



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, May 23, 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	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Savannah Martin	(850) 273-0931	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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Amber Durden	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 1
 Region 9 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6
 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	In-Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In-Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In-Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In-Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	In-Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	(See Coverage)
Region 10: Brian Lee	In-Region	Off & Monitoring

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

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

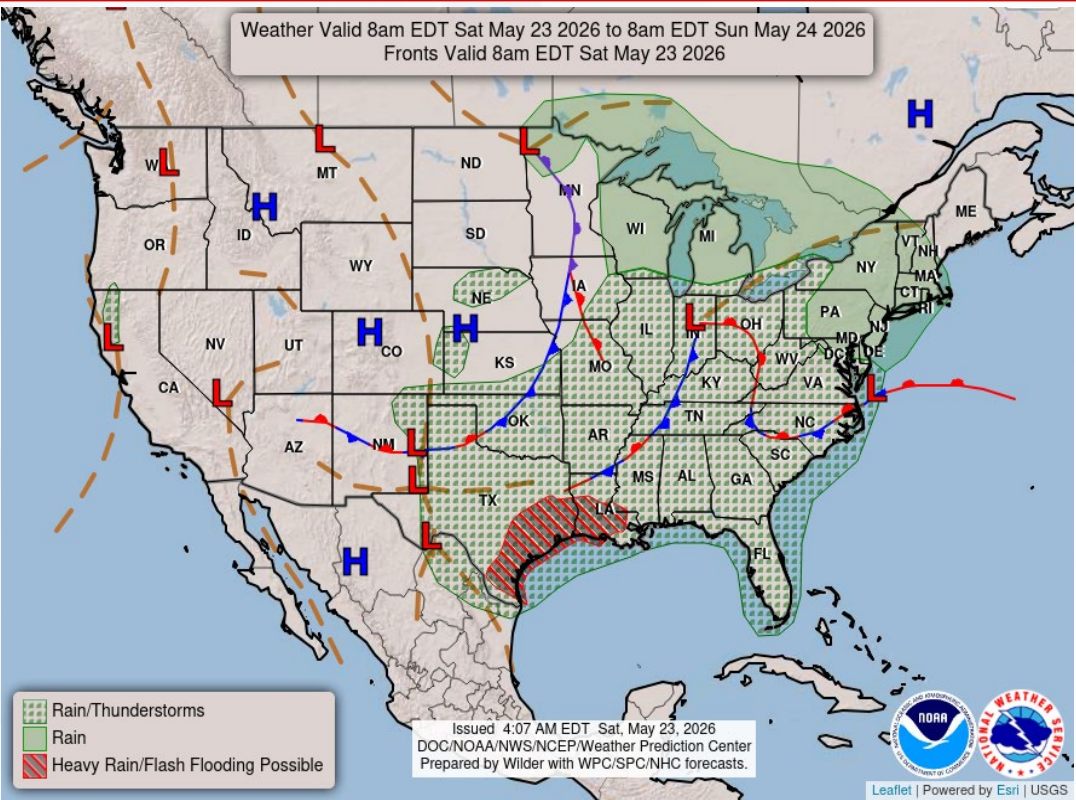
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

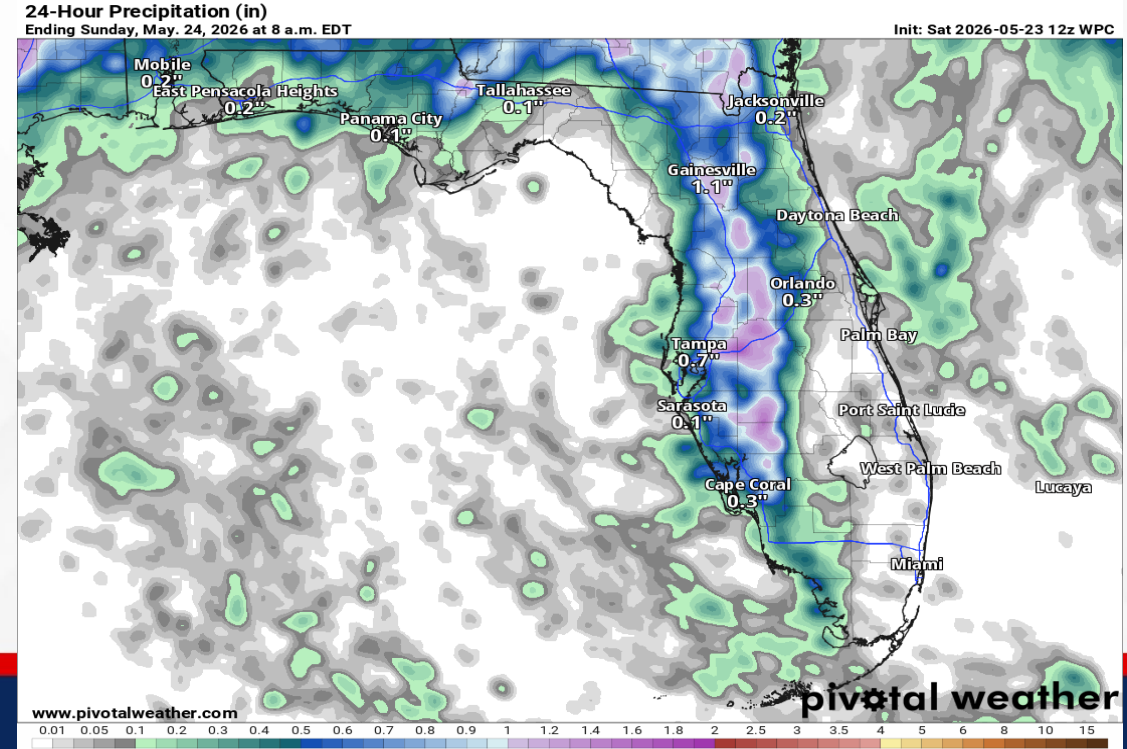


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat			L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L
Fog (Overnight)	L	L								
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.27 ft. (1.92 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	474 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





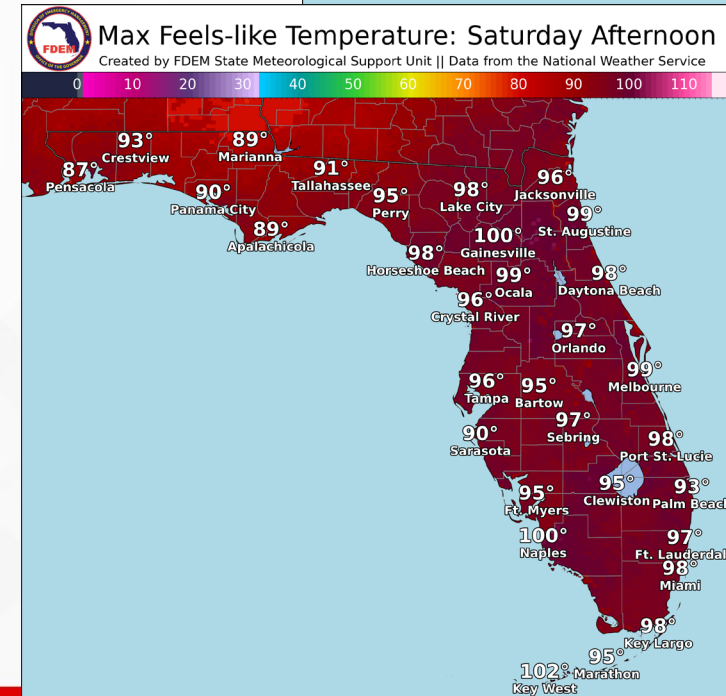
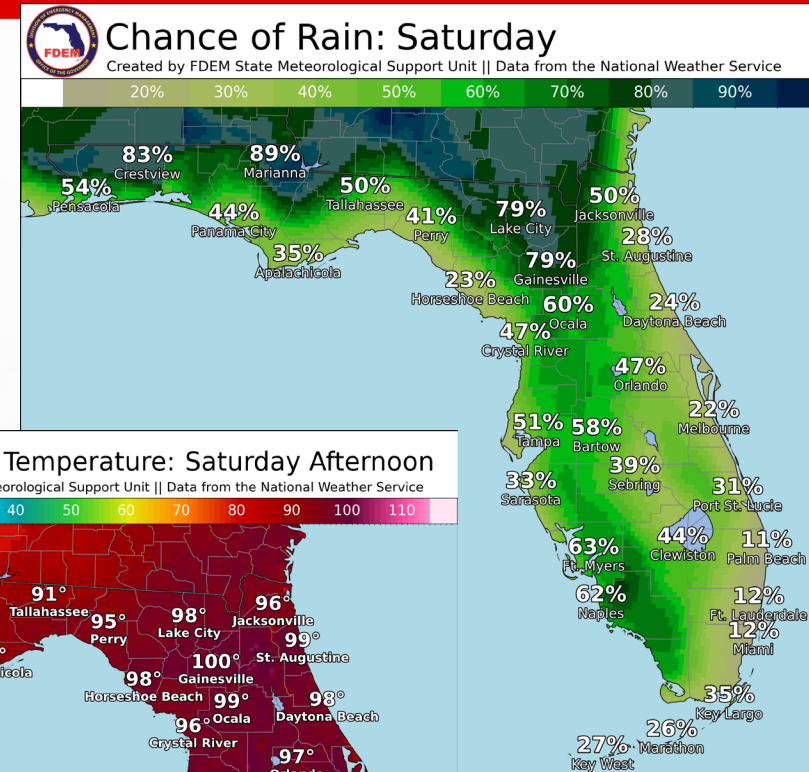
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Across Central and South Florida, a largely rinse-and-repeat distribution of rain chances is expected today as the afternoon and evening seabreezes generate scattered showers and thunderstorms. The highest chances will be along the western half of the Peninsula (30-60%), with only a slight chance for showers along the Florida East Coast. A few storms may be strong with brief gusty winds and heavy downpours. High temperatures will climb into the low to mid 90s, but increased humidity will result in **heat index values in the upper 90s to around 100-degrees** this afternoon.

Across North Florida, higher chances for rain are expected today, especially over inland areas as a series of upper-level disturbances are expected to swing through the region and provide a source of enhanced lift when combined with the afternoon Gulf and Atlantic seabreezes. While there is no organized risk of severe weather with any of today's activity, **a few storms could become strong** and capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds to 40-50 mph, and heavy downpours. With increased cloud cover, high temperatures should be mild in the mid 80s to low 90s. However, some areas of Northeast Florida and the Suwannee Valley where storms may get a later start, heat index values could **reach or exceed 100 degrees**.

Unlike typical seabreeze storm days, shower or storm activity is expected to linger well past sunset tonight over portions of West Central Florida and North Florida near the I-75 corridor before eventually waning around midnight. Storms may also continue until around midnight along the FL/AL border. As we approach sunrise on Sunday, isolated showers may get an early start along the immediate Florida East Coast as well as portions of the Panhandle as another upper-level disturbance moves into the region along the Gulf Coast. Some **patchy fog** may develop throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend tonight, but given the increased cloud cover, should be localized with visibilities around 3 miles or more.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Onshore winds and elevated surf will continue to 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: No hazards are expected as nearshore wave heights will be less than 4 feet.

Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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

Flash Flooding: While rainfall amounts for most locations should be below 1" today, **2-3" of rain cannot be ruled out**, especially in any areas that receive repeated rounds of heavy downpours.

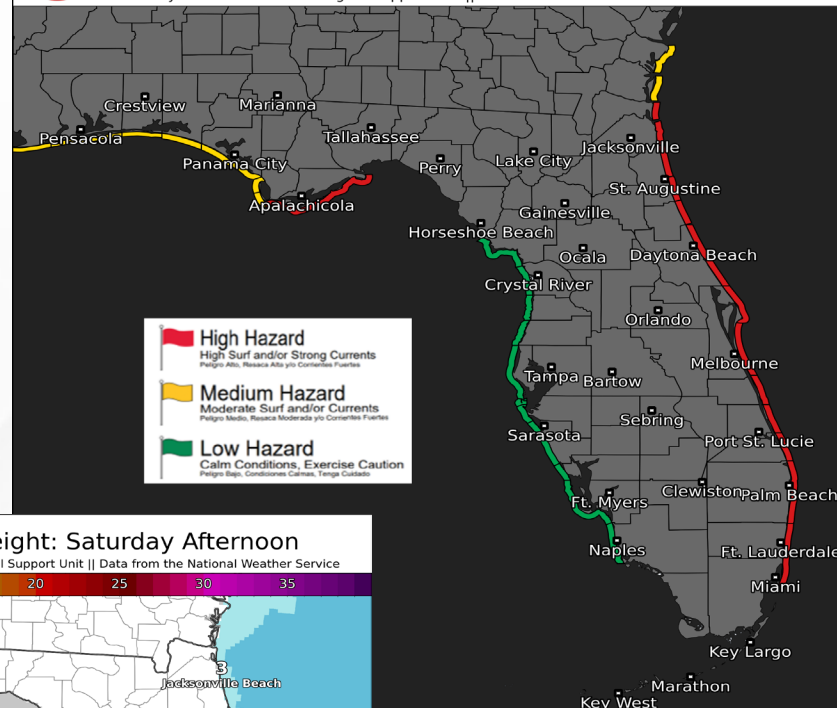
Riverine Flooding: There are no riverine concerns across the state. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.27 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.92 feet below normal for this time of year.



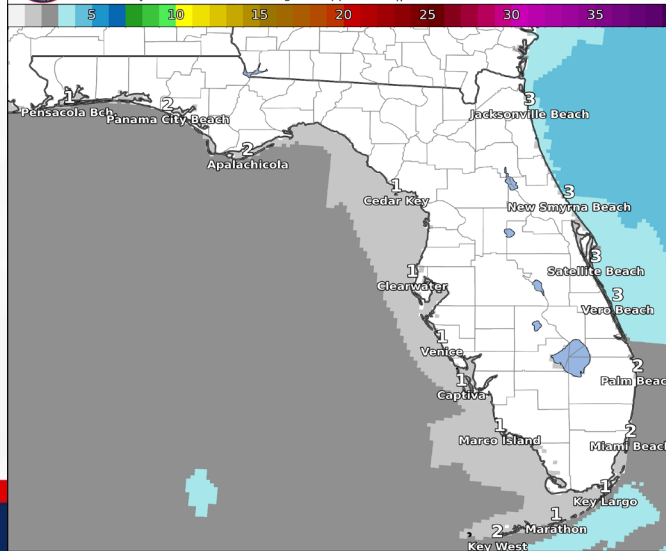
Rip Current Risk: Saturday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



Maximum Wave Height: Saturday Afternoon

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



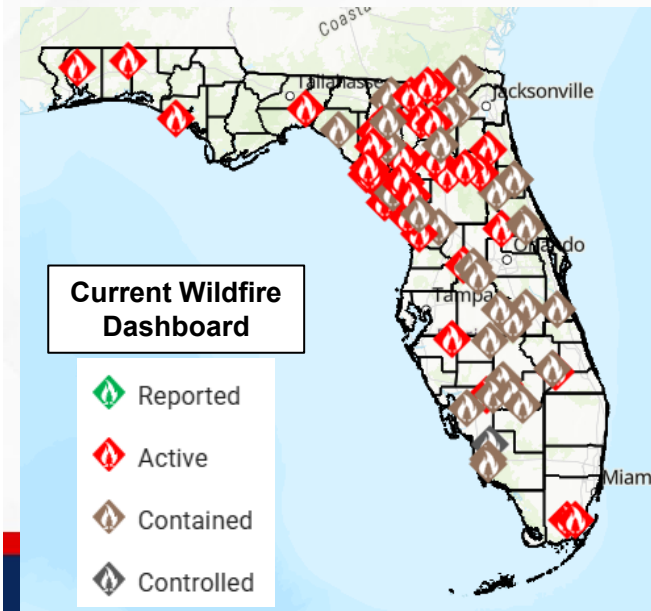
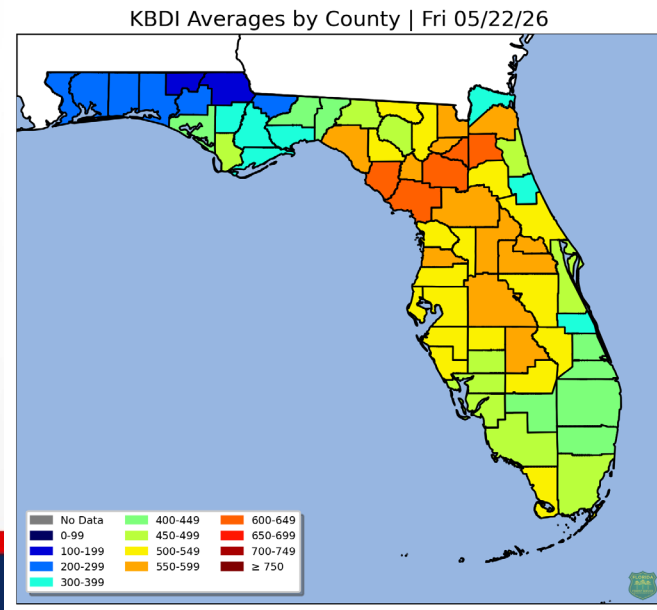
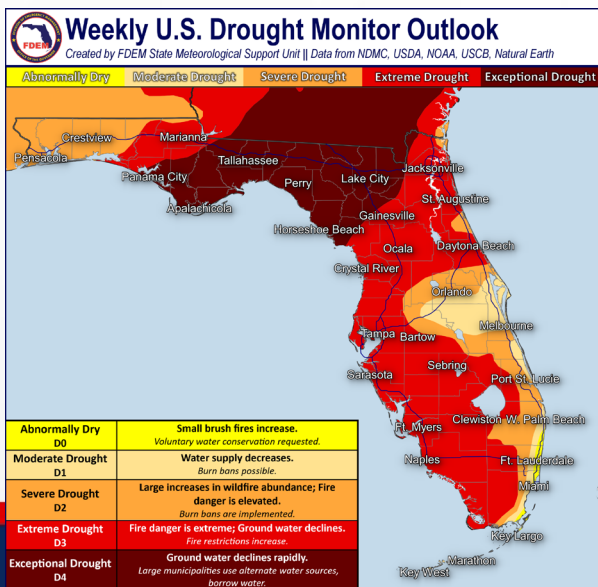


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather threat is low today due to increasing humidity values and rain chances. However, eastern areas of the State that may miss out on the rain could see a locally increased fire threat as southeasterly winds gusting **up to 20 mph** could challenge fire containment. Elsewhere, the threat of thunderstorms with lightning and brief gusty/erratic winds will be capable of sparking new wildfires or reigniting existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 80 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,589 acres.

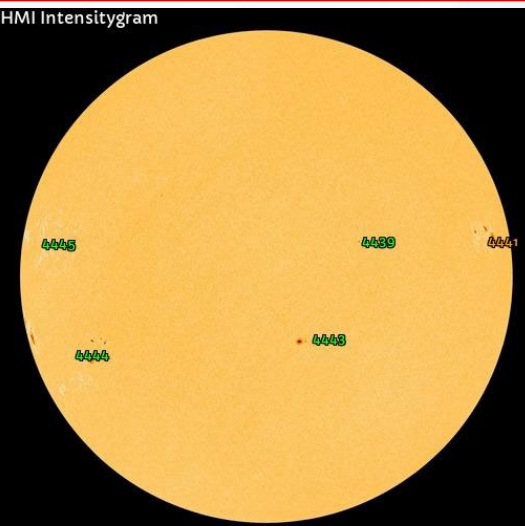
Drought (5/19/26): Some slight improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though most were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 inches 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. 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 the Peninsula 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, daily scattered showers and thunderstorms 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 **474 (+6)** 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).

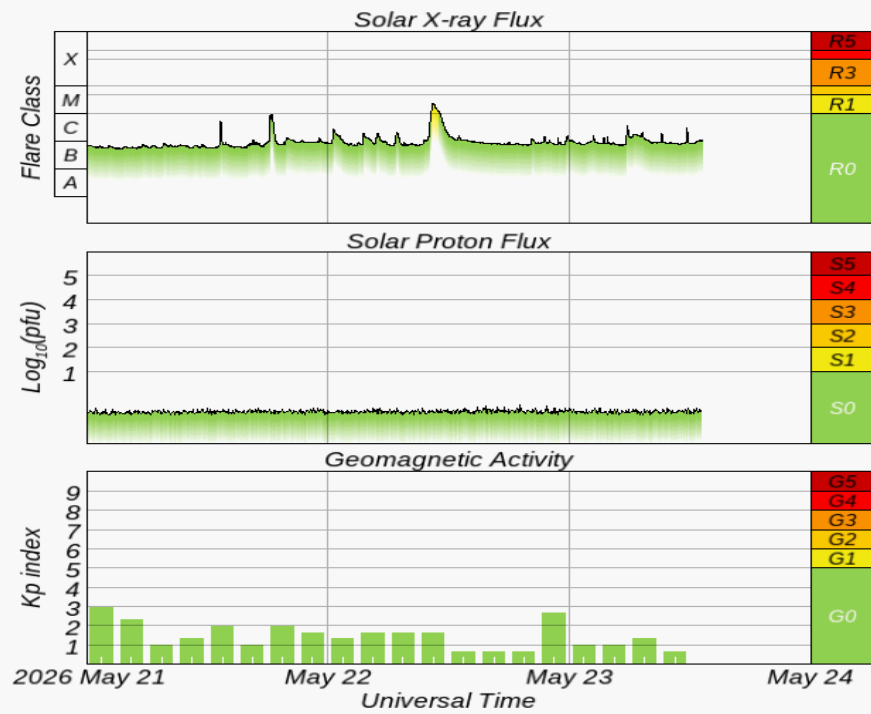




Space Weather

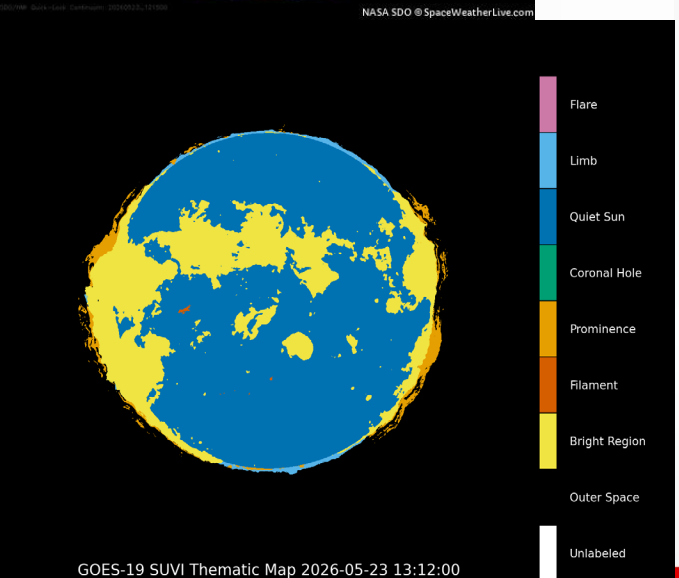


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/23	5/24
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (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 low levels today with only a slight chance for an isolated M-class flare driven by sunspot region #4441. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions may see some weak enhancements today before waning over the next few days. 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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