



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, May 27, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@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	Caleb Pitts	(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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Jackson AL	Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Tour Travel
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Suwannee, Hamilton	Pre Hurricane Season Stakeholders Meeting / County EM Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange, Seminole	Capabilities Assesment / EMPA & EMPG Grants Monitoring Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	POD Course
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Highlands	County EM Summit
Region 8: Amber Durden	Orange	Capabilities Assessment
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Task Force 6 Hazmat Exercise
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA Meeting



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	BOAF Meeting / Response On Call Reg 1
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Bradford	LTRG / COAD Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Regional Quarterly Prep
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	N/A	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	LEPC 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	North Miami TTX

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

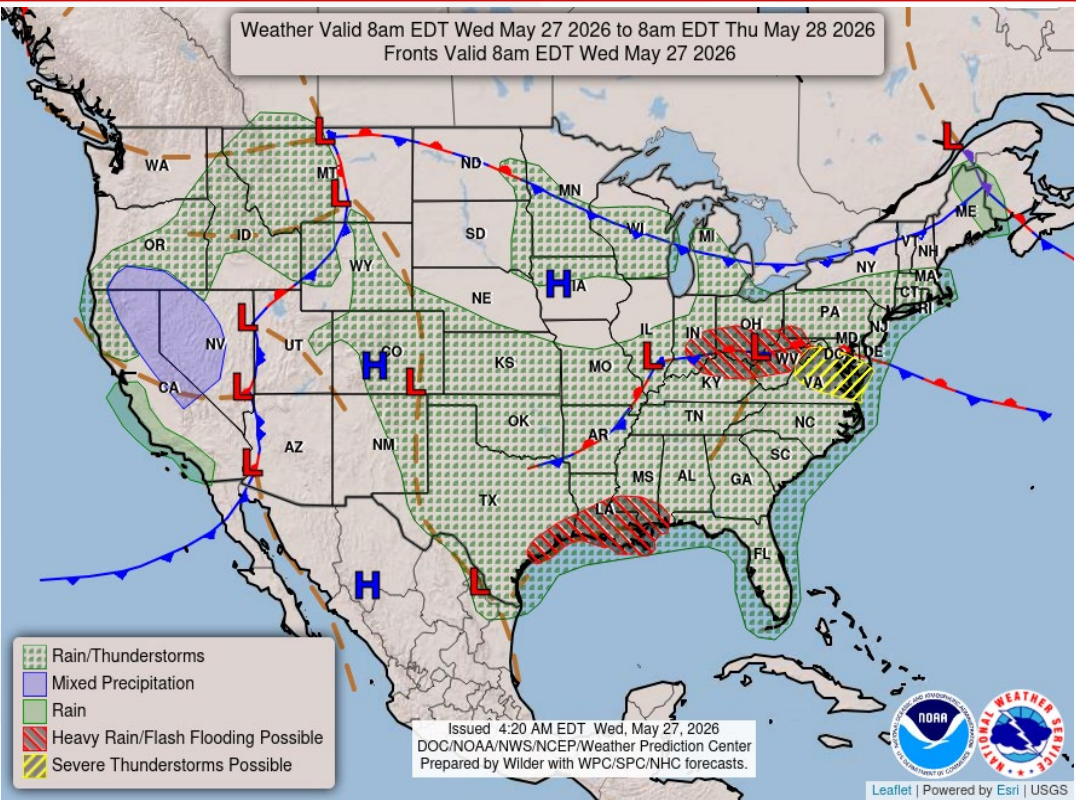
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

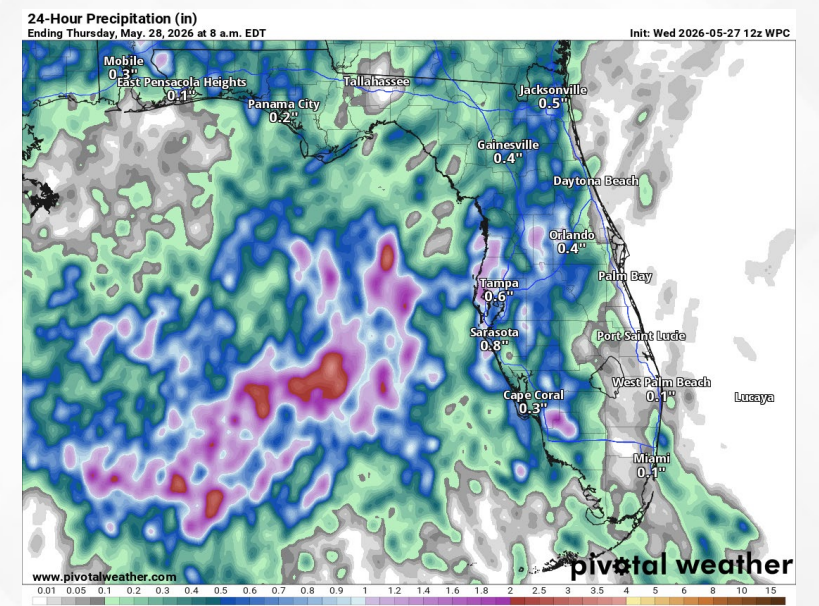
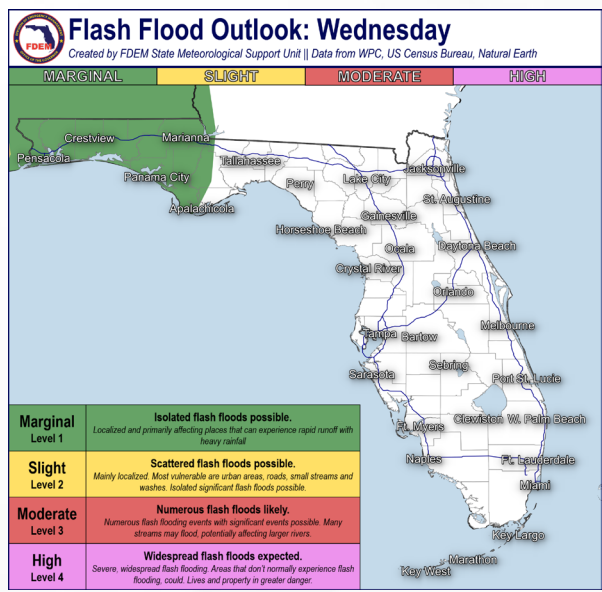


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	L	M	M	L	M	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Extreme Heat				L	L	L	L		L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire								L		L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	M		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.20 ft. (1.94 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	401 (-21) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





# Meteorology Summary

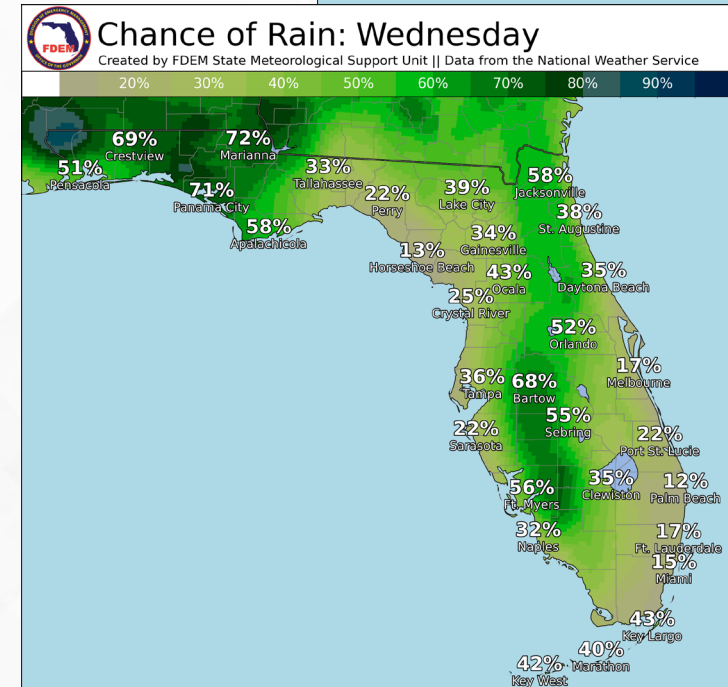
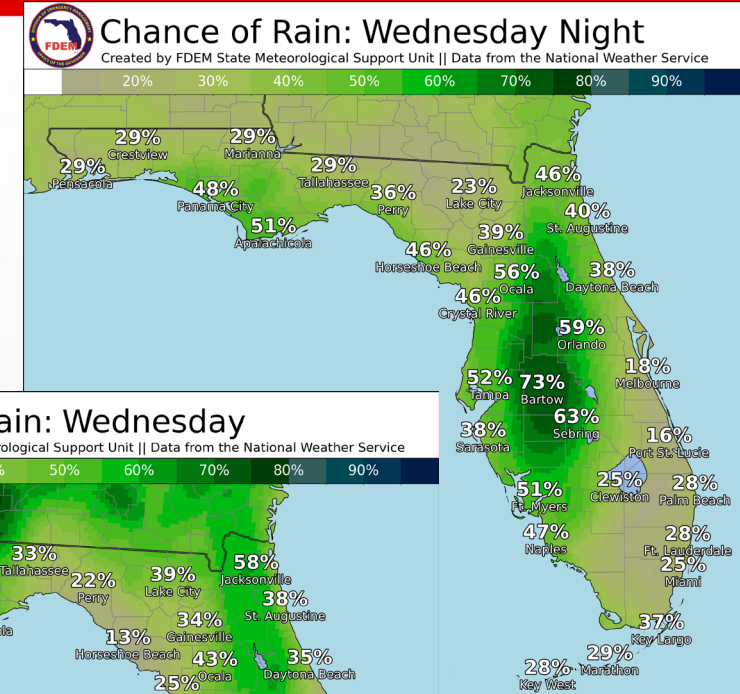
## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Enhanced southerly flow between the Atlantic ridge to our east and an upper-level disturbance to our west is continuing to bring a richly moist airmass over the state. A swath of showers and thunderstorms embedded in this flow are currently pushing onshore into the Western Panhandle – a regions that has already seen multiple inches of rain and isolated incidences of flash flooding over the past few days. Additionally, continued rounds of showers and storms are expected for the Panhandle, where a high (70-80%) chance of rain is expected for the rest of the day. With this, the Weather Prediction Center has outlooked a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Excessive Rainfall** today for Panhandle counties west of Leon/Wakulla. Forecast rainfall amounts in the Panhandle should generally max out at around 1-2”, but some isolated areas of **2-4” cannot be ruled out**, especially within any training storms that develop. Any of these storms could also become **locally strong** and capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds (40-50 mph).

Elsewhere, the Central/Northern I-75 corridor will be another hotspot for rain chances today (40-60%). These storms will likely be scattered in nature and generally follow a more typical sea breeze driven regime. 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** in the Peninsula.

Shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to linger well past sunset tonight along the I-75 corridor and across the Coastal Panhandle before eventually waning around midnight (50-70% 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](http://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.

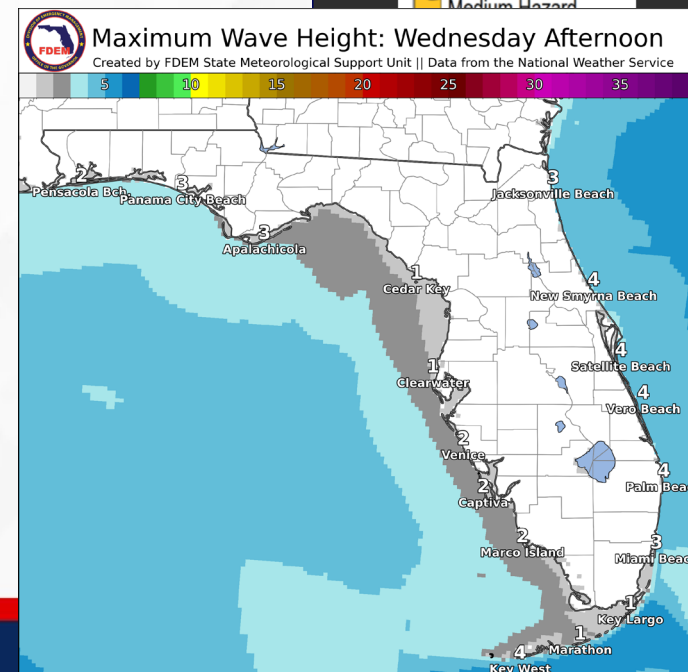
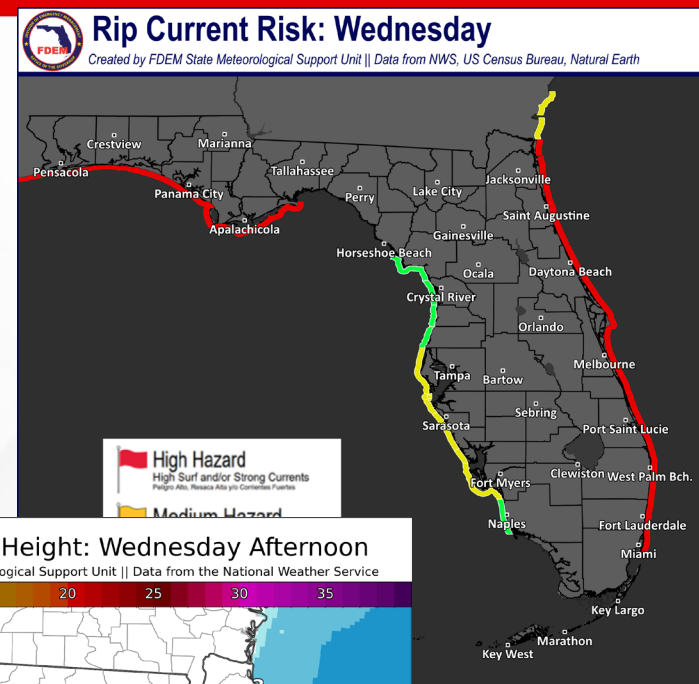
**Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) of Excessive Rainfall** is outlooked across the Western Panhandle today for additional rounds of heavy rainfall that may lead to **flash flooding** on already saturated soils. Rainfall amounts will measure around 1-2" for most locations, however locally higher totals **upwards of 2-4" 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 11.20 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.94 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



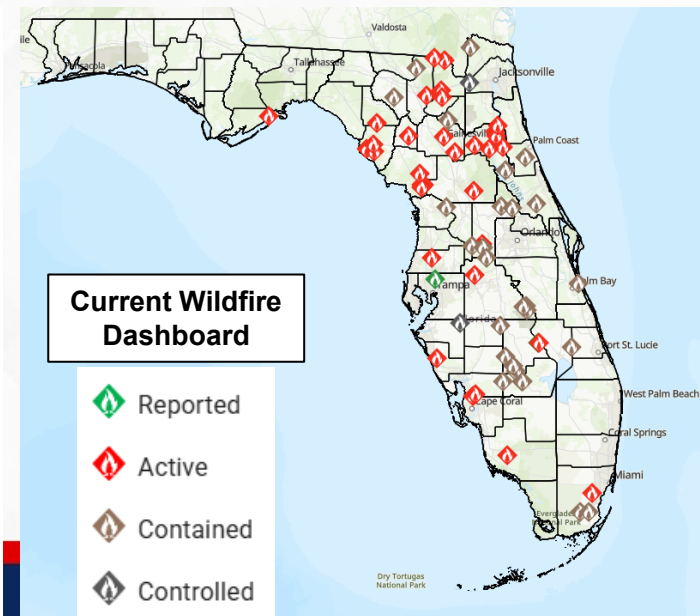
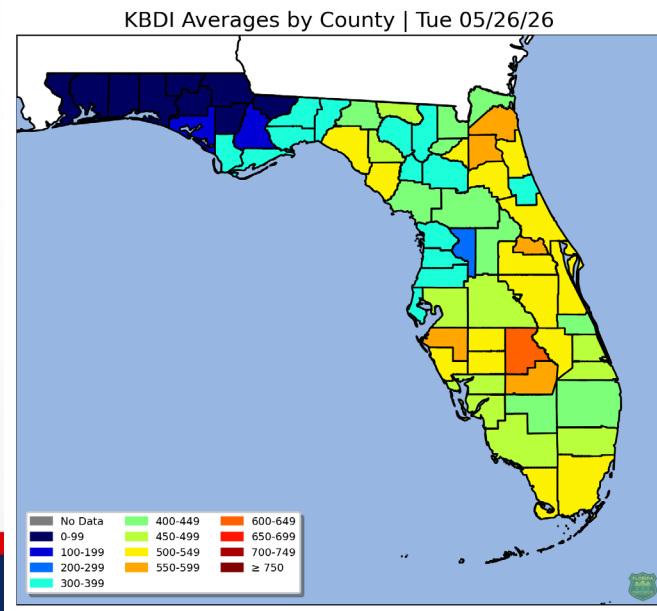
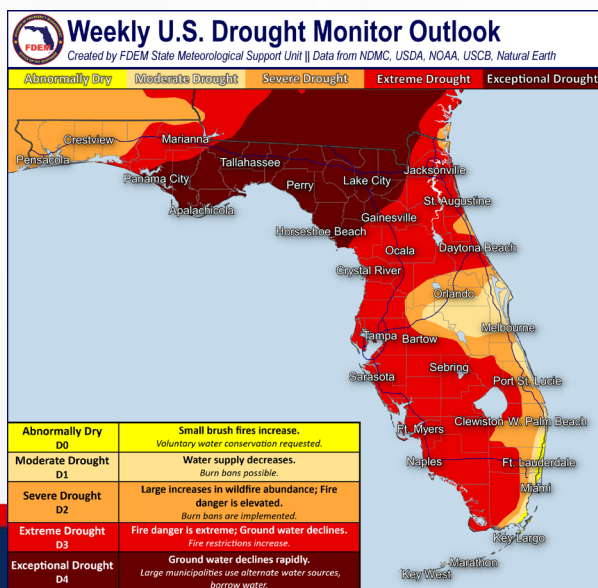


# Drought & Fire Weather

**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 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 66 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17880 acres.

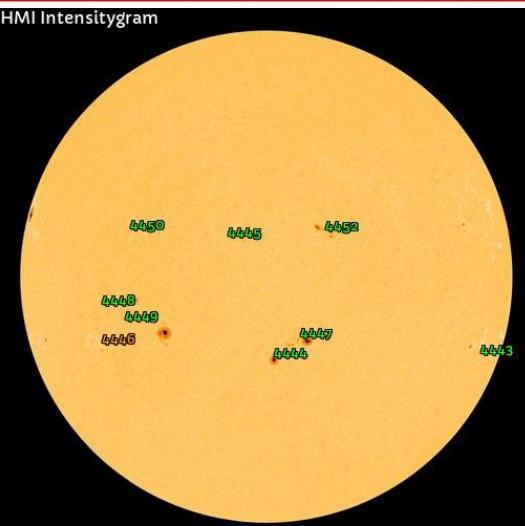
**Drought (5/19/26):** Some slight improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though most were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 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, widespread showers and thunderstorms resulting in above-normal rainfall amounts may bring localized drought relief and gradual categorical improvements.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **401 (-21)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **21 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

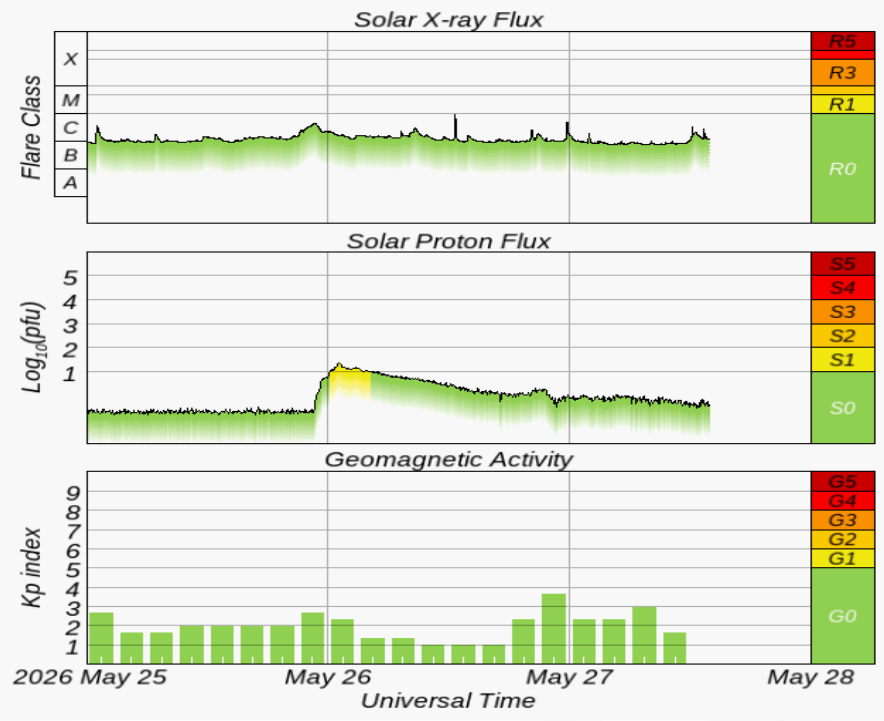




# Space Weather



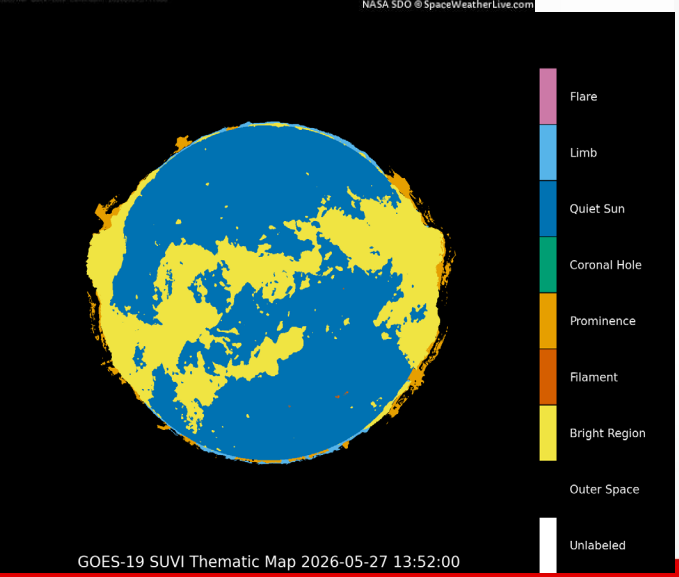
Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/27	5/28
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels today with a chance for an isolated M-class flare driven by various sunspot regions. Any M-class flares that do develop will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will be enhanced today and tomorrow with the arrival of weak Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. Geomagnetic field activity will also increase to unsettled to active levels today and tomorrow. The overall space weather threat to Florida is very low.



GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-05-27 13:52:00



# 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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