forecast rainfall and ongoing drought conditions in these areas. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 61 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,560 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



East coast and Florida Panhandle beaches will see a **high risk for rip currents** through the forecast period with breezy onshore winds. The West coast will see low risks for rip currents through the forecast period due to offshore flow.

For today, wave heights of **2-4'** expected for the East Coast, with wave heights of around **2-3'** more likely for the Florida Keys. Throughout the rest of the week, surf will gradually decrease as winds taper off, with wave heights of **2-3'** for the East Coast and 1' or less for the Florida key expected on Saturday.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 98 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed in Lake Marian, Crescent Lake, and Tiger Lake. **Moderate levels** have been observed in Lake Okeechobee, Blue Cypress Lake, Fellsmere Water Management Area, Sawgrass Lake, the St. Johns River, and the Caloosahatchee River.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful week!

Ian Mutschler, Deputy State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

