



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, May 24, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Evan Newman	(850) 241-5606	Evan.Newman@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	Covering for Response 5/22-5/25

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

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

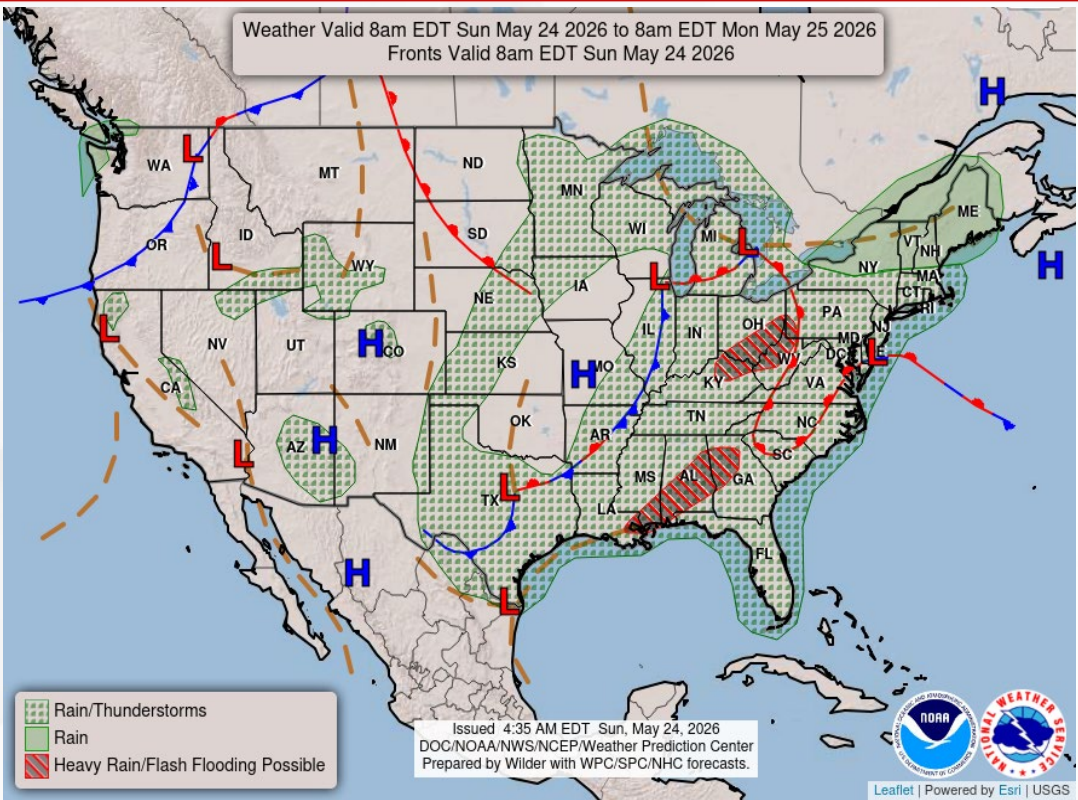
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

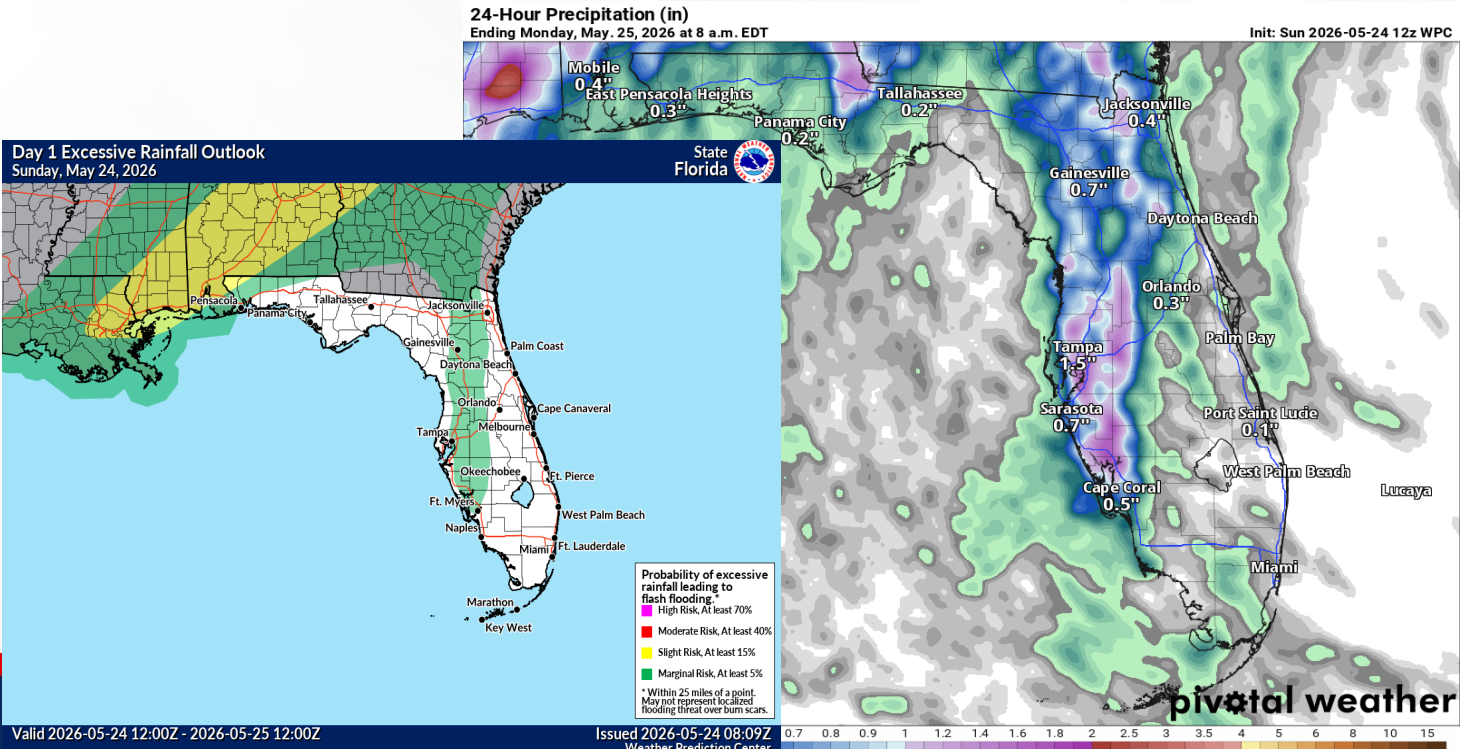


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	H	H	M	M	M	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L	L	L						
Hail										
Flash Flooding	M		L	L	L	L	L		L	
Extreme Heat			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)	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	11.25 ft. (1.93 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	474 (0) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Valid 2026-05-24 12:00Z - 2026-05-25 12:00Z

Issued 2026-05-24 08:09Z
Weather Prediction Center





Meteorology Summary

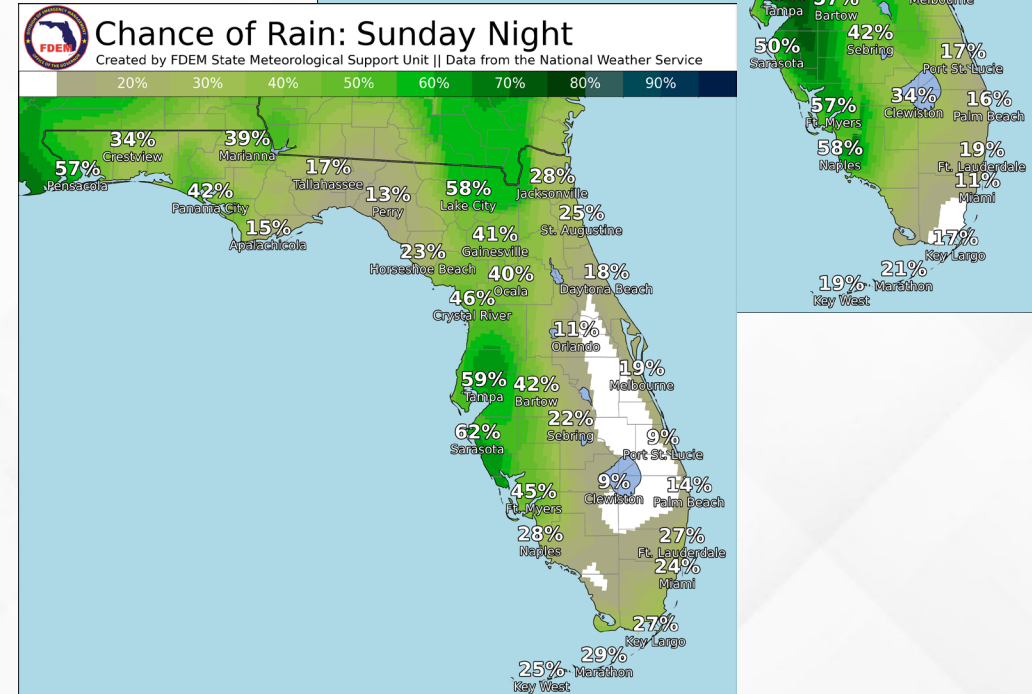
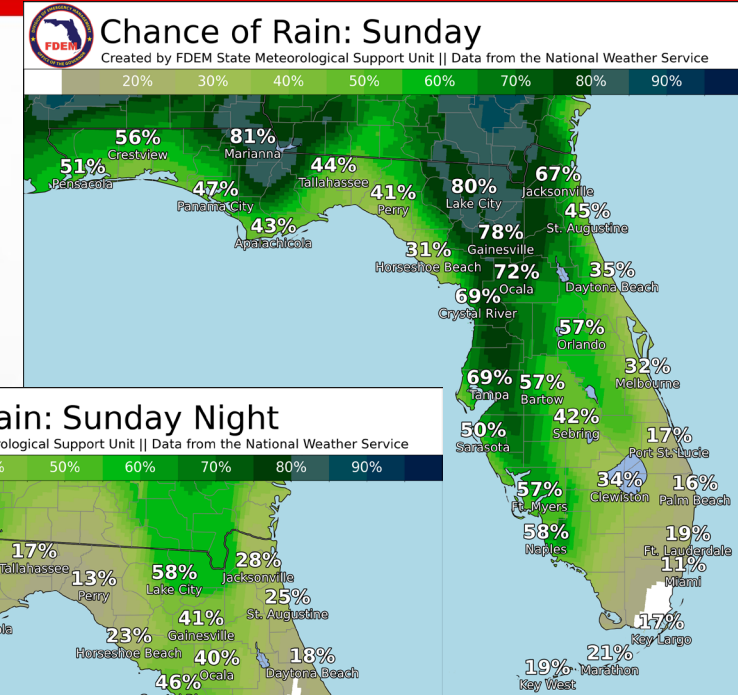
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Showers and thunderstorms are ongoing across portions of the Panhandle this morning associated with a weakening mid-level disturbance passing through the lower Mississippi River Valley. This activity will slowly translate eastward through the morning hours with additional activity expected to develop ahead of this disturbance this afternoon throughout the Big Bend (50-80% chance of rain). There remains quite a bit of uncertainty regarding any severe weather potential with this activity, however a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked throughout North Florida today for a few of these storms that may become **locally strong to severe**. The primary hazards with any of this activity will be frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60 mph), and **locally heavy downpours**. Additionally, a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the western Panhandle where the potential for training thunderstorms exists this afternoon and evening, which could lead to **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water** in urban and poor-drainage locations.

Throughout the Peninsula and Northeast Florida, the sea breezes will help to spark scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms this afternoon focused along the I-75 corridor (50-80% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the I-75 corridor and across Northeast Florida this afternoon for localized instances of **flash flooding** due to these slow-moving heavy thunderstorms. Isolated activity is expected throughout East-Central and Southeast Florida today (15-30% chance of rain), though breezy east to southeasterly winds are expected along the coast with gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** at times this afternoon.

High temperatures will reach the middle 80s to lower 90s throughout the state this afternoon. With increasing humidity, the feels-like temperatures will approach the **middle to upper 90s** throughout Northeast and Southwest Florida.

Unlike typical sea-breeze 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 through the night along the FL/AL border. As we approach sunrise on Monday, isolated showers may get an early start along the immediate Florida East 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. Low temperatures will fall into the 70s to lower 80s throughout the state.





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 statewide. A few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone along the Treasure Coast.

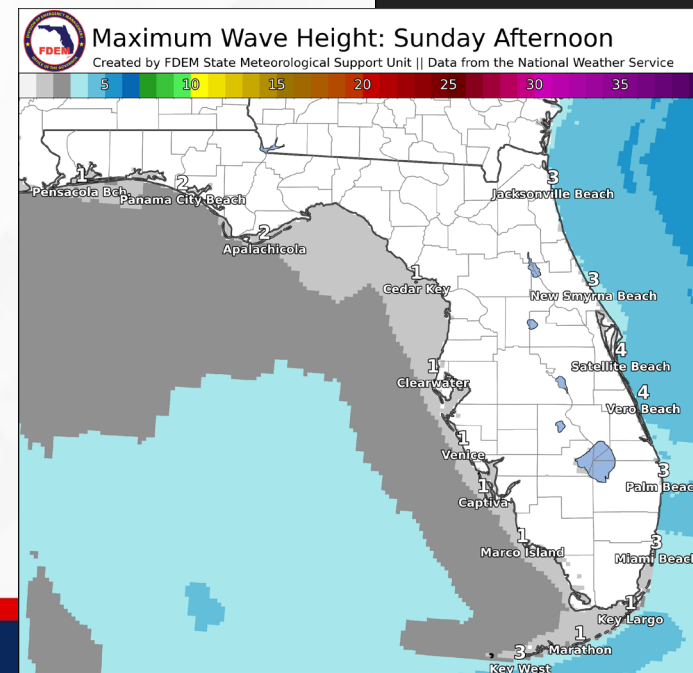
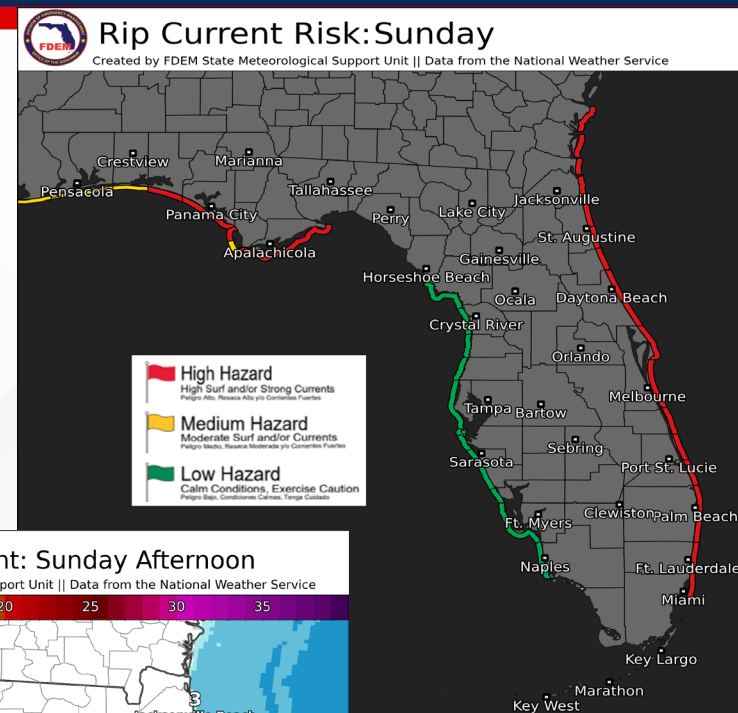
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the I-75 corridor today and the western Panhandle where slow-moving **heavy downpours** may lead to **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water** in urban and poor-drainage locations. Rainfall amounts should be below 1" for most locations today, however upwards of **2-4" of rain** is possible in localized areas should they see 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 11.25 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.93 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



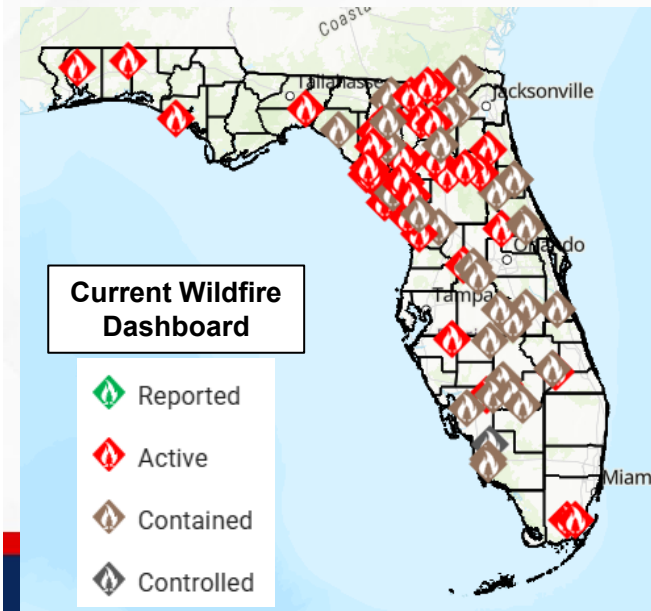
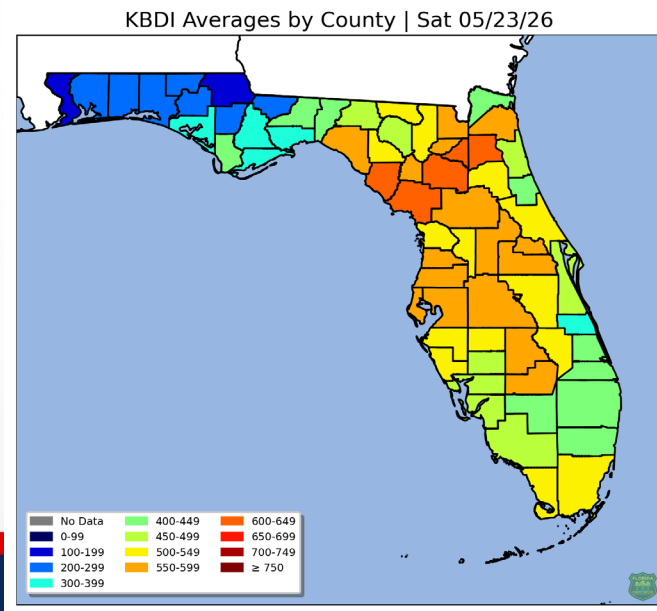
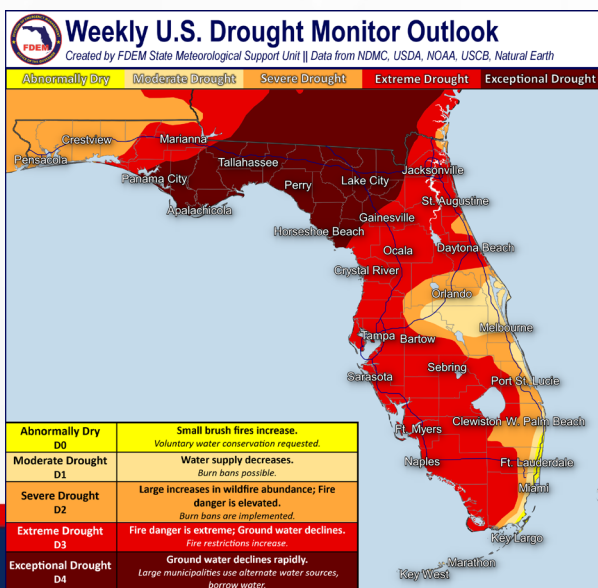


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather threat is low today due to increasing humidity values and rain chances. However, East-Central and Southeast Florida may miss out on the rain and could see a locally increased fire threat as southeasterly winds gusting **up to 20-25 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 90 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 18,276 acres.

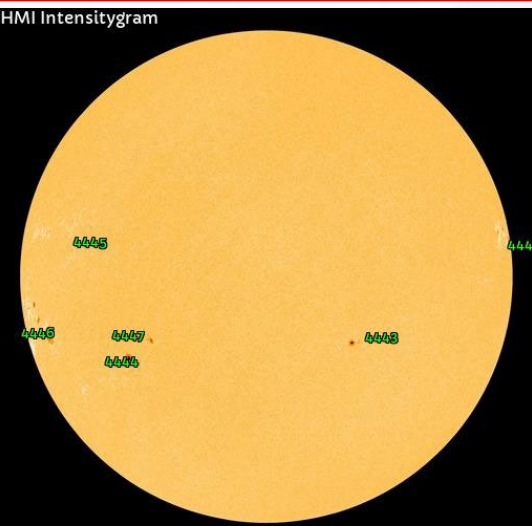
Drought (5/19/26): Some slight improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though most were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 inches 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 (0)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **35 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

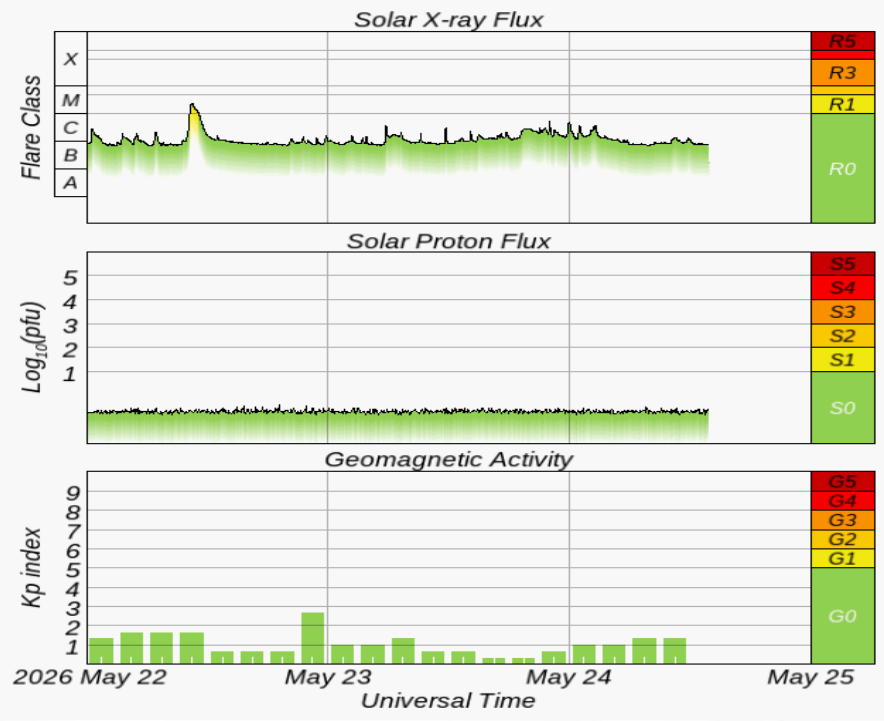
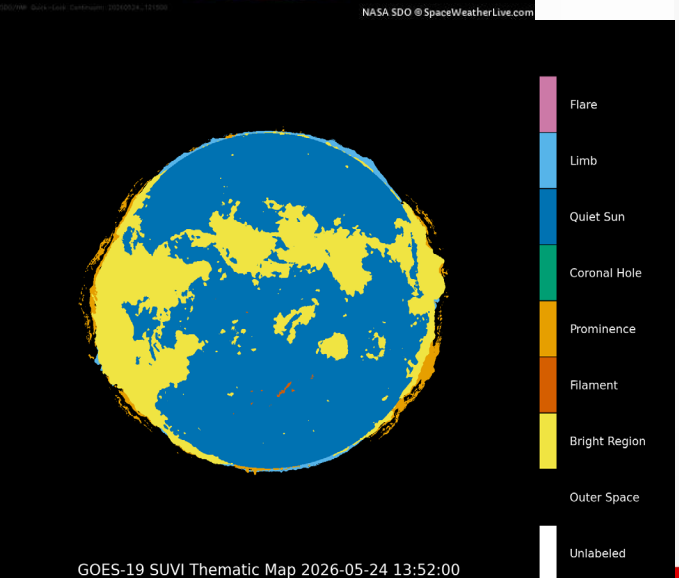




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/24	5/25
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 and #4446. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions are expected to remain near background levels through Tuesday before onset of recurrent coronal hole influences bring some mild enhancements. 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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