



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 29, 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, Gadsden	Travel Back to Region 1
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Wakulla	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Suwannee	LSA Site Assessment
Region 4: Tara Kostich	St. Johns	SRT Capabilities Assessment (St. Johns County SO)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas	Hospital Readiness Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Offboarding
Region 8: Amber Durden	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Charlotte & Hendry EMPA & EMPG Grants Desktop Monitoring / Peregrine Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Monroe	Hurricane Exercise

Region 5 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6 & 9
 Region 8 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Admin/ Reports/ On Call RC1
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon / Taylor	HQ Visit /PA Follow up
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Volusia	LMS Meetin
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Sarasota	Hurricane Expo
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	Broward	Eye of the Storm Event

Region 2 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 4 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 3

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

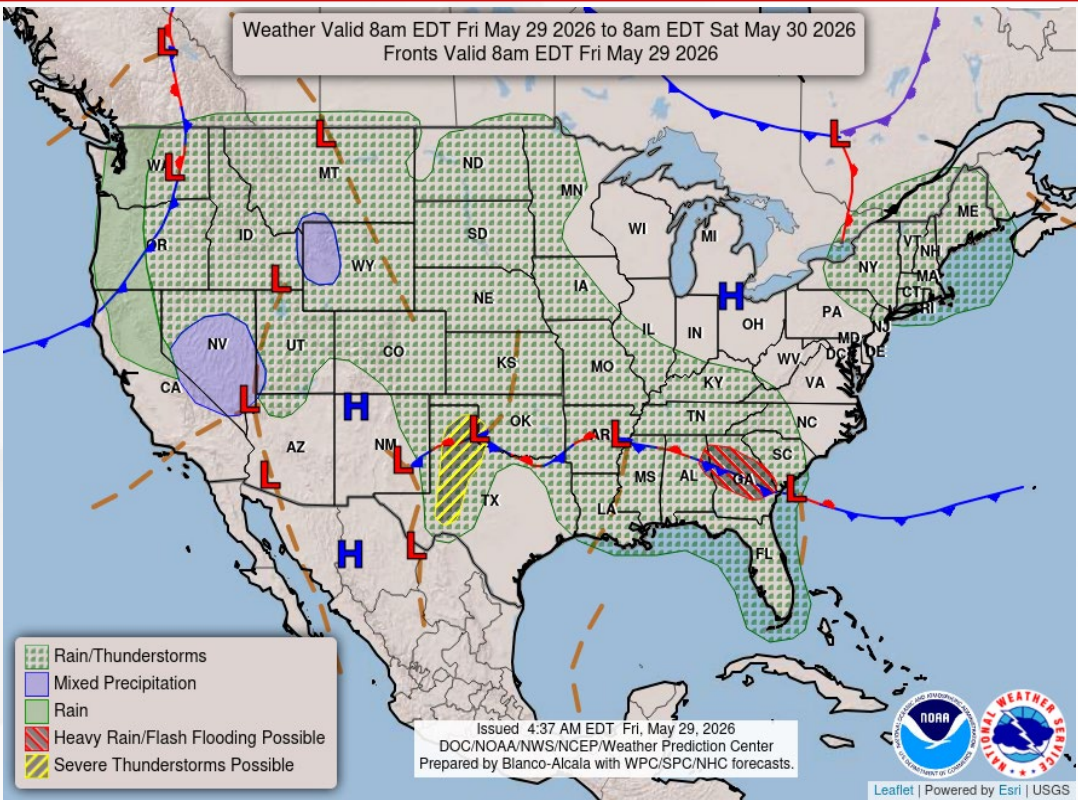
Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

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

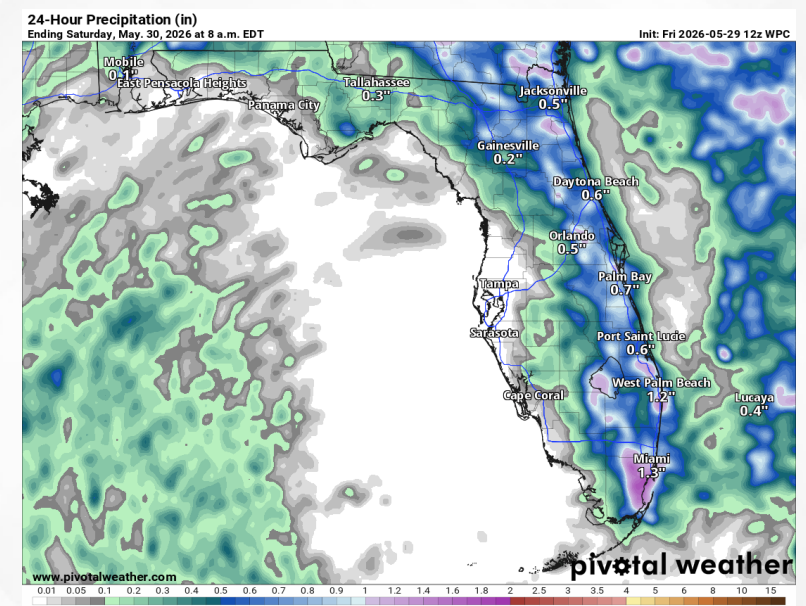
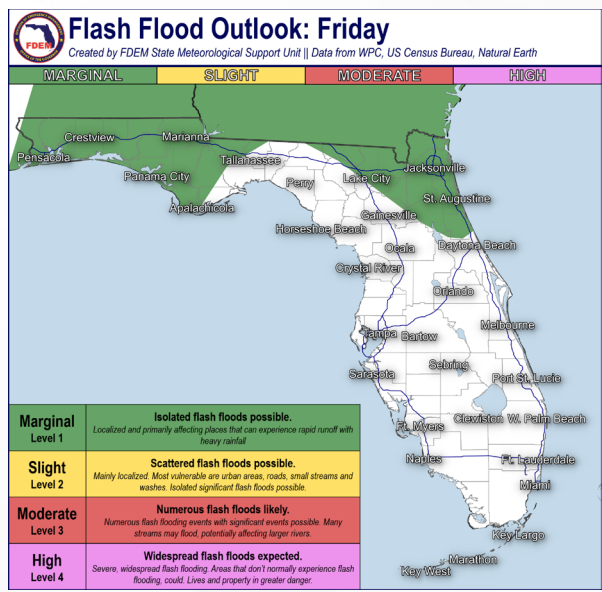


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M	H
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L						
Extreme Heat			L					L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L						
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.16 ft. (1.98 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	384 (-13) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

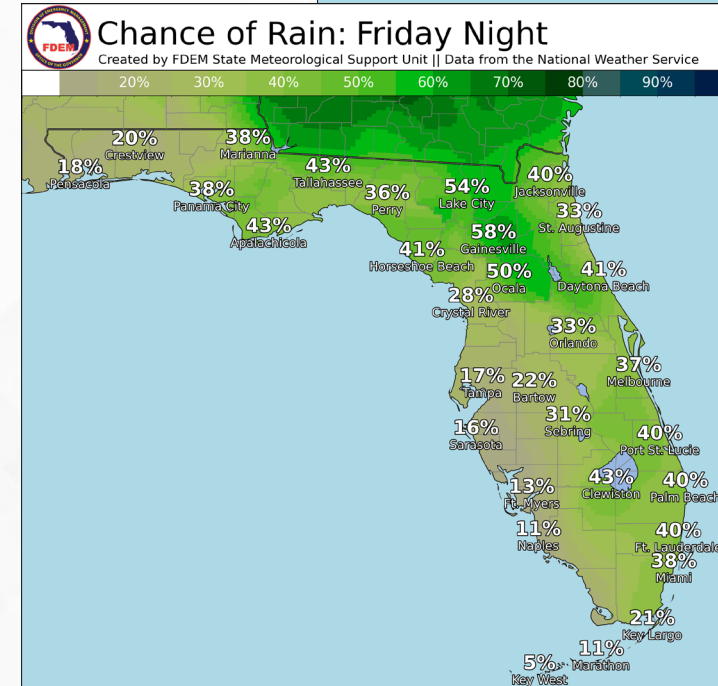
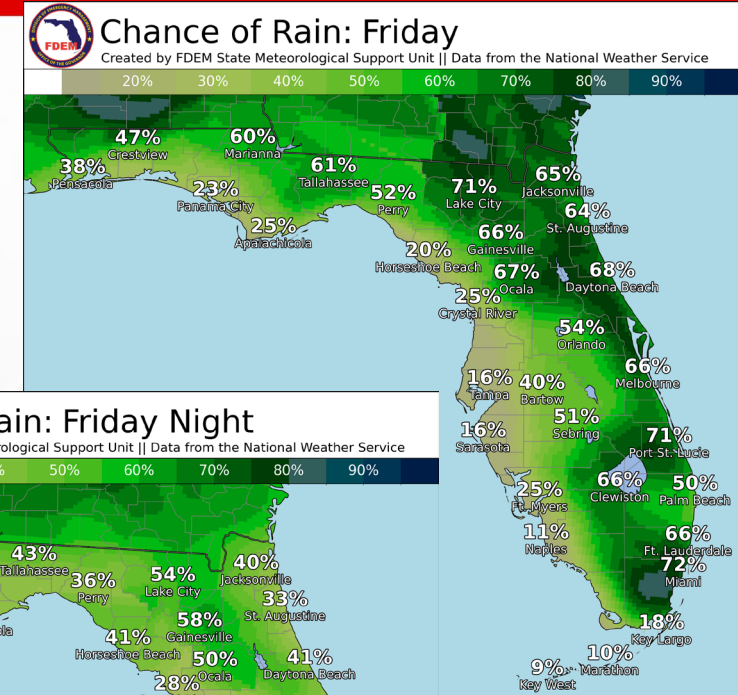
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

The state of Florida is positioned between a large upper-level disturbance over the Northeast U.S. that is diving southeastward over the open Atlantic and a weak ridge axis to the south over the Western Caribbean. The resulting surface flow between these two features will generally be southwesterly to westerly across the state. This flow regime will favor inland Panhandle locations and the East Coast for today's shower and thunderstorm activity. With the deeply moist tropical airmass still firmly overtop the state, there is a high (50-80%) chance of showers and storms for these locations. In particular, the East Coast is likely to see the greatest coverage and intensity of activity today as westerly flow will push the West Coast sea breeze inland where it may collide with the pinned East Coast sea breeze and promote enhanced thunderstorm growth. A few **locally strong storms** cannot be ruled out, capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds (40-50 mph). Coastal Panhandle, West Coast, and Florida Keys locations will see the lowest chances of rain today (<30%).

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 across Northeast 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 in the upper 80 to **lower 90s** statewide today with partly to mostly cloudy skies and plentiful rainfall. **Hot and muggy conditions** are expected statewide regardless as high humidity values remain. Feels-like temperatures will approach the **middle to upper 90s** throughout much of the state, with a few isolated locations likely **approaching or exceeding 100 degrees**.

Shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to linger well past sunset tonight across North-Central Florida and the East Coast 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 **high risk for rip currents** for all Panhandle beaches today. A **moderate risk** for rip currents is in effect for Northern and Central East Coast beaches. A low risk will return to all West Coast and Southeast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

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

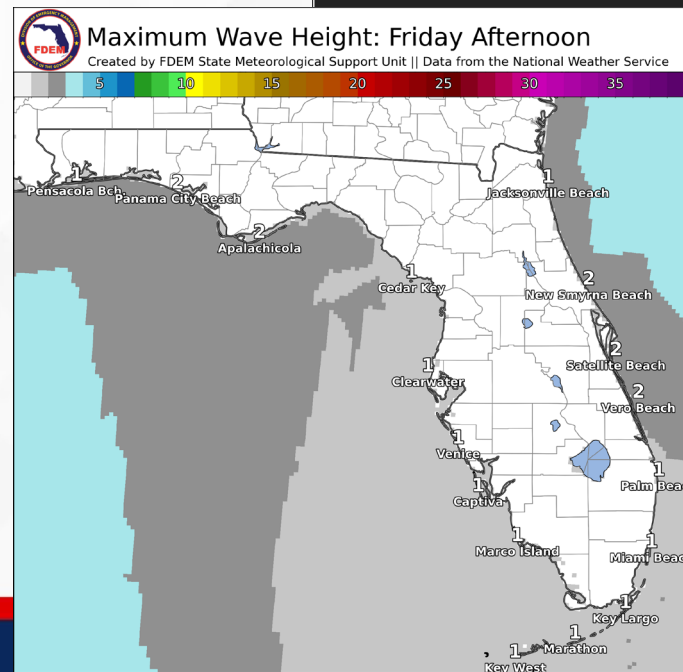
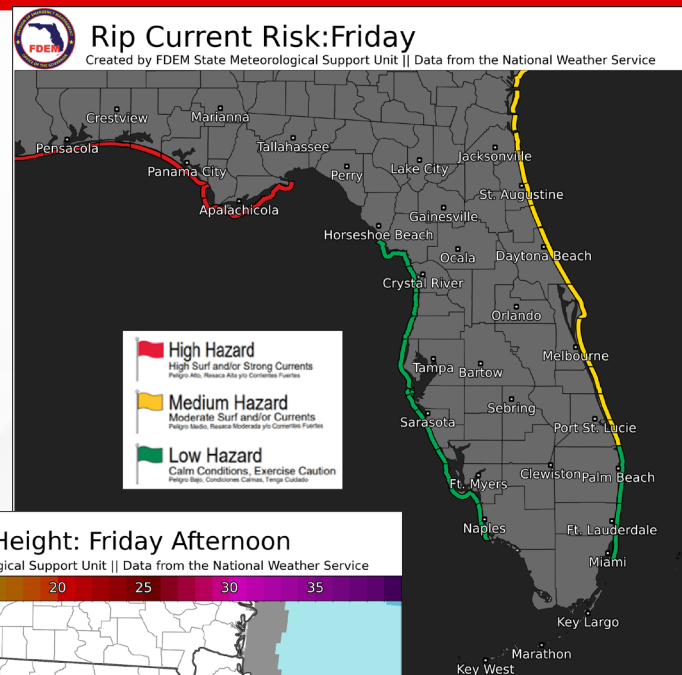
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations in Bay County. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 5/22/26).

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, a region that has already seen multiple inches of rain and isolated instances of flash flooding over the past few days, and across Northeast 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.

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](#), [Big Coldwater Creek near Milton](#), and the [Blackwater River near Baker](#). 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 11.16 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.98 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



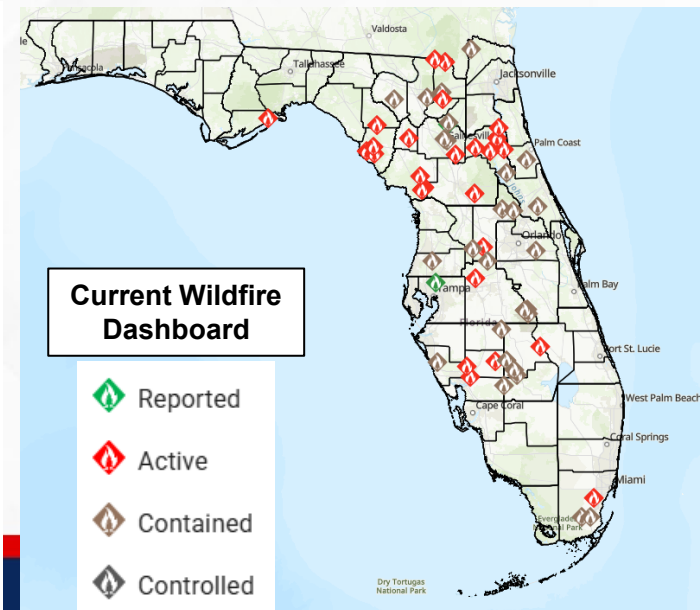
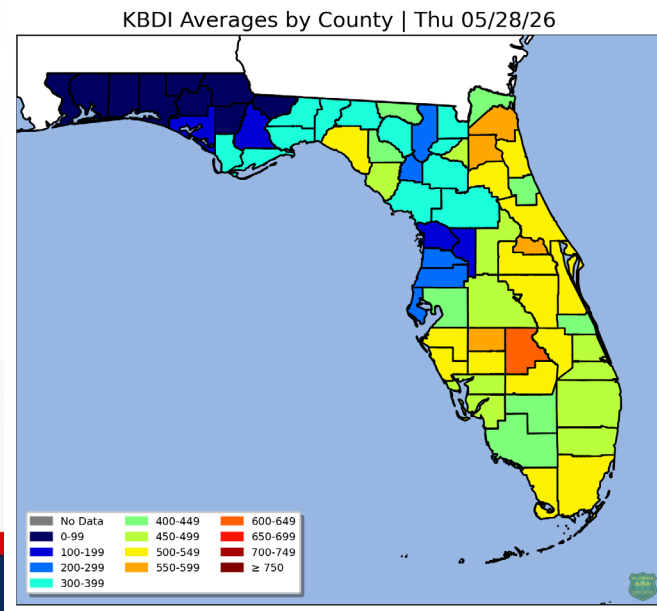
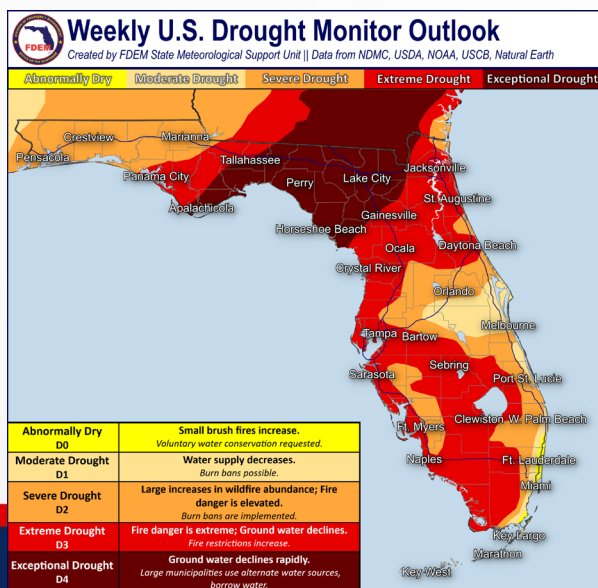


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather threat is low today due to high humidity values and rain chances. Winds shift southwesterly to westerly today, focusing rain chances to the Panhandle and the East Coast. Wind gusts will generally be limited to <15mph today. 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 57 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,900 acres.

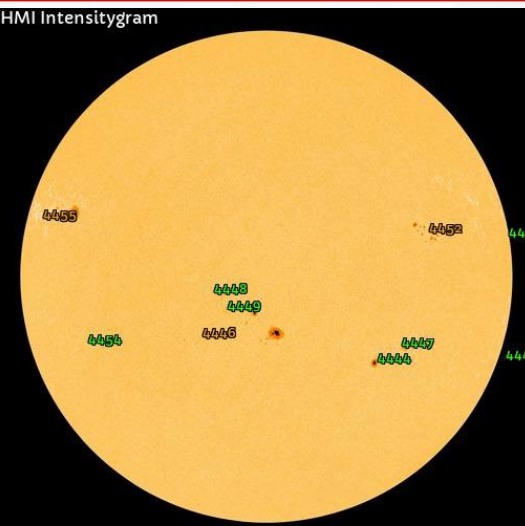
Drought (5/26/26): Localized categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Western Panhandle and portions of Southwest and Central Florida. In the Panhandle where the highest rainfall totals (4-6") were observed last week, the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** was reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** for Bay, Calhoun and Gadsen, and eastern Gulf, Liberty, and Franklin counties. In addition, the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** was reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** for Walton, Washington, Holmes, and Jackson counties, as well as portions of eastern Bay, Calhoun, and Gadsen counties. The **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** throughout the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley was left untouched following much lower observed rainfall totals last week. Elsewhere, the large area of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** in place along the West Coast and Southwest Florida was relatively unchanged except for some small reductions to the **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** along the Southern I-75 corridor and portions of Hillsborough, Pasco, Sumter, and Lake Counties. The 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 17% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an exceptional drought - a 5% reduction in exceptional drought coverage compared to last week. Looking ahead, widespread showers and thunderstorms resulting in above-normal rainfall amounts should bring localized drought relief and gradual categorical improvements.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **384 (-13)** 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).

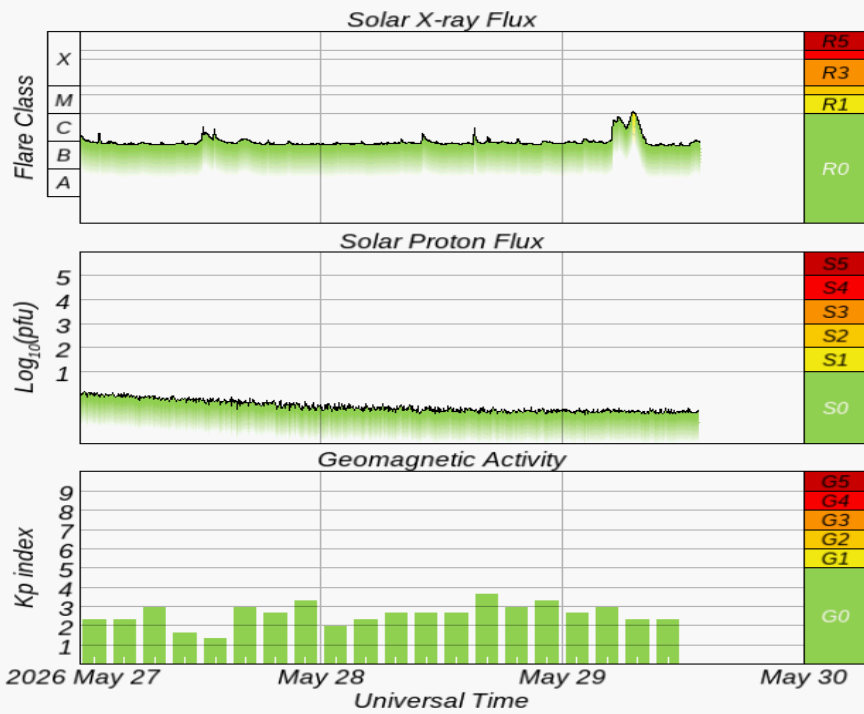
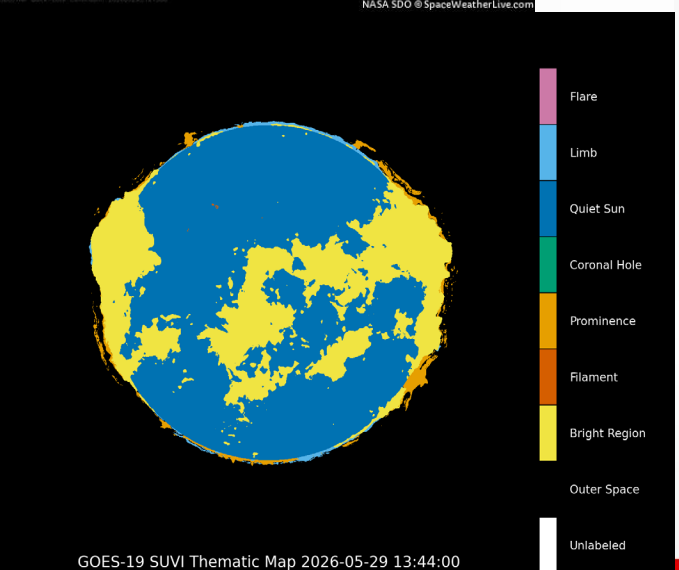




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/29	5/30
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (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 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 be at quiet to unsettled levels today and tomorrow with only an isolated chance for an active period. 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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