



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, May 21, 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	Scott Shafer	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Leon	NWS Pre-Hurricane Season Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Escambia	Executive Director Support
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Lake	FDOT Mtg / FDOH Mtg / Ribbon Cutting Event / DSOC / RC Mtg
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Manatee, Hillsborough	Capabilities Assessment / Univ of Tampa Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Manatee, DeSoto	Capabilities Assessment / R7 & R9 Response Coordinator Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee, DeSoto	Lee EMPA/EMPG Grants Monitoring Mtg / RC Mtg / R7 & R9 RC Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Partners Meeting / City of Homestead Exercise

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	NWS Partners Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Escambia / Leon	EM 502
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	Stakeholders Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	GOAA Recovery Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hillsborough	LMS Work Group 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 Meeting

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

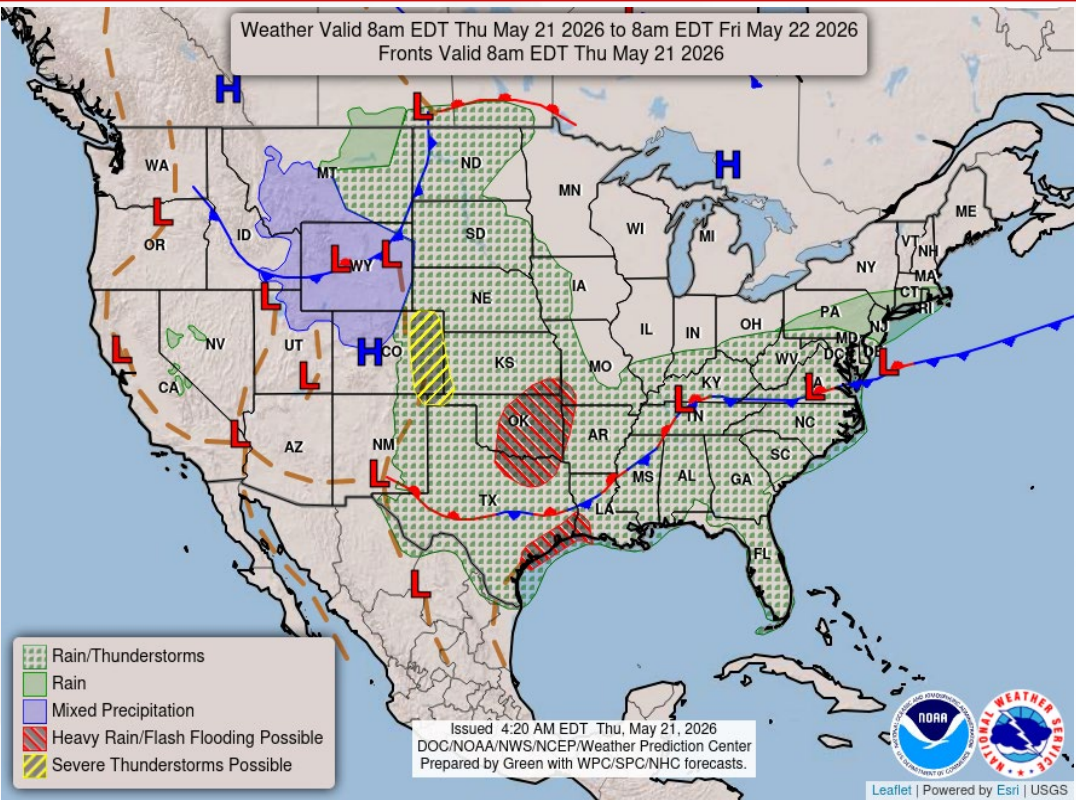
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

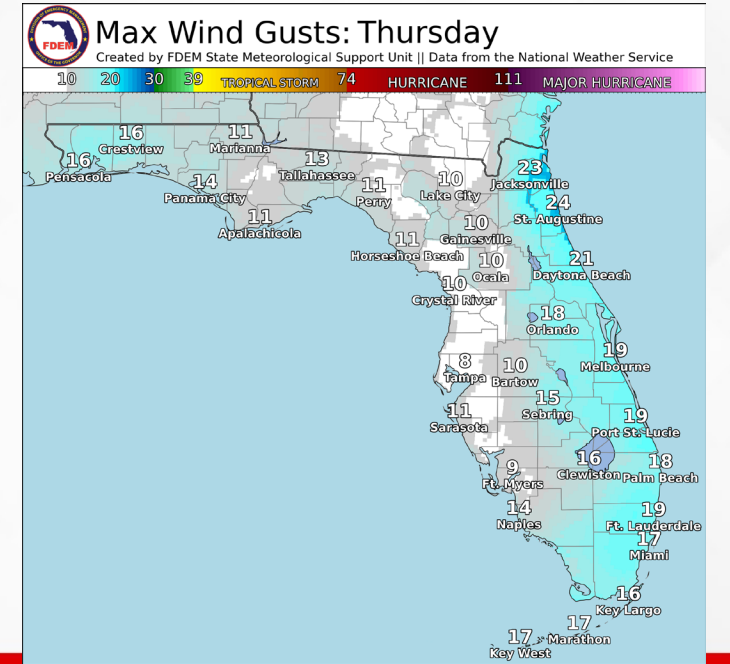
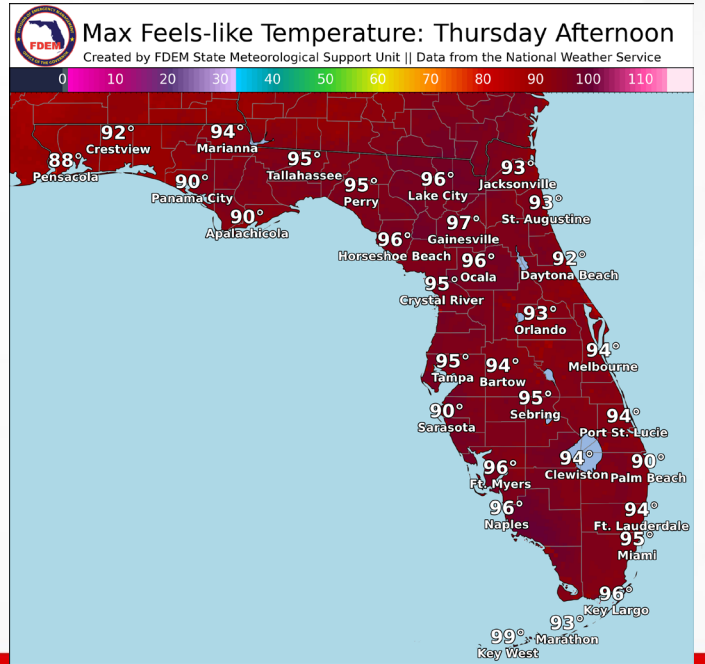


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)	M	M	L	L	L					
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.33 ft. (1.89 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	466 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





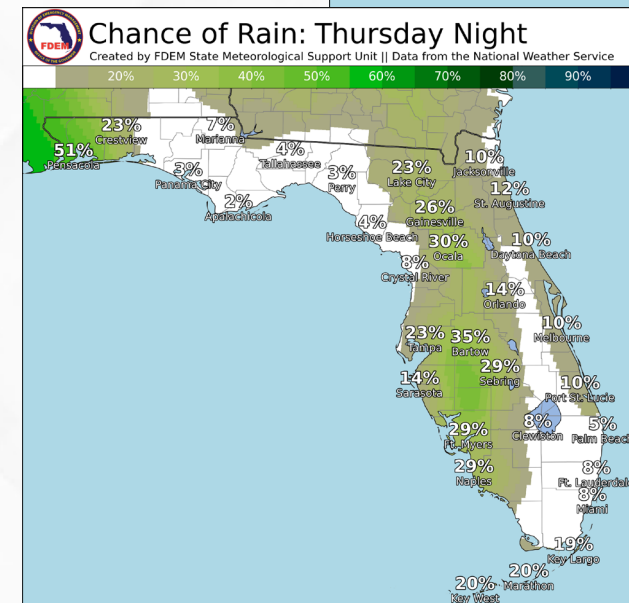
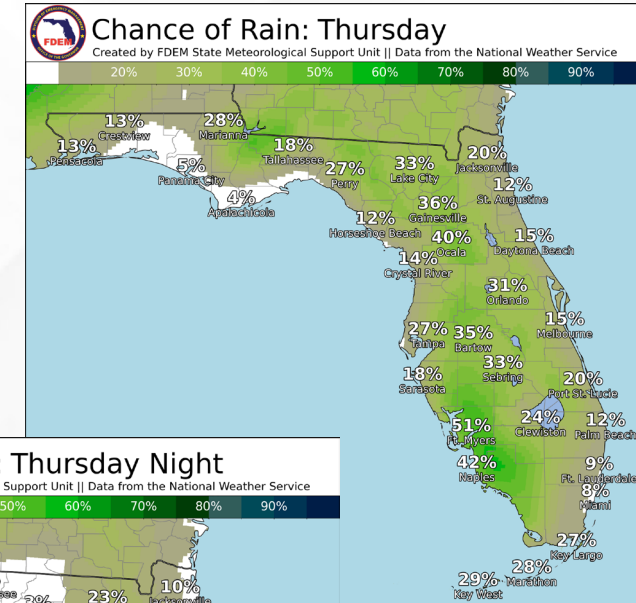
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** have developed over the Panhandle this morning but will quickly dissipate over the next 1-2 hours as the sun rises. High pressure over the open Atlantic has begun to nudge eastward, causing winds to turn more out of the southeast today. The highest chances for rain today will again be focused across Southwest Florida (40-60%) along any sea breeze boundaries, however this subtle wind shift will also begin to increase chances for rain statewide, with the much of the I-75 corridor carrying a medium (30-50%) chance for showers and thunderstorms this afternoon. 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 along the I-75 corridor 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 North-Central and Western Florida.

Tonight, any lingering shower or storm activity will shortly dissipate after sunset. Mostly clear and calm conditions overnight may encourage the development of some **patchy fog** throughout the Florida Panhandle. A few **locally dense** spots can not be ruled out. Lows will fall into the lower 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 are largely unchanged today, with wave heights along the East Coast expected to be around **2-3'** this afternoon, with 1-2' likely for Panhandle beaches. Beaches along the West Coast can expect surf near 1'.

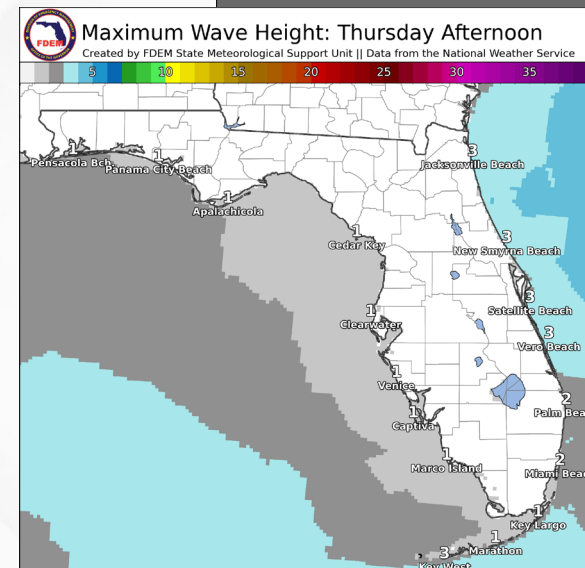
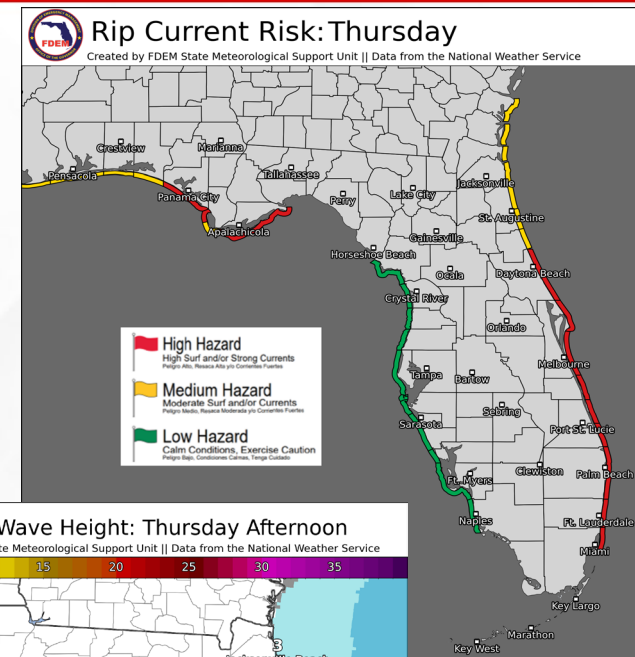
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/15/26).

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 11.33 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.89 feet below normal for this time of year.



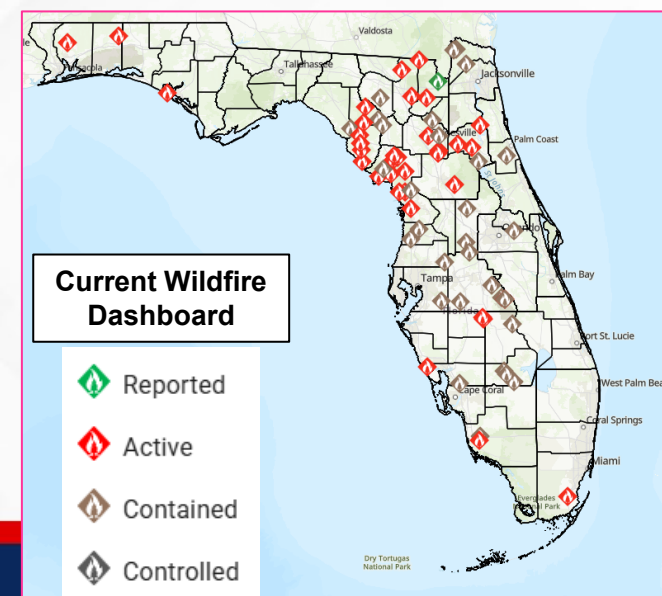
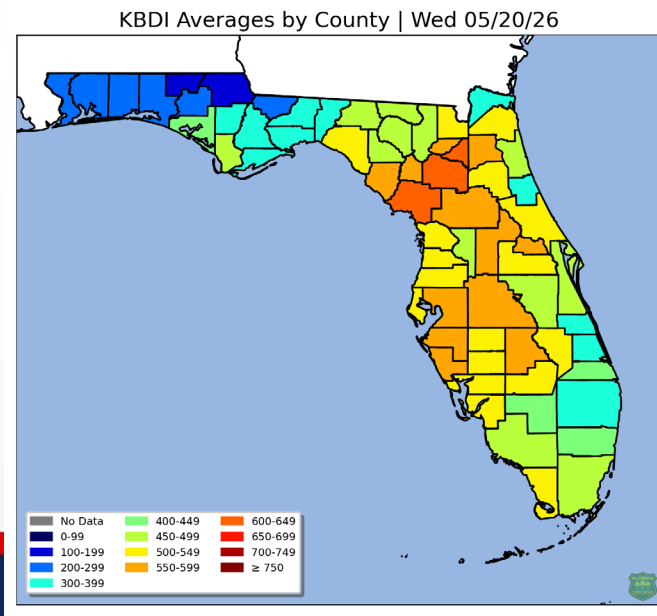
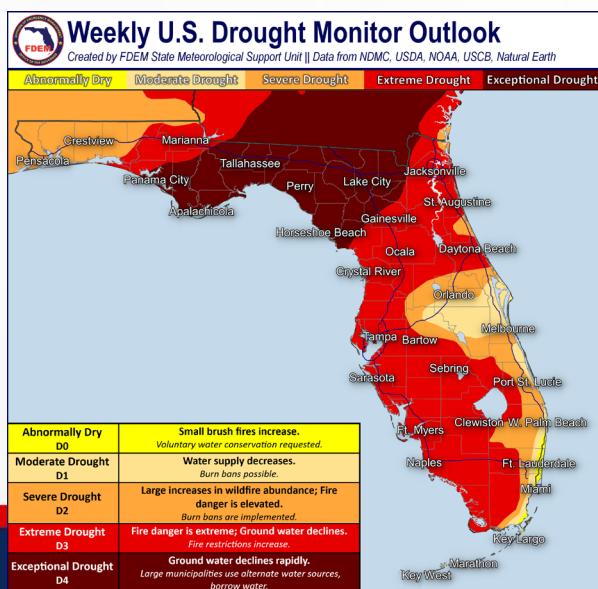


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today 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 throughout the Peninsula and Big Bend this afternoon, focused mainly along the I-75 corridor, where lightning and gusty/erratic winds could spark new wildfires or reigniting existing ones. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop across the Florida Panhandle and Northeast Florida towards daybreak Friday which can lead to significantly reduced visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 65 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,134 acres.

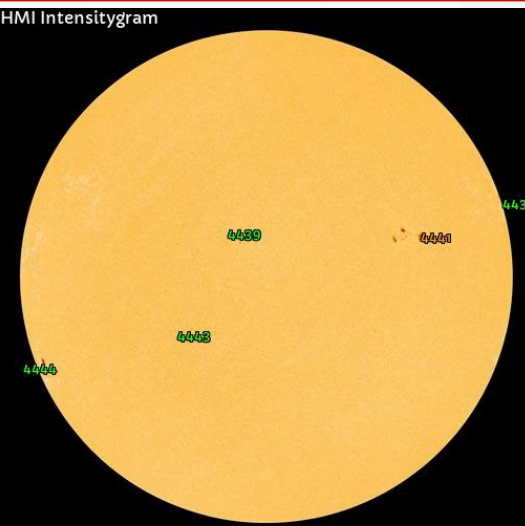
Drought (5/19/26): Some slight categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 inches over the past 10 days or so. Some of the exceptional drought over northern Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, and Jackson counties has been reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** where some of the heaviest rainfall in the past 2 weeks has fallen (4-6" or more). Otherwise, the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** throughout the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley was untouched despite some rainfall over the past week. The longer-term rainfall deficits, dating back to the beginning of last Autumn, continue to drive the ongoing drought situation with many streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes well below normal in water levels. The **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** throughout Northeast Florida, the I-75 corridor, and interior South Florida was largely untouched, except for slight reductions to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** in western Palm Beach and southern Osceola counties. A **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** persists across portions of Central Florida around and just south of the Orlando metro region and along the I-95 corridor of East-Central and Southeast Florida. 99% of Florida remains in at least a moderate drought, with 22% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought. Looking ahead, a statewide drenching rainfall is not anticipated over the next week. Daily scattered showers and thunderstorms will focus throughout the interior Peninsula, I-75 corridor, and Panhandle which may bring localized drought relief and slow improvements. However, the long-term drought conditions are expected to largely continue.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **466 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **32 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





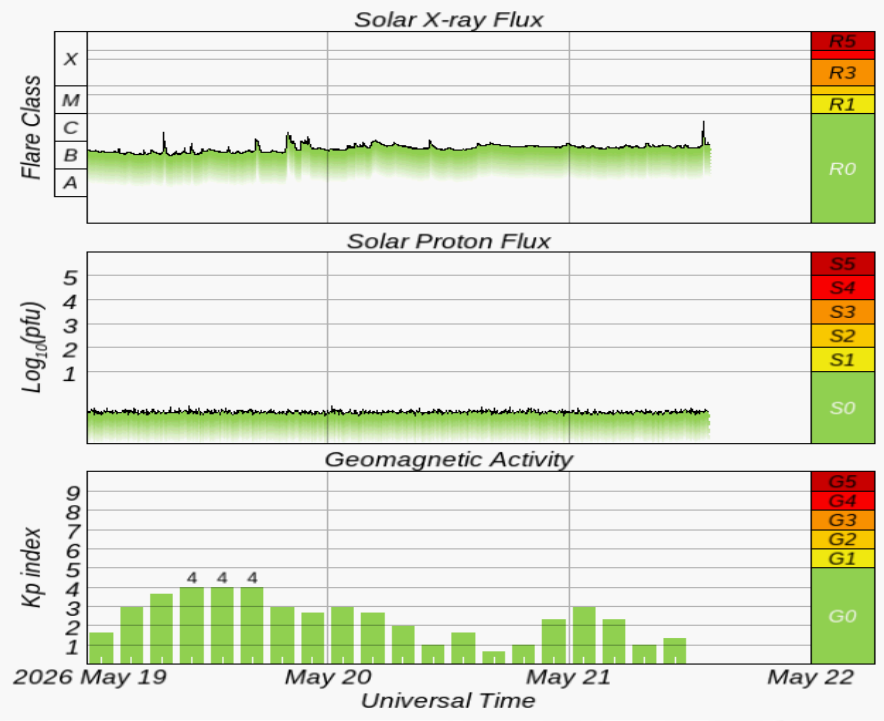
Space Weather



Current Sunspots



- Flare
- Limb
- Quiet Sun
- Coronal Hole
- Prominence
- Filament
- Bright Region
- Outer Space
- Unlabeled



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	B8 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/21	5/22
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at predominately low levels today 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. On Friday, solar activity is expected to increase as multiple active sunspot regions rotate into view. Solar wind conditions are expected to continue trending downward towards background levels the first half of today, with some enhancements likely this afternoon and tomorrow 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.



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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