



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Friday, May 22, 2026



# State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

**Level 2: Partial Activation**



# SERT On-Call Personnel

| <b>Position</b>                    | <b>Personnel</b>   | <b>Phone</b>   | <b>Email</b>   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 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                       | Austin Johnson     | (850) 296-5680 | <a href="mailto:Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com">Austin.Johnson@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          | Ahnaya Benjamin    | (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        | Okaloosa              | Fire Chiefs Regional Meeting       |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston     | Jackson               | County EM Meeting                  |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers       | Columbia              | FTEM/FLEX Support                  |
| Region 4: Tara Kostich       | <b>Out of Service</b> | <b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>        |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly     | Polk                  | T&E Support                        |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall       | Hillsborough          | Tampa Bay Water Exercise           |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | Polk                  | County EM Visit                    |
| Region 8: Amber Durden       | Indian River          | Office Admin / Vehicle Maintenance |
| Region 9: Brittany Bremer    | Lee                   | FGCU Operation Outbreak Meeting    |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker     | <b>Out of Service</b> | <b>Leave (See Coverage)</b>        |

Region 4 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4  
 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        | Okaloosa        | Regional Fire Chiefs Meeting                       |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara         | Leon            | Regional Counterpart Planning Meeting              |
| Region 3: Kevin Blom             | Out of Region   | Leave (See Coverage)                               |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders        | Putnam          | External Stakeholder Meeting                       |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison       | Seminole        | FEPA Meeting                                       |
| Region 6: Rick Rogers            | Hernando/Pasco  | LMS Work Group Meeting / Critical Response 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      | Administration Duties / Grants Portal Review       |

Region 3 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 2 & 4

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

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

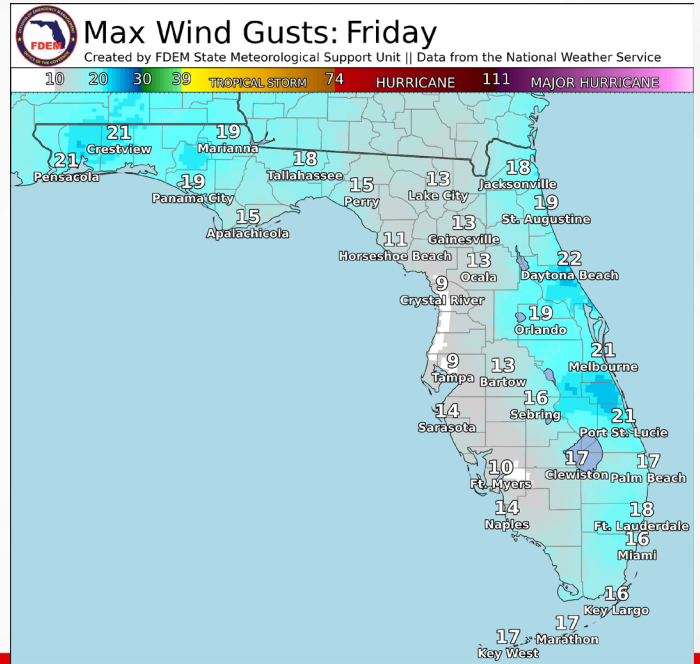
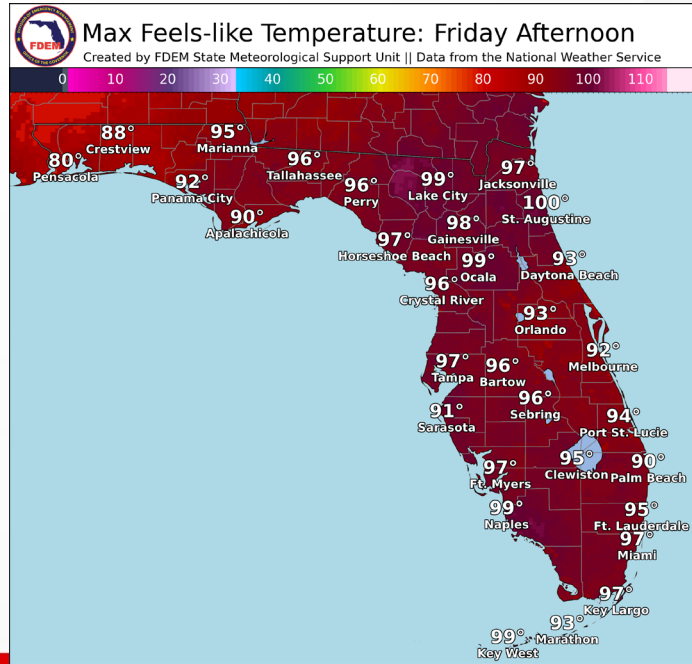
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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



# Meteorology Summary

| Threat                     | R1  | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning                  | M   | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L   |
| Tornado                    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Damaging Wind              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Hail                       |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Flash Flooding             |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Extreme Heat               |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Fog (Overnight)            | 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  | 11.31 ft. (1.89 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 468 (+2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |



Today's Weather Map



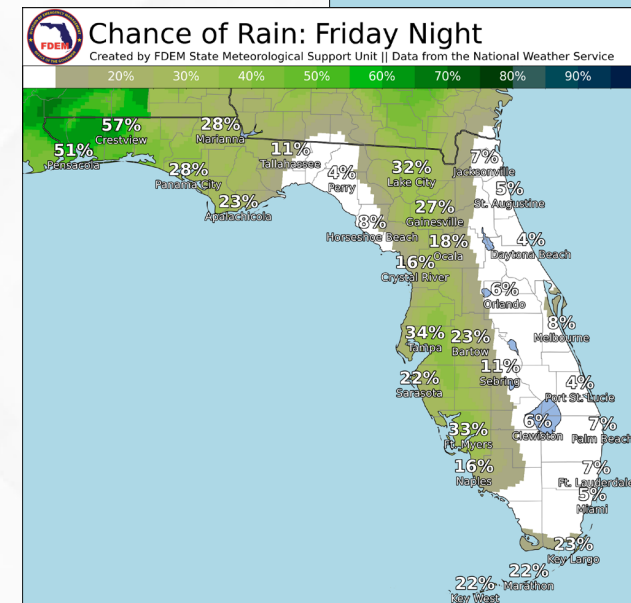
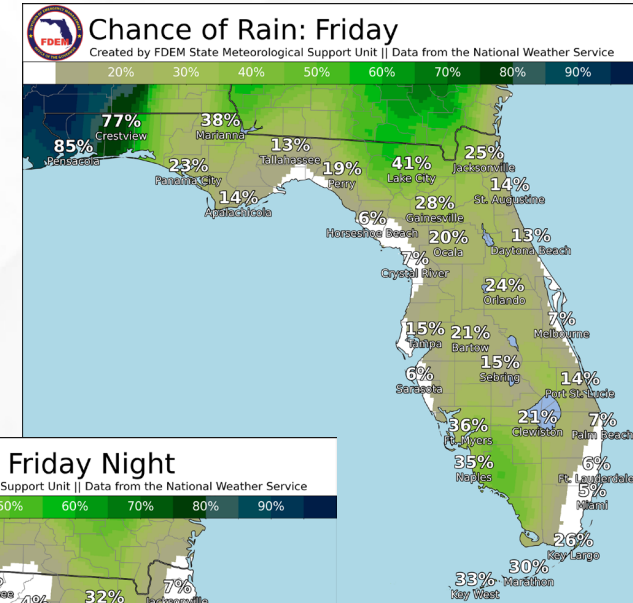
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of **patchy fog** has developed over the Western Panhandle this morning but will quickly dissipate over the next 1-2 hours as the sun rises. High pressure over the Atlantic has continued its eastward march over the open Atlantic, now veering our surface flow to primarily out of the southeast today. For the peninsula, a largely rinse-and-repeat distribution of rain chances is expected today, with the highest chances once again in extreme Southwest Florida (30-50%) along . Additionally, high (70-90%) chances for rain is expected in the far Western Panhandle today as a series of upper-level disturbances are expected to swing through the region and provide a source of enhanced lift. While there is no organized risk of severe weather with 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"**, especially in the Western Panhandle if any corridors of training storms develop. As a result, The Weather Prediction Center has outlined a **Marginal Risk** for excessive rainfall for extreme western Escambia County today.

Wildfire danger will remain low today given relative humidities above critical thresholds, though breezy winds gusting **upwards of 20 mph** are expected throughout the Eastern Peninsula and Western Panhandle. Isolated showers and thunderstorms are expected today in Southwest Florida, with more widespread coverage expected in the Western Panhandle. Any thunderstorms that develop 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. Some localized areas may see feels-like temperatures that **reach or exceed 100-degrees** this afternoon.

Tonight, any lingering shower or storm activity over the peninsula will shortly dissipate after sunset. Rounds of scattered showers and storms may continue overnight for the Western Panhandle as upper-level disturbances continue to swing through the region. Some **patchy fog** may develop throughout the Western Florida Panhandle tonight given the abundant low-level moisture, although this will likely be highly dependent on how today and tonight's showers and thunderstorms develop/evolve. 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](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Seas increase today along the East Coast, with wave heights expected to be around **2-4'** this afternoon, with **2-3'** likely for Panhandle beaches. Beaches along the West Coast can expect surf less than 1'.

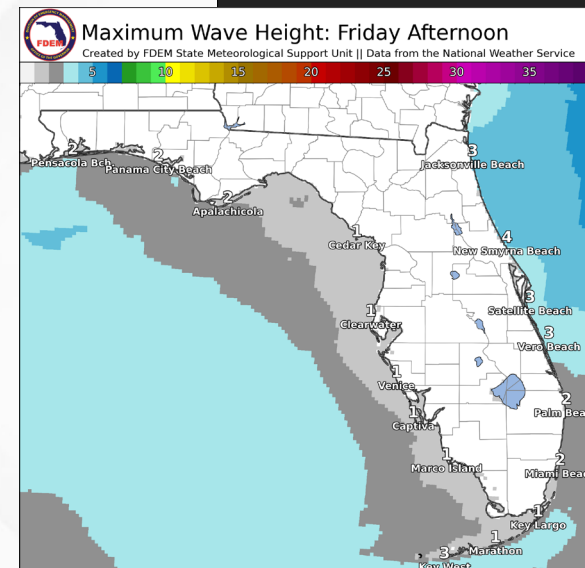
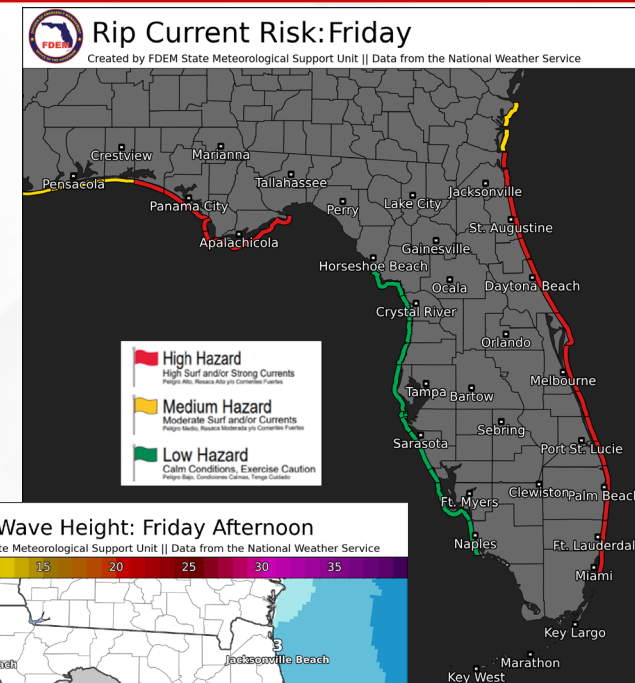
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Escambia and Bay counties. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/15/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** Isolated sea breeze showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop in Southwest Florida this afternoon. Rainfall amounts will be localized in nature here, with more locations seeing **<0.5"**. A more widespread threat for showers and storms are expected in the Western Panhandle today. While rainfall amounts should still largely be below 1" in this region, upwards of **2-3"** of rain **cannot be ruled out**, especially in any areas that receive repeated rounds of heavy downpours from training storms. The Weather Prediction Center has outlined a **Marginal Risk** for excessive rainfall for extreme western Escambia County today.

**Riverine Flooding:** There are no riverine concerns across the state. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 11.31 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.89 feet below normal for this time of year.



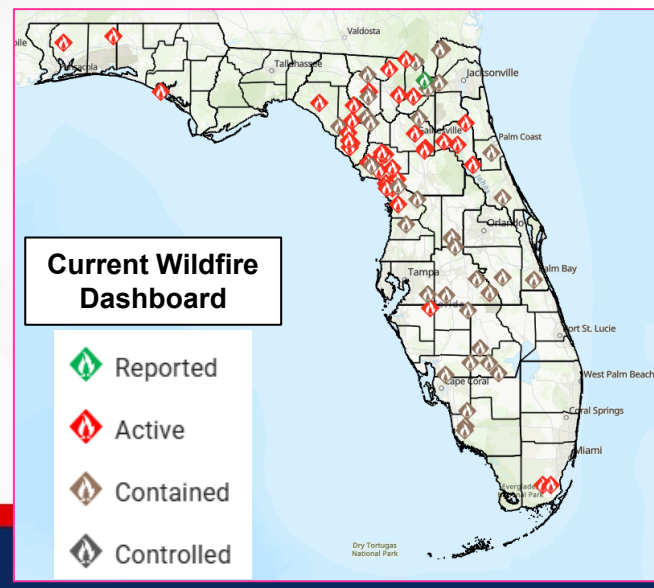
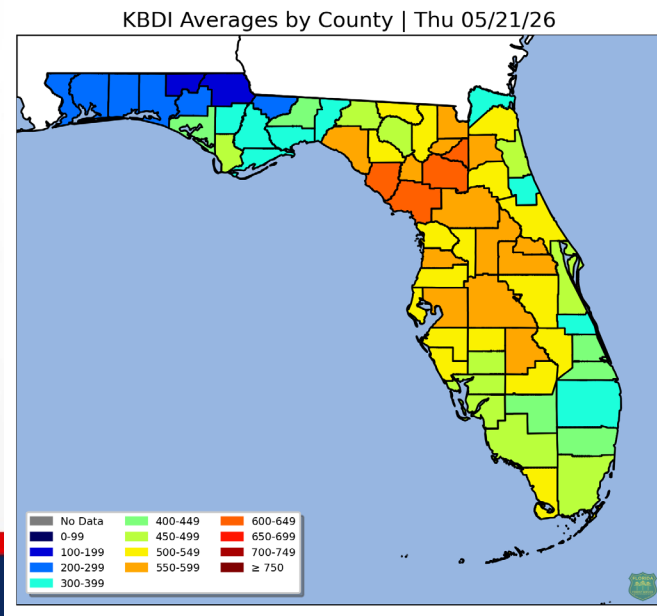
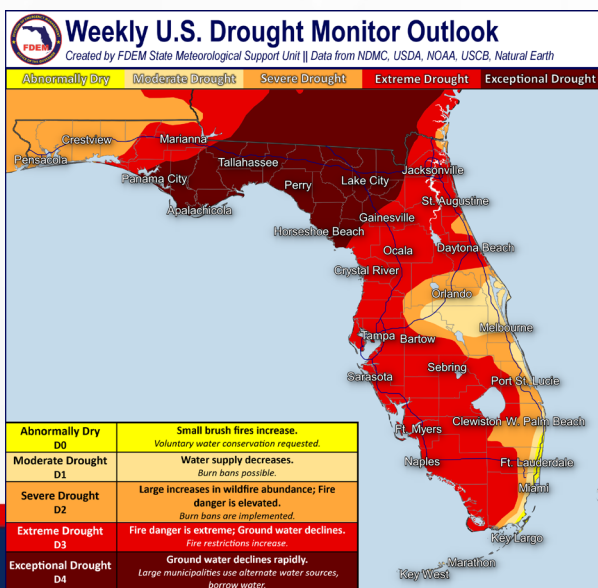


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** High pressure will continue to dominate the local pattern today with southeasterly winds persisting across the state. These winds will bring gusts **upwards of 20 mph** throughout the Eastern Peninsula this afternoon. Steady increases in relative humidities over the last few days will keep values well above critical thresholds today 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, with more widespread coverage expected in the Western Panhandle. Showers and storms 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 Saturday which can lead to significantly reduced visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 74 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,571 acres.

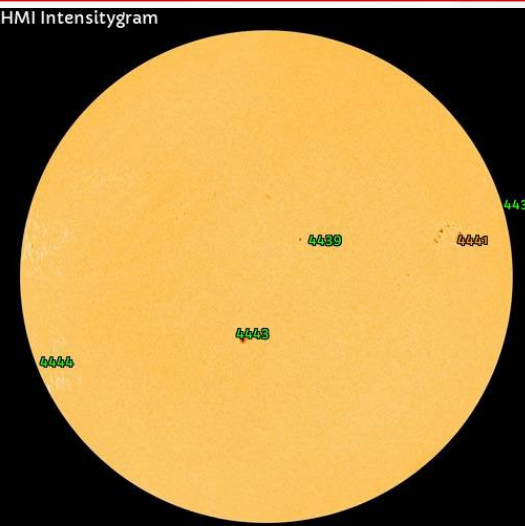
**Drought (5/19/26):** Some slight categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall 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 **468 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **34 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

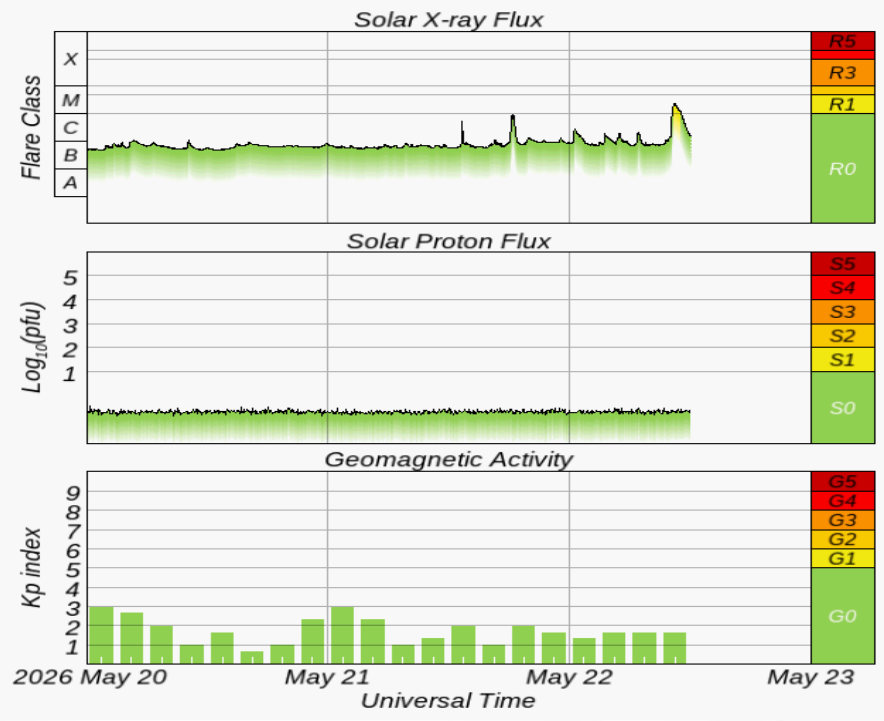




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours     |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| M-class: 25%     | Geomagnetic Storm: None   | M2 Solar Flare    |
| X-class: 5%      | Radiation Storm: None     | R1 Radio Blackout |

| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast                          |   |
|---|---|
| 5/22  | 5/23  |
| Max Kp= 3 (G0)  | Max Kp= 3 (G0)  |
| Chance of minor activity = 5%<br>severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 5%<br>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 recent flaring in #4436. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. An increase in solar activity is expected over the next two days as multiple active sunspot regions rotated into view. Solar wind conditions may see some weak enhancements today before waning over the next few days. Periods of unsettled geomagnetic field activity is expected today and tomorrow, with an isolated chance for an active period. 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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