



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, May 20, 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	Scott Shafer	(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	Jim Lawhon	(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	Santa Rosa	County Exercise
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	ERTF Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Gilchrist	Pre-Hurricane Season Stakeholders Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	TPA Airport Meeting / Plant City Pre-Storm Season Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Highlands	Highlands County EOC Ribbon Cutting Event
Region 8: Amber Durden	Palm Beach	County EM Partners Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	SWFL Healthcare Coalition Mtg / Collier EMPA & EMPG Grants Monitoring
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA Meeting / BioWatch Exercise

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Santa Rosa	Exercise
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jackson	ERTF Partners Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Gilchrist	Hurricane Preparedness Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Senior Officials Workshop
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In Region	Off / Monitoring
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	Mock Hurricane Exercise

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

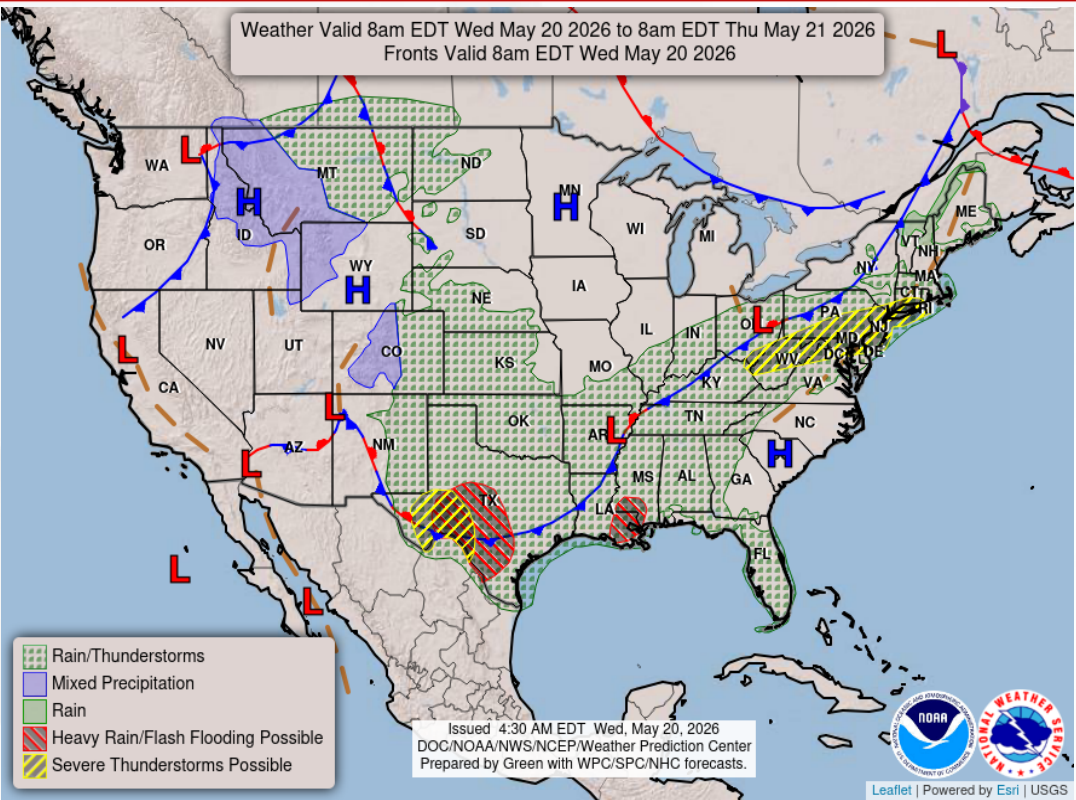
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

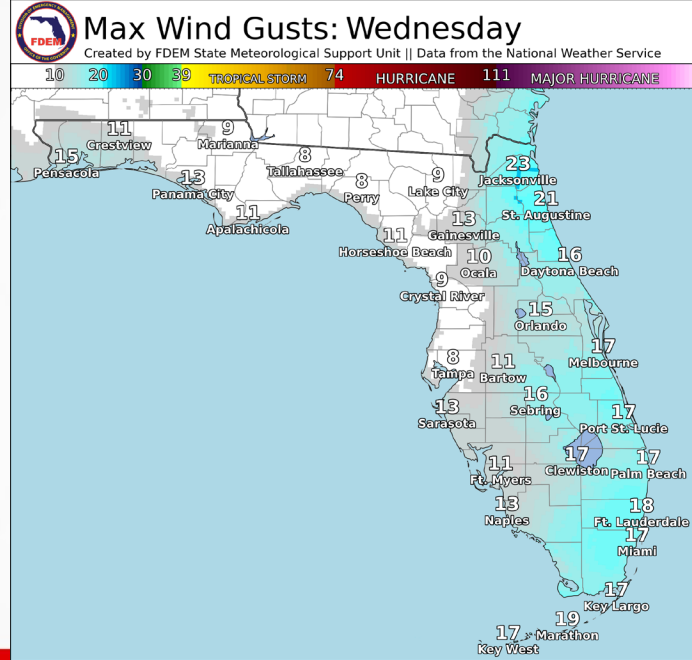
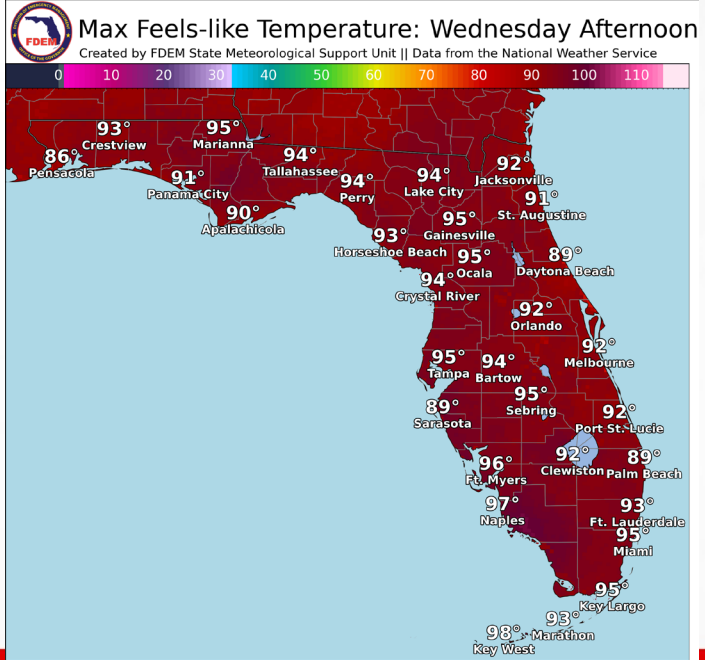


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	M	L	L	L	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	11.37 ft. (1.87 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	465 (+4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





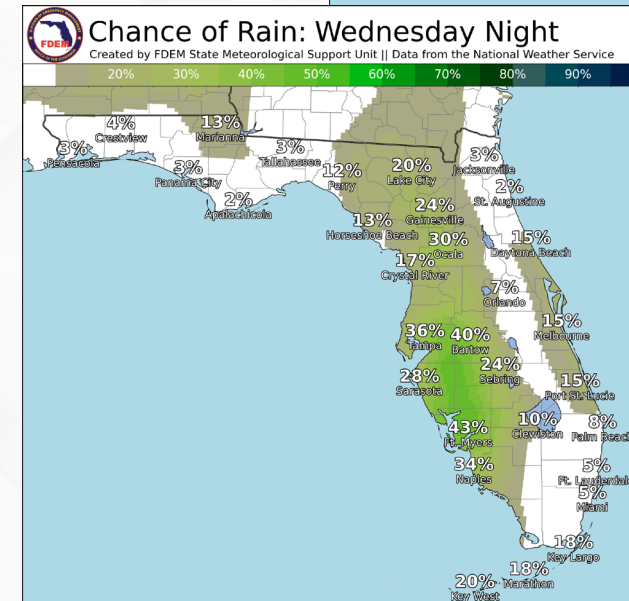
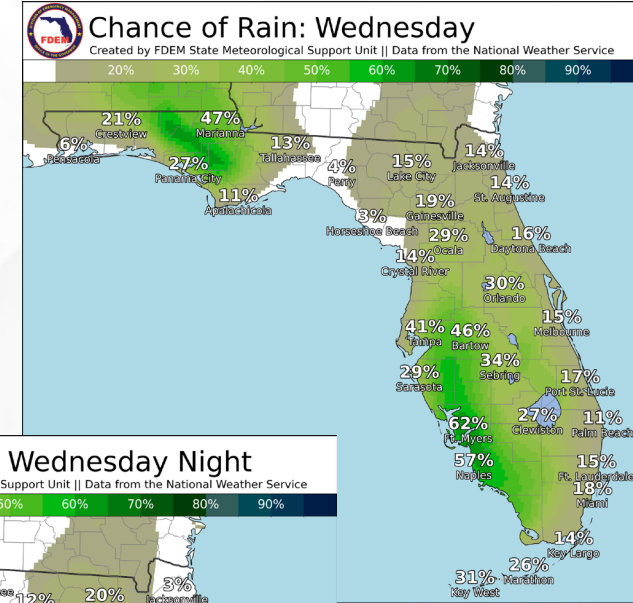
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Lingering areas of **patchy fog** in the Western Panhandle will quickly dissipate by mid-morning. High pressure over the open Atlantic is continuing to impart easterly to southeasterly flow over the state. As a result, Southwest Florida will again carry the highest (50-70%) chances for rain today as easterly flow helps push the East Coast sea breeze inland and towards the West Coast by late morning. The Western Panhandle along the Emerald Coast sea breeze will be another favorable area for afternoon showers and thunderstorms today (30-50% chance) where higher moisture air has filtered in. While there is no organized risk of severe weather or flash flooding, any of today's 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 2-3"**.

Wildfire danger will remain lower today given relative humidities above critical thresholds, though breezy winds are expected throughout the Eastern Peninsula gusting **upwards of 20 mph**. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected today in Southwest Florida and the Western Panhandle which may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds that can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. High temperatures will climb into the upper 80s to **middle 90s** statewide, with afternoon feels-like temperatures approaching the **upper 90s** 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 the Florida 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](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Seas begin a gradual downturn today as easterly to southeasterly flow begins to ease. Seas will decrease along the East Coast to around **2-3'** this afternoon, with around 1-2' expected for Panhandle beaches. Beaches along the West Coast can expect surf near 1'.

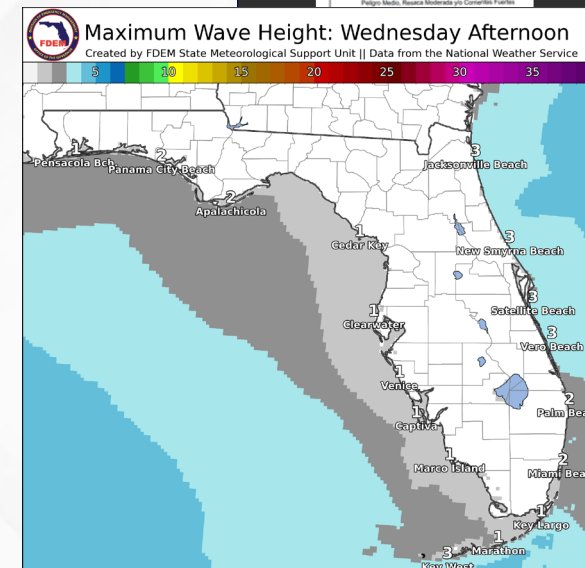
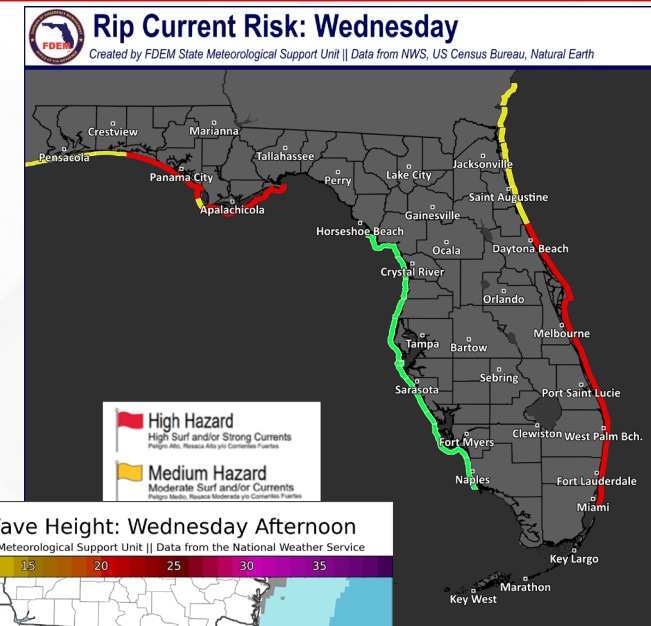
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/15/26).

**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 **2-3" 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 11.37 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.87 feet below normal for this time of year.



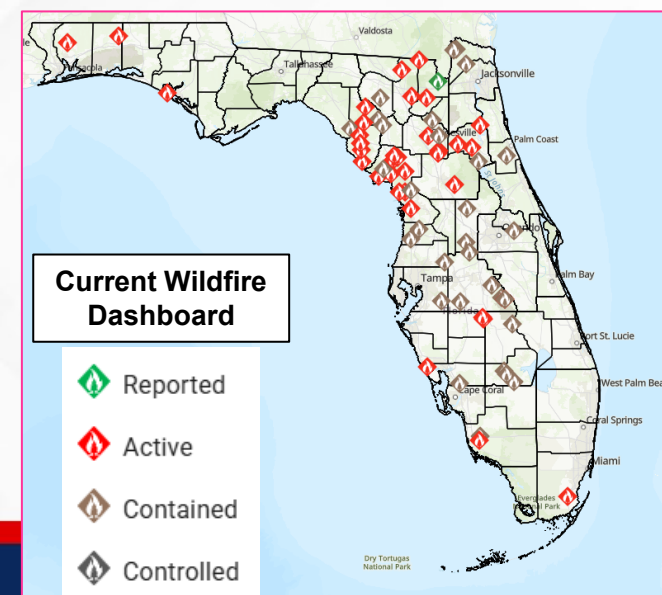
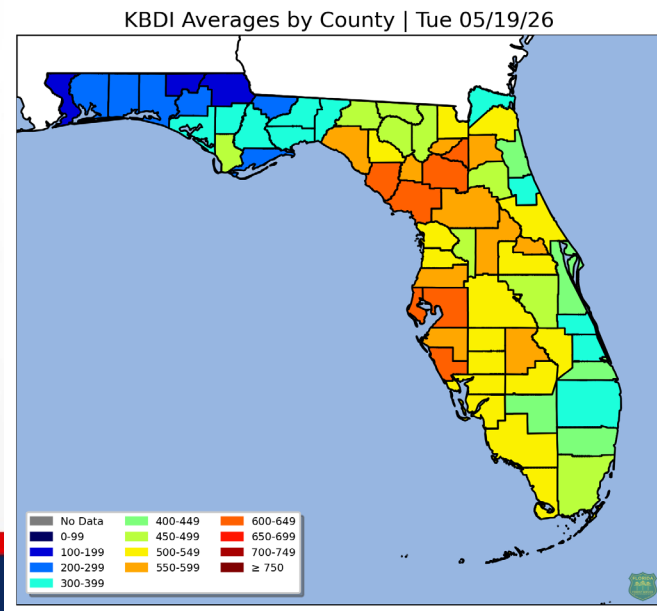
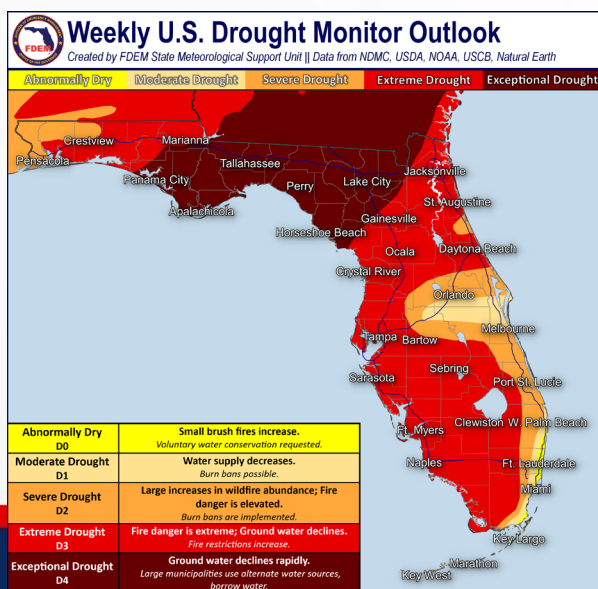


# Drought & Fire Weather

**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 mph** throughout the Eastern Peninsula this afternoon. However, statewide moisture continues to increase today keeping relative humidities above critical thresholds and the overall wildfire danger lower. Still, ongoing drought will encourage at least **sensitive conditions** this afternoon throughout the state. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected in Southwestern Florida and the Western Panhandle, 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 the Florida Panhandle towards daybreak Thursday which can lead to significantly reduced visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 67 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,504 acres.

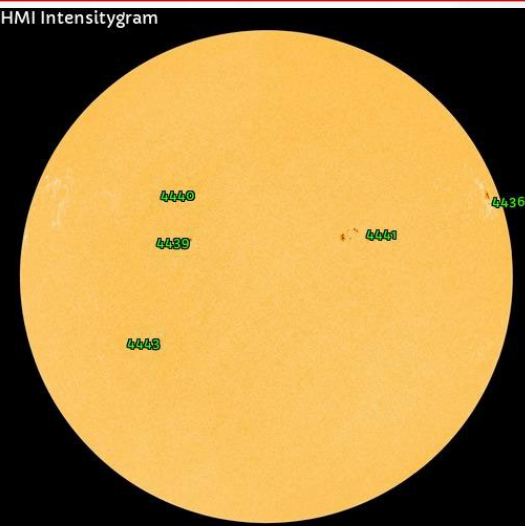
**Drought (5/12/26):** Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme 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 **464 (+4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **31 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

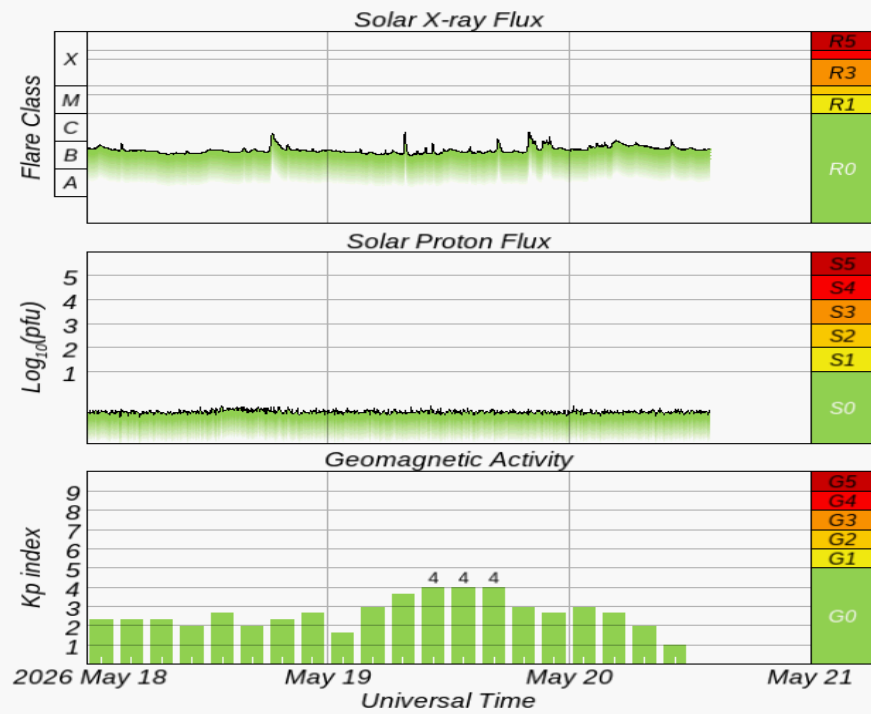




# Space Weather



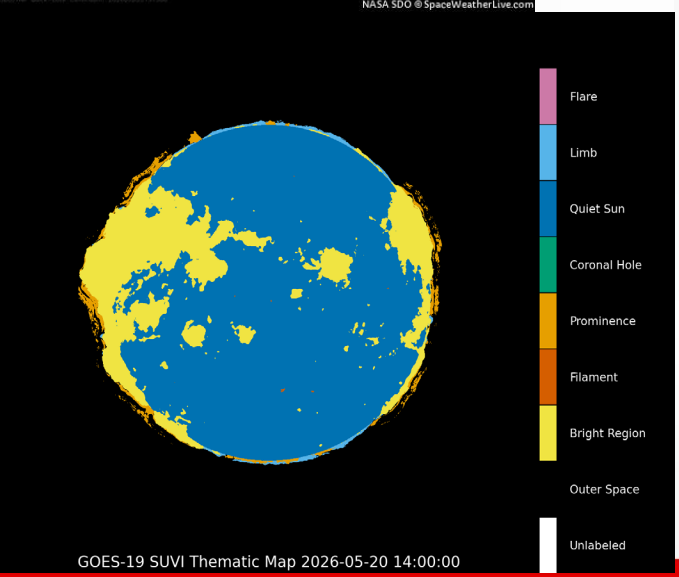
Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/20	5/21
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at predominately low levels with a slight chance for an isolated 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 early Thursday, with some enhancements likely Thursday afternoon from a solar sector boundary crossing. Mostly quiet to unsettled geomagnetic field activity is expected today and tomorrow. The overall space weather threat to Florida is very low.



GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-05-20 14:00:00



# 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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