



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, May 26, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@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	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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Walton	Weather Assessment / Escambia County EM Meeting / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Franklin	County EM Meeting / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Suwannee	County EM Visit / CERT Kickoff Meeting / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Vehicle Maintenance / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	RFT FIFA Meeting / EMPA & EMPG Grants Monitoring Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Polk	POD Course / Maintenance / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Office Admin / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 8: Amber Durden	Indian River	County EM Meeting / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Task Force 6 Hazmat Exercise / RFT FIFA Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Broward	EM Meetings / RFT FIFA Meeting

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Storm Damage Checks / EM Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Suwannee	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	External Partners Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	N/A	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Recovery Process Meeting
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	Miami-Dade	RRC FIFA Meeting

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 5 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4

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

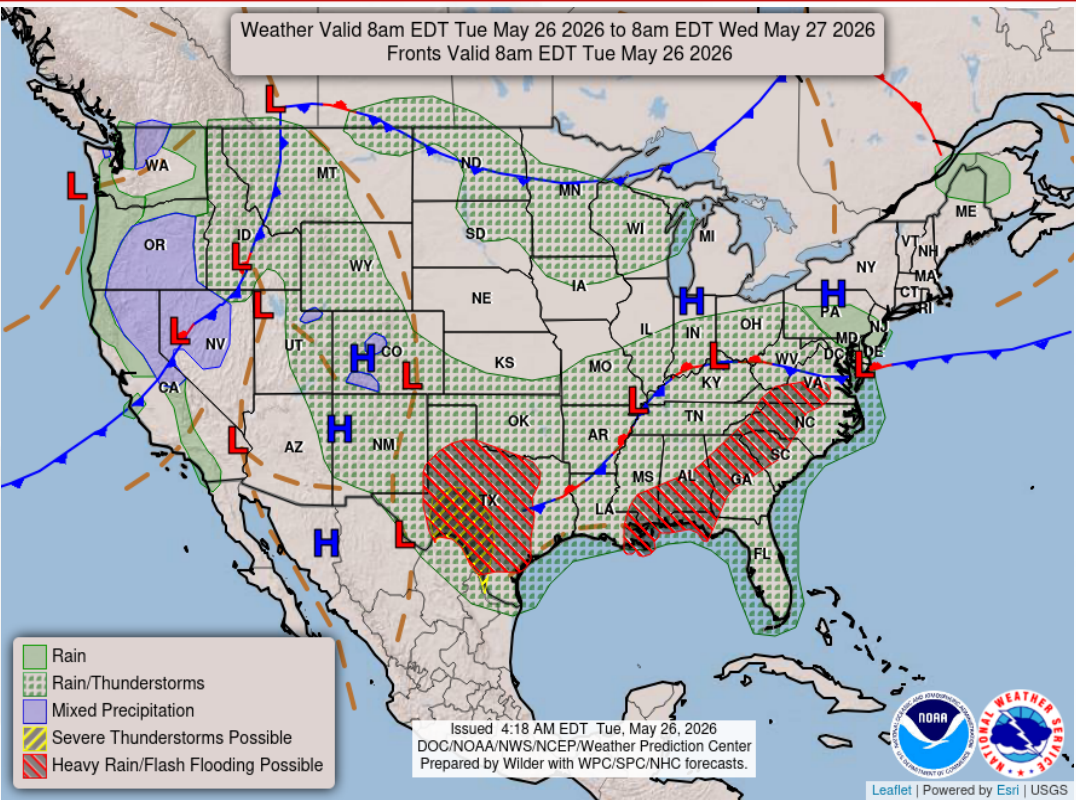
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

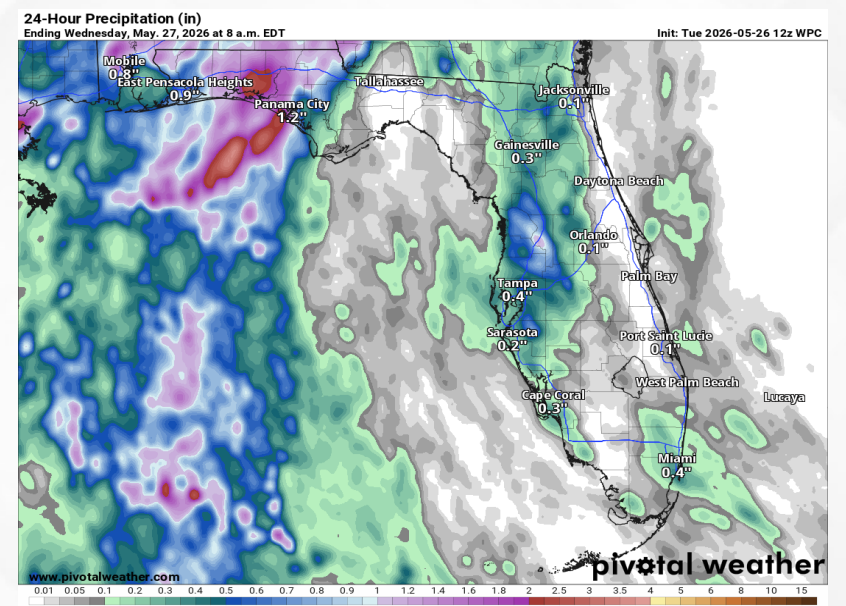
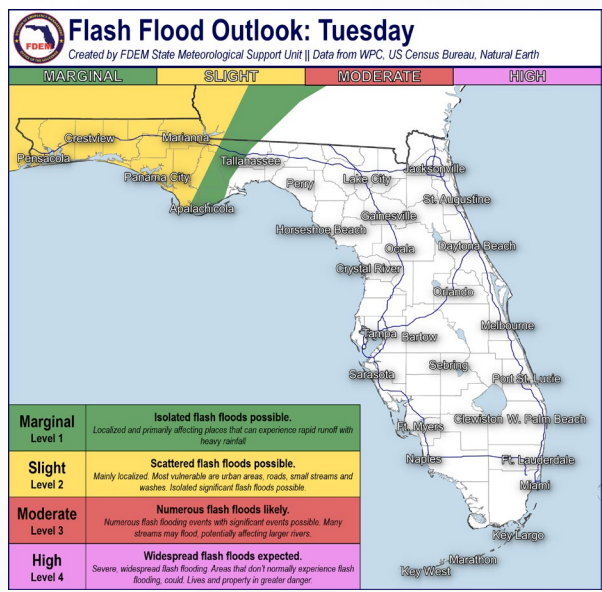


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	L	L	L	M	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	M	M								
Extreme Heat					L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	M		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.22 ft. (1.93 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	422 (-23) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

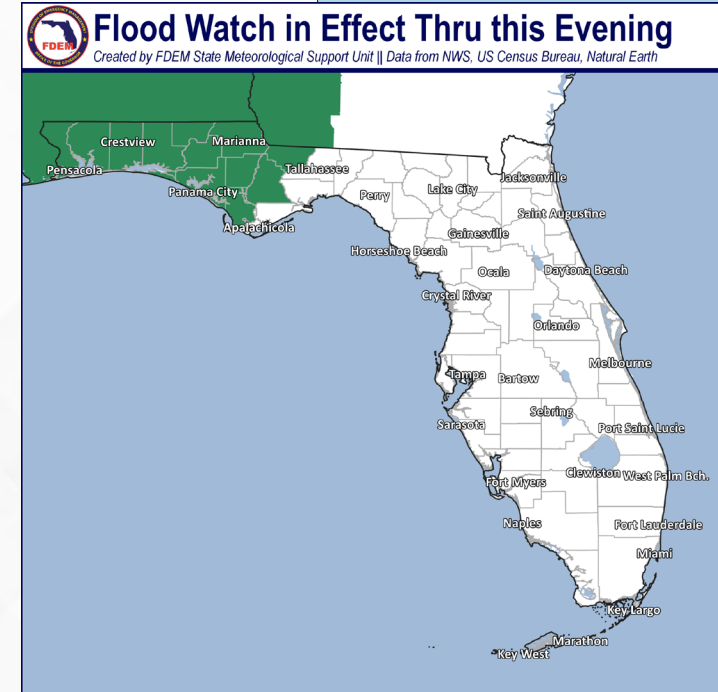
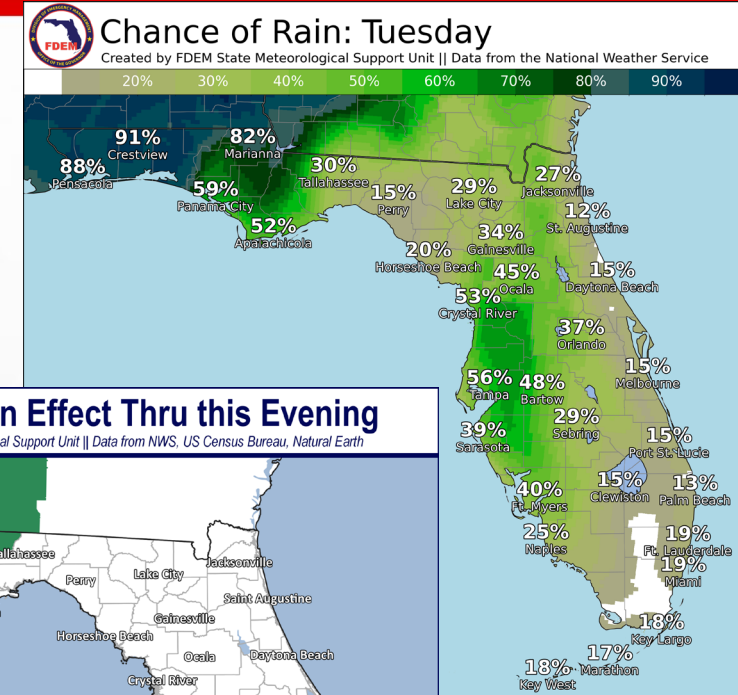
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A few showers are ongoing across the Panhandle and Big Bend this morning amidst deep moist southerly flow between high pressure to the east and an upper-level disturbance to the west over the lower Mississippi River Valley. This moist flow will continue today with additional rounds of northward moving showers and thunderstorms across the Panhandle and western Big Bend this afternoon (60-90% chance of rain). A **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked across the Panhandle and western Big Bend today for a few instances of **flash flooding** due to additional heavy rainfall over already saturated soils. A **Flood Watch** is also in effect until tonight for these areas. Rainfall amounts will measure 2-3" for most locations, though locally higher totals **upwards of 4-6" or more** cannot be ruled out. Any of these storms could also become **locally strong** and capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds (40-50 mph).

A sharp cutoff in rainfall is expected across the central and eastern Big Bend today where just a few isolated showers or storms are expected. Sea breeze showers and storms are expected to develop along the I-75 corridor this afternoon (40-60% chance of rain), with isolated activity throughout the remainder of the Peninsula (15-30% chance of rain). Although there is no organized risk for flash flooding with this activity, a few **locally heavy downpours** cannot be ruled out. Breezy southeasterly winds will develop along the East Coast today, with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** across East-Central and Southeast Florida.

High temperatures will remain in the 80s across the Panhandle and Big Bend today, with **lower to middle 90s** throughout the Peninsula. Feels-like temperatures will approach the **upper 90s to near 100-degrees**.

Shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to linger well past sunset tonight along the I-75 corridor and across the Panhandle before eventually waning around midnight (40-60% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the 70s to lower 80s throughout the state. Patchy fog is not anticipated given abundant cloud cover and visibilities should remain generally near or above 3 miles.





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 **moderate risk** is also expected for most West Coast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will begin to increase for all statewide beaches today, with waves near **2-4'** for most shorelines. A few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out for Treasure Coast beaches.

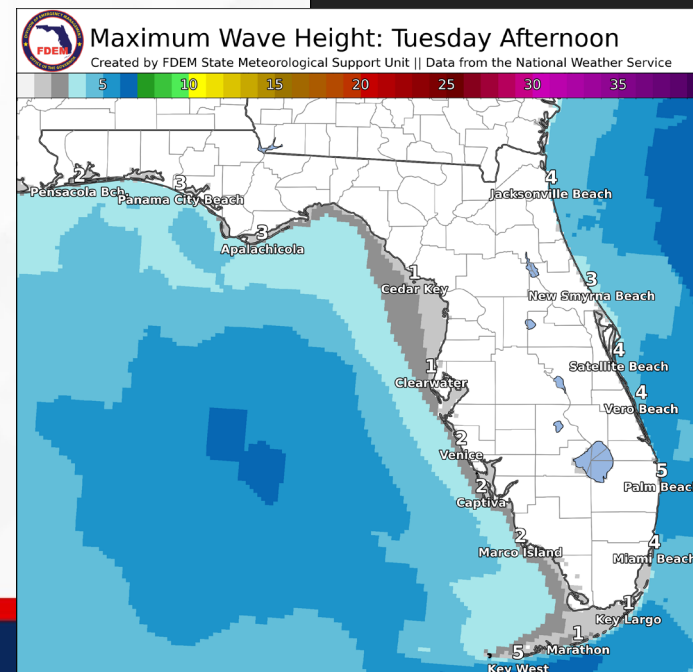
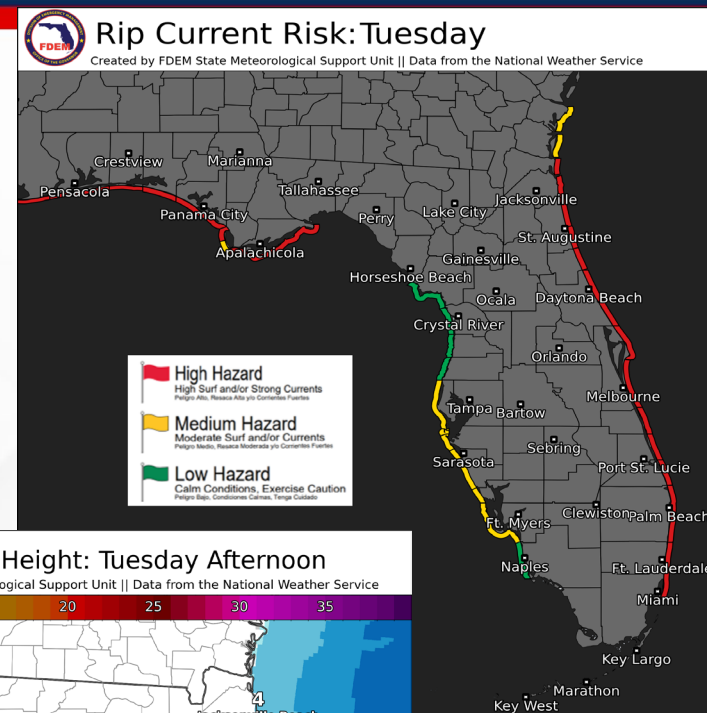
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal** to **Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the Panhandle and western Big Bend today for additional rounds of heavy rainfall that may lead to **flash flooding** on already saturated soils. A **Flood Watch** has also been issued for these areas through this evening. Rainfall amounts will measure around 2-3" for most locations, however locally higher totals **upwards of 4-6" or more** cannot be ruled out. A few isolated showers and thunderstorms may also develop along the I-75 corridor today where a few storms could produce **locally heavy downpours**.

Riverine Flooding: Numerous river and stream gauges are within Action Stage (bank-full) this morning across the western Panhandle due to recent heavy rainfall. These include the [Big Coldwater Creek near Milton](#), [Shoal River near Crestview](#), [Shoal River near Mossy Head](#), and [Bruce Creek near Redbay](#). These streams are expected to remain in Action Stage through the end of the week, at least. The Shoal River near Crestview is forecast to reach **minor flood stage** tomorrow. Additional riverine responses are expected today throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend with more heavy rainfall anticipated. Additional updates to these forecasts will be likely through the week. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

[Lake Okeechobee's](#) average elevation is 11.22 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.93 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



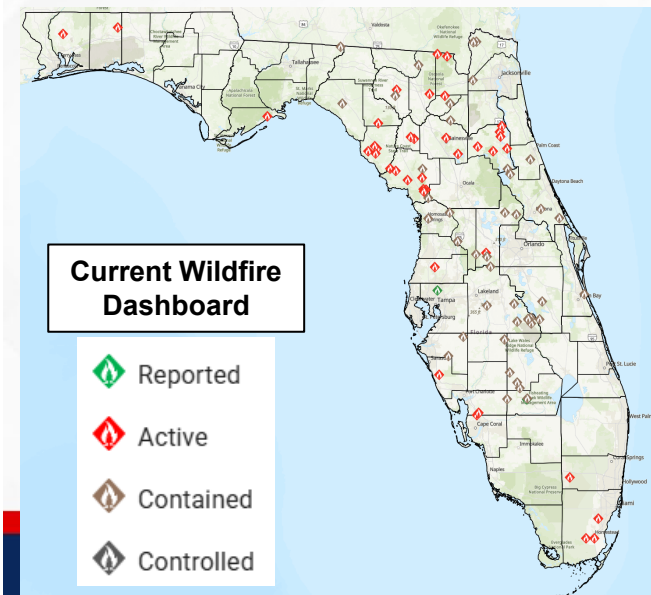
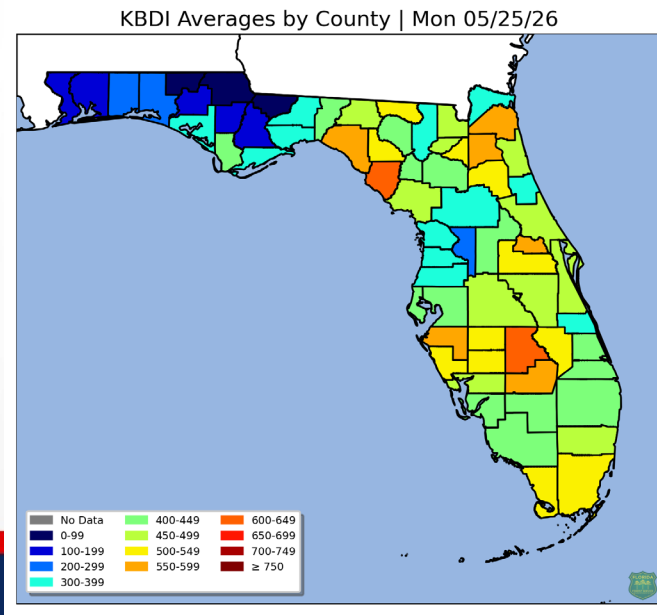
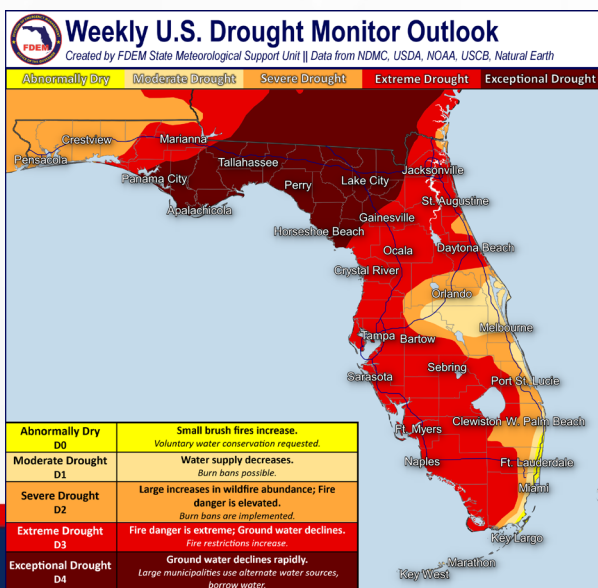


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather threat is low today due to increasing humidity values and rain chances. However, much of East-Central and South Florida may miss out on the rain and could see a locally increased fire threat as southeasterly winds gusting **up to 25-30 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 84 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 19,294 acres.

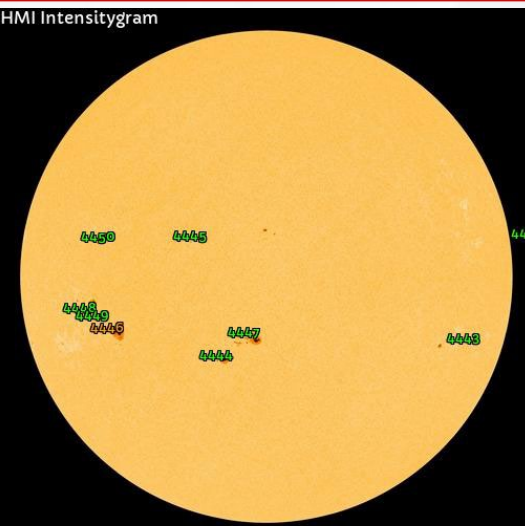
Drought (5/19/26): Some slight improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though most were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 inches 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 **422 (-23)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **19 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

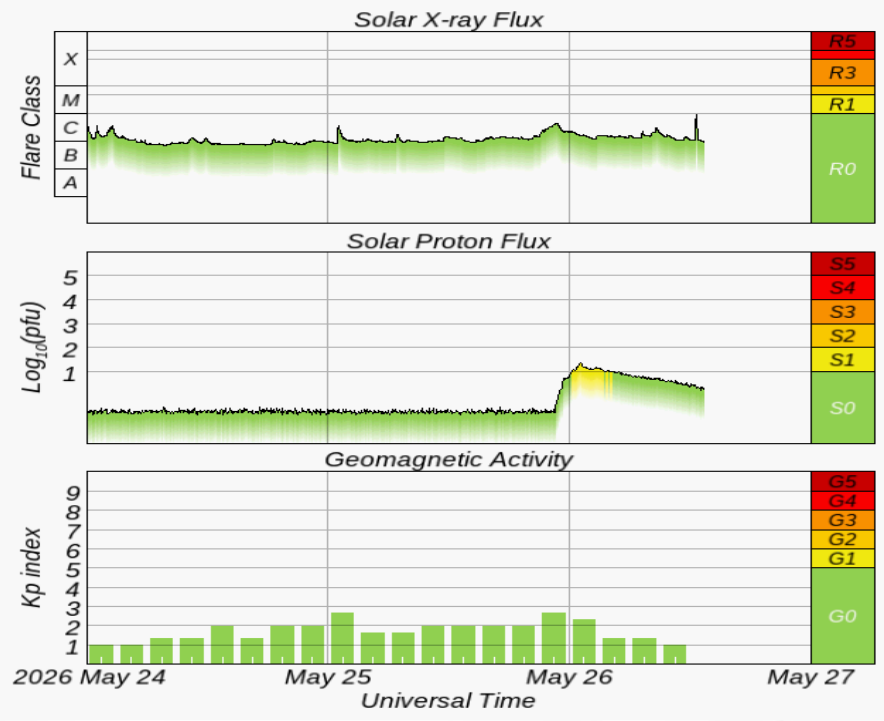
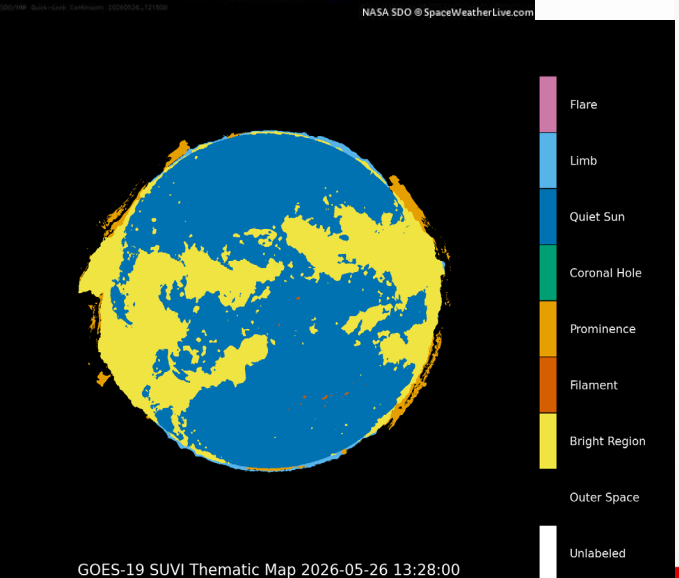




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/26	5/27
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels today with an increasing chance for an M-class flare driven by sunspot region #4447. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will remain near ambient levels through today. Weak enhancements are expected tomorrow and Thursday with the arrival of Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. Geomagnetic field activity will also remain quiet before unsettled levels return late 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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