



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, May 28, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Scott Shafer	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(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	Jackson AL	Bellefonte Nuclear System Orientation & Plant Tour
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gadsden	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	RDSTF Meeting / Region 4 Quarterly Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	EM Meeting / FTEM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	SERT Call / Reunification Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Vehicle Maintenance / EMPA & EMPG Grants Desktop Monitoring / RC Mtg
Region 8: Amber Durden	Martin	County T&E Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Task Force 6 Hazmat Exercise / RC Meeting / FGCU Exercise Planning Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward, Miami-Dade	City of Hollywood Hurricane Workshop / Transportation Meeting



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington	EM Meeting/Reports/ On call/Reg 1 on call Response
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Duval	RDSTF Meeting/ Regional Quaterly Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Regional Quaterly Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Hillsborough	Instructing
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	FLEX instructor Training/ Recovery Coordinator 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	CORE/VOAD Meeting

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

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

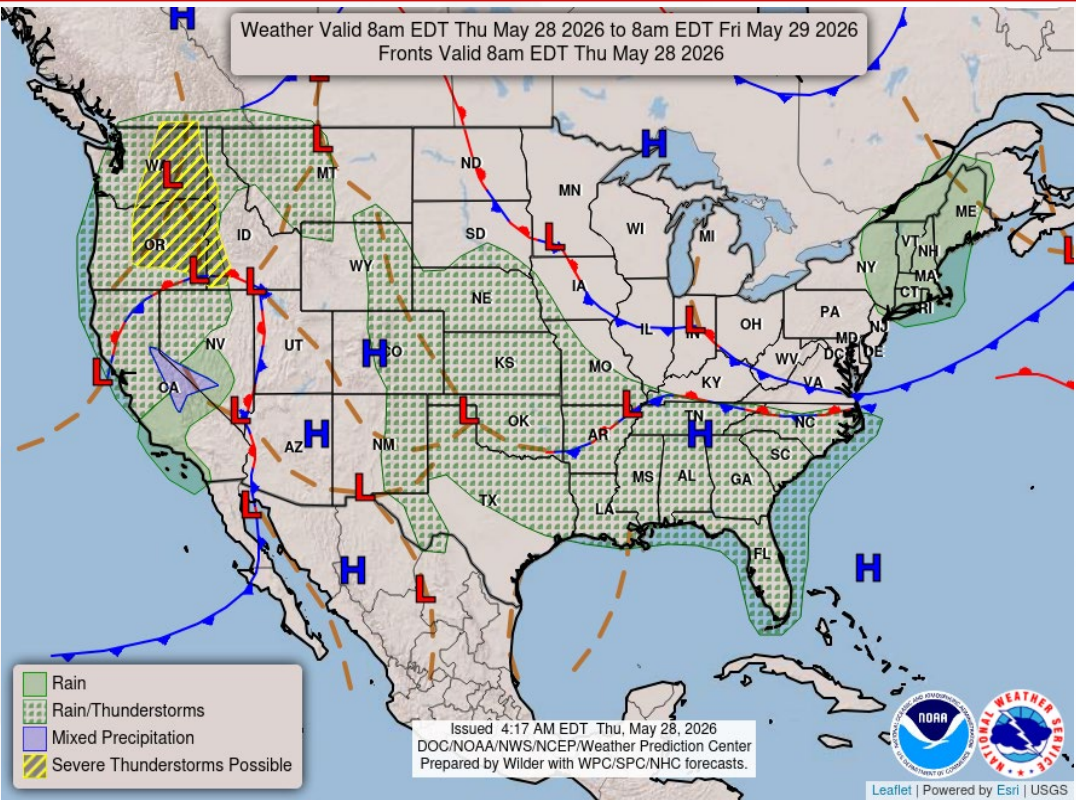
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

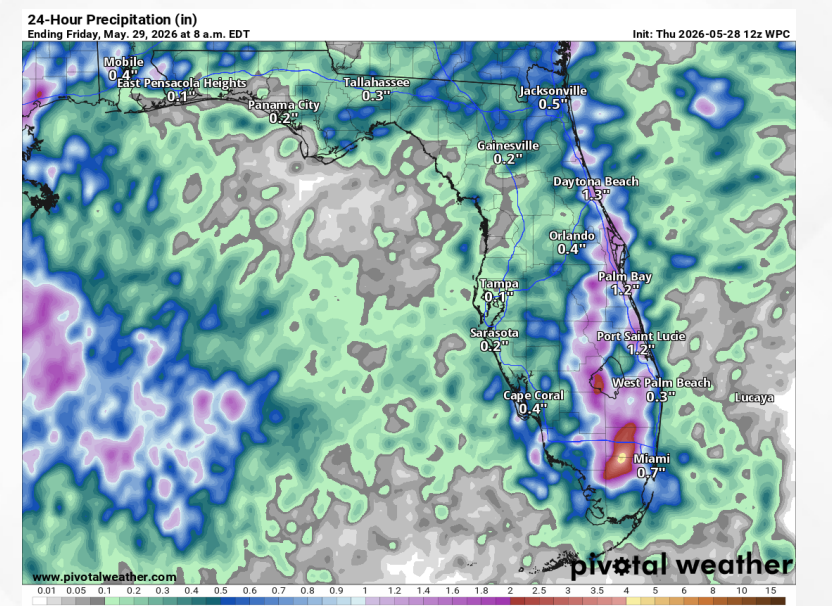
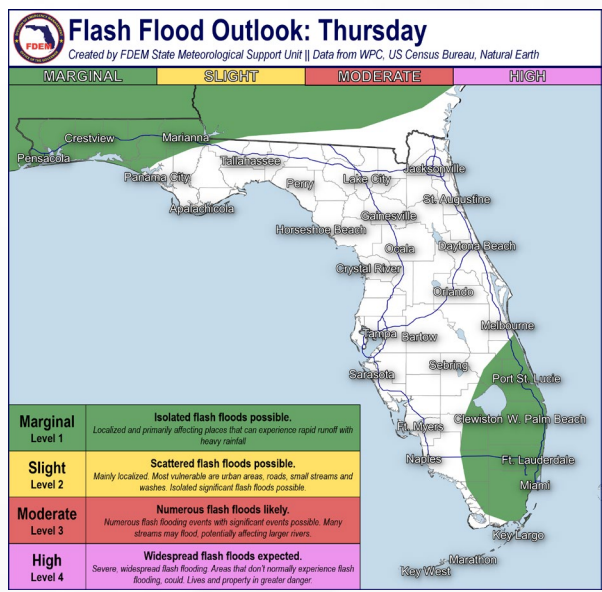


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	M	M	H	M	H	H	M	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L						L	L	L
Extreme Heat							L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L						
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.17 ft. (1.97 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	397 (-4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

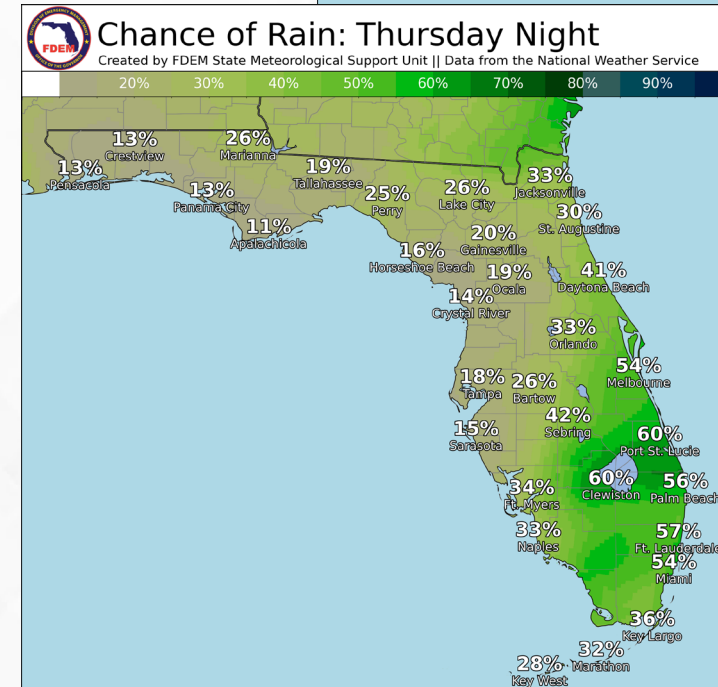
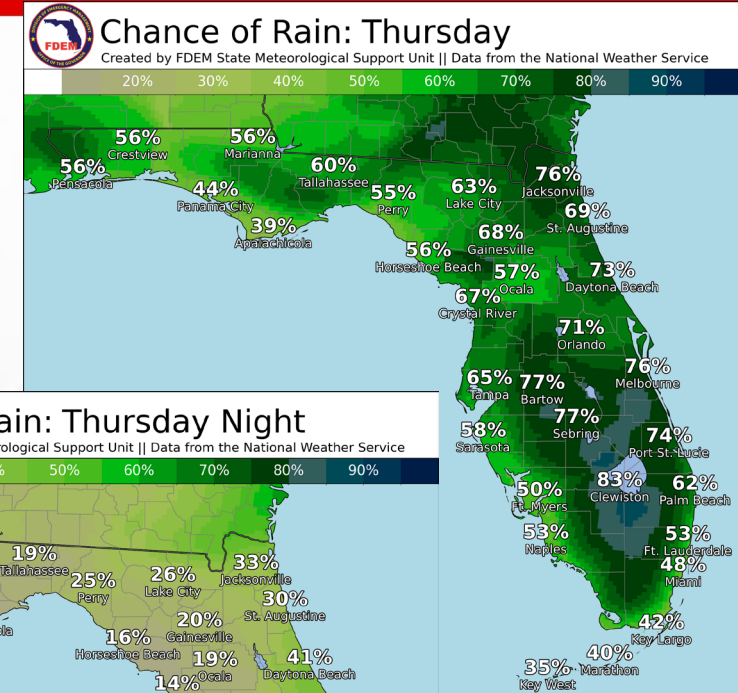
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

High pressure over the western Atlantic will nudge just a bit further east today as an upper-level disturbance remains across the lower Mississippi River Valley. This will keep the enhanced southerly flow across the state, though turn it more out of the southwest this afternoon. As a result, even deeper tropical moisture will get pulled northward from the Gulf across the entire state today with scattered showers and thunderstorms developing along the sea breezes statewide (50-80% chance of rain). With this southwesterly flow, the Gulf sea breeze will push inland today and collide with the Atlantic sea breeze near the spine of the Peninsula. This will focus the highest rain chances through the Central Peninsula and eastward towards the I-95 corridor where a few **locally strong storms** cannot be ruled out, capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds (40-50 mph). The Florida Keys and coastal Panhandle will see the lowest chances of rain today (35-45%).

A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the western Panhandle, a region that has already seen multiple inches of rain and isolated instances of flash flooding over the past few days, and the Southeast Florida corridor today. Any areas that receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours** or **training thunderstorms** could experience **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations. Forecast rainfall amounts are expected to remain around 1-2" for most locations, though locally higher amounts **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out.

High temperatures will remain mostly in the 80s statewide today with partly to mostly cloudy skies and plentiful rainfall. However, peeks of sunshine may bring temperatures into the lower 90s across the interior Peninsula. **Hot and muggy conditions** are expected statewide regardless as humidity increases. Feels-like temperatures will approach the **middle to upper 90s** throughout Central and South Florida this afternoon.

Shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to linger well past sunset tonight across East-Central and Southeast Florida before eventually waning or pushing offshore around midnight (40-60% chance of rain). A few isolated showers cannot be ruled out elsewhere across the state overnight as well (15-25% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the 70s to lower 80s throughout the state. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop along the I-10 corridor overnight and towards daybreak on Friday, some of which could become **locally dense**.





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 will return to all West Coast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will diminish a bit along the East Coast and Panhandle today, with waves near **2-3'** expected. Surf near 1' is expected for West Coast beaches.

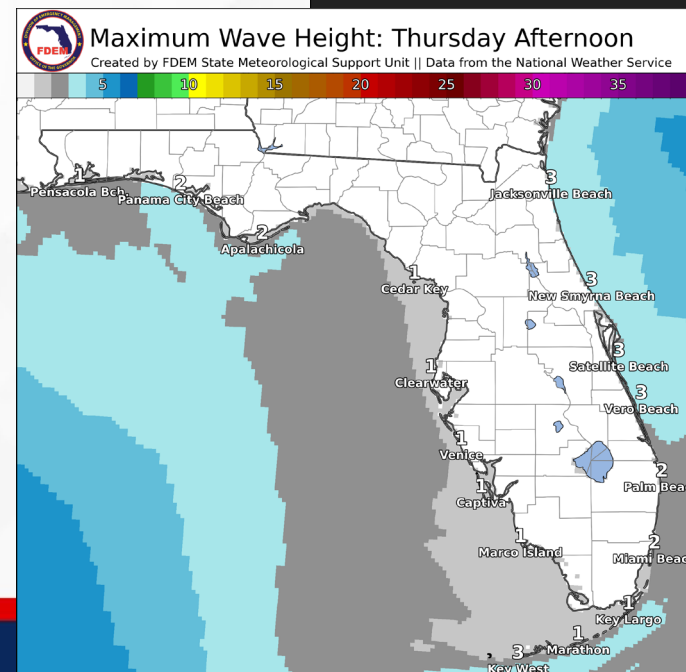
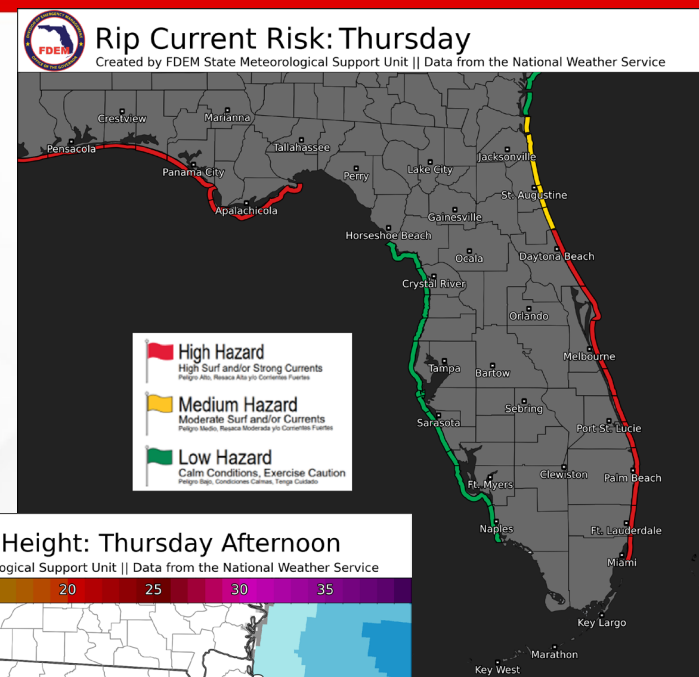
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the western Panhandle and Southeast Florida today for additional rounds of heavy rainfall that may lead to **nuisance flooding** and **ponding of water**. Across the Panhandle, already saturated soils may lead to isolated instances of **flash flooding**. Rainfall amounts will measure around 1-2" for most locations, however locally higher totals **upwards of 3-5" or more** cannot be ruled out. Although there is no organized risk for flash flooding throughout the remainder of the state, **locally heavy downpours** may lead to **nuisance flooding**, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations.

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 [Escambia River near Century](#), [Shoal River near Crestview](#), [Bear Creek at US 231](#), and [Bruce Creek near Redbay](#). These streams are expected to remain in Action Stage through the end of the week, at least. Additional riverine responses into Action Stage are expected today and through the end of the week 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 11.17 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.97 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



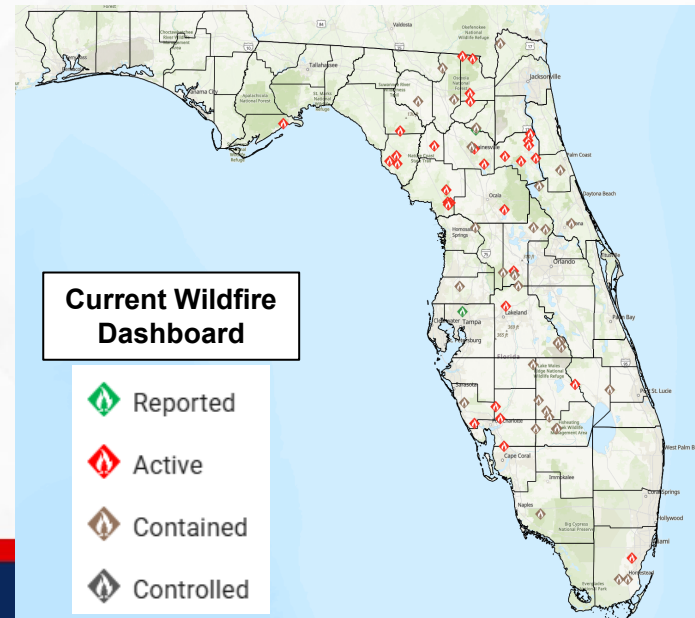
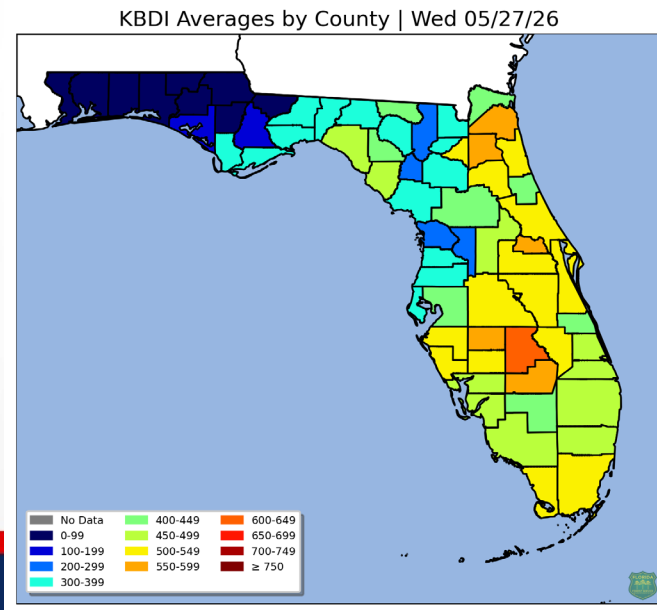
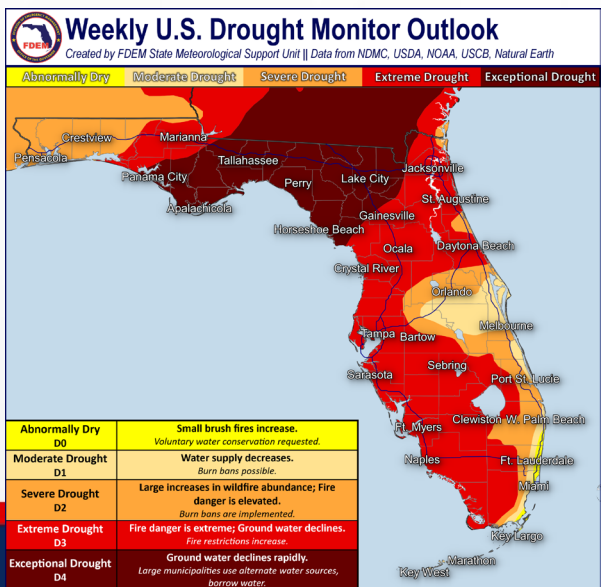


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather threat is low today due to increasing humidity values and rain chances. As winds shift out of the southwest today, rain chances will increase statewide with winds diminishing from previous days. Still, the threat of thunderstorms with lightning and brief gusty/erratic winds may spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones, especially in any areas that have seen little rainfall in recent days. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 66 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,998 acres.

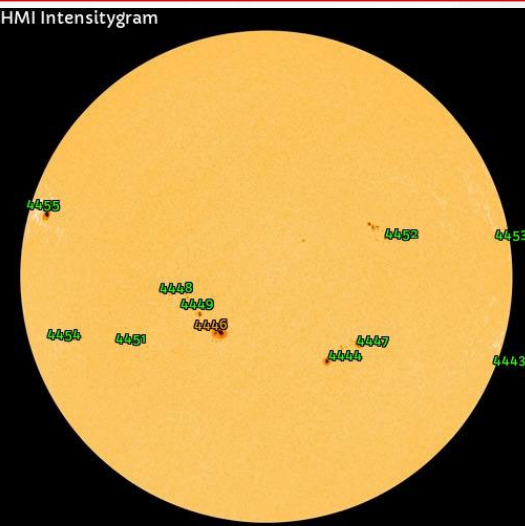
Drought (5/19/26): Some slight improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the state, though most were very localized in nature. Across the western Panhandle, all of the remaining extreme drought has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** given rainfall of 2-3 inches 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 **397 (-4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **20 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

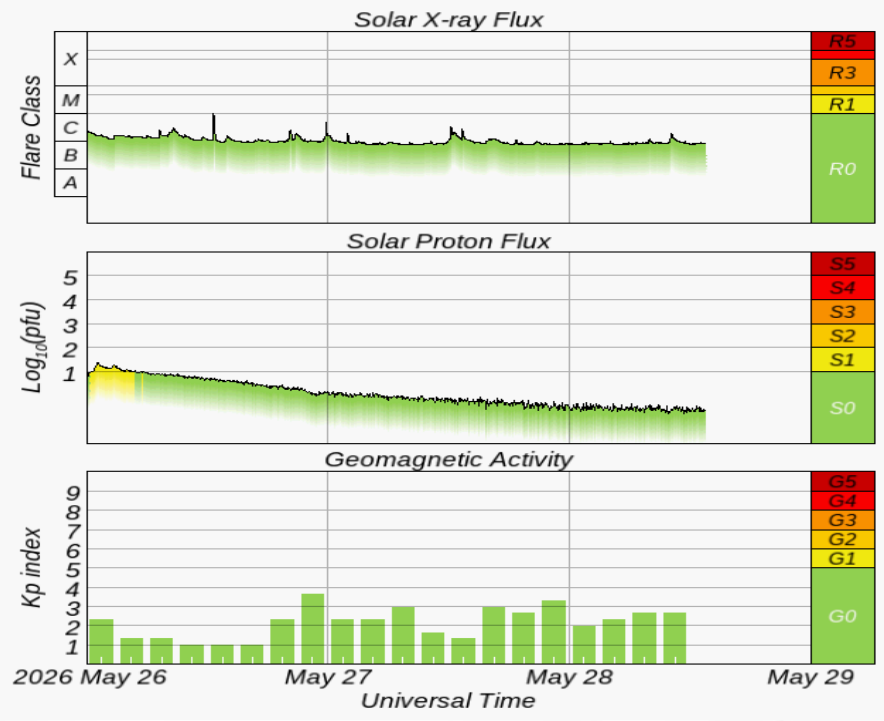
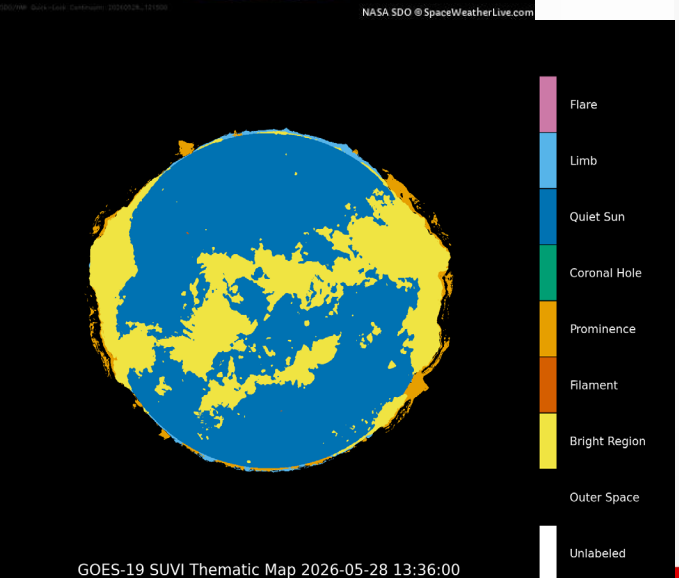




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/28	5/29
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% 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, with isolated active periods possible. 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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