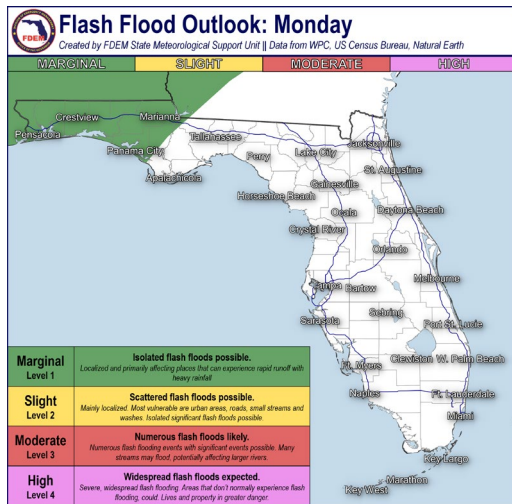


State, with the Southeast Metro and Keys remaining warmer in the upper 70s to lower 80s. Given these warm overnight temperatures and clearing skies, areas of **patchy fog** may develop each night throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend, some of which could be **locally dense**.

Hydrology & Flooding:



A few upper-level disturbances passing through the lower Mississippi River Valley will help to enhance scattered shower and thunderstorm activity across portions of the Panhandle each day through the forecast period. Deep southerly flow ahead of these disturbances will bring plentiful Gulf moisture across the area where repeated rounds of **heavy downpours** will be possible. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across Escambia County today, the western Panhandle on Sunday, and the entire Panhandle Monday and Tuesday. Each of these days will feature southwest to northeast moving rounds of thunderstorms that could train over the same locations. Should any areas see these repeated rounds of **heavy downpours**, areas of **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water** may occur, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations. Rainfall amounts through the forecast period will measure up to 1-3" along the I-75 and I-10 corridor, with localized amounts **upwards**

of 4-6". Rainfall totals elsewhere will generally remain below 1". 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 11.31 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.89 feet below normal for this time of year.

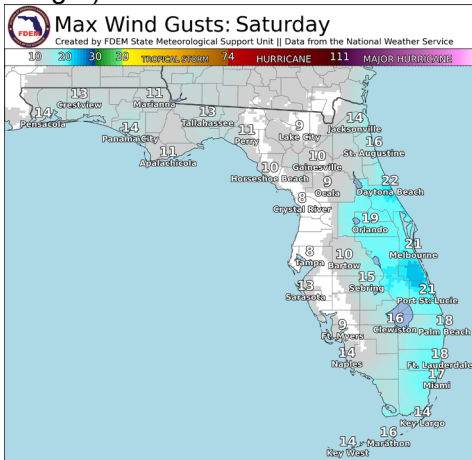
Drought & Fire Weather:

Continued categorical improvements were made on last week's Drought Monitor update across the Western Panhandle due to more rain over the past week. As a result, the extreme drought across southern Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties, and most of Walton County has been downgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The exceptional drought across northern Bay & Calhoun Counties has also been reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** due to 1-2 inches of rain over the past week's heavy rainfall. Despite rainfall adding up to 3 to 5 inches across the western part of the state, the ongoing drought resulted in no changes to the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. Throughout the Peninsula, rainfall was mostly confined to the western part of the state, with up to 4-5 inches falling. Parts of the Panhandle and Southeast Florida also received rain, with totals up to two inches. This resulted in only minor changes for the peninsula. Southwestern Palm Beach County saw a downgrade to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. Southeast Osceola County saw a downgrade to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The larger drought picture was otherwise untouched. 99% of Florida remains in at least a **moderate drought**, with 22% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an **exceptional drought**.

As a reminder, the cutoff for rainfall on this week's update was Tuesday (5/19) at 8 AM EDT, thus any rainfall that fell past Tuesday this week will be considered on next week's update. Any 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. A more active pattern is expected for the forecast period, which will involve most of the state. The Panhandle will be the focus of the period, especially on Monday and Tuesday. This expected rainfall will help limit additional worsening of the drought or bring some categorical drought reductions.



The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **468** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **35** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



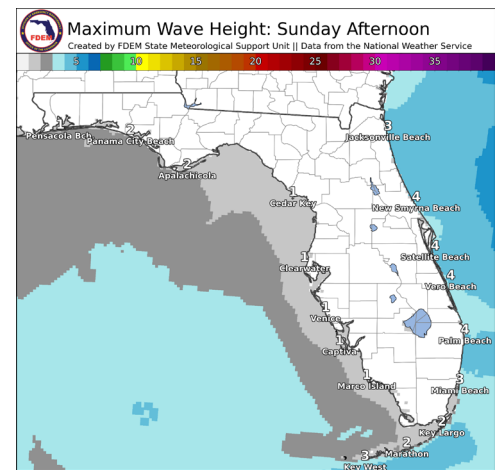
Minimum RHs will not reach critical thresholds this afternoon, and an ongoing statewide moistening trend will help limit fire weather danger through the forecast period. Dry fuels from long-term drought conditions and gusty winds **upwards of 20-25 mph** along the East Coast will at least encourage **sensitive wildfire conditions**, especially for East-Central Florida where higher gusts are expected. Daily rounds of scattered showers and storms should help continue to saturate fuels across the state, and further limit wildfire conditions. Even with rainfall expected, any lightning strike can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 70 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,535 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

The majority of East Coast beaches will see a **high risk for rip currents** through the forecast period with breezy onshore winds. East Central Florida will see a **moderate risk of rip currents** Saturday. The Forgotten Coast has a **high risk of rip currents** through the forecast period, except for Sunday due to calmer winds. The West coast will see low risks for rip currents through the forecast period due to offshore winds.

Waves will be between 1-2' for north facing beaches in the Keys, West Coast & Panhandle for most of the forecast period. Tuesday afternoon will see an increase to **2-4'** for The Emerald Coast. Persistent onshore flow will bring surf of **2-4'** for the East Coast and south facing beaches of the Keys through Tuesday.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 94 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed in Lake Monroe, Crescent Lake, on the northeast shore of Tiger Lake, Lake Thonotosassa and Lake Marian. **Moderate levels** have been observed in Lake Okeechobee, Blue Cypress Lake, southeast shore of Lake Hancock, Fellsmere Water Management Area, Caloosahatchee River, and northwest corner of Saddleback Lake.



[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)
[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)
[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

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

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Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend!
Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist
Logan Giles, Florida Disaster Fellow

Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather



FDEM Statewide 5-Day Weather Outlook
5.22.26

