



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, June 18, 2026



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2: Partial Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@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	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	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	Okaloosa	Response All Hands / NWS Tallahassee Weekly Mtg / RDSTF Mtg
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty	Region 2 Quarterly Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response All Hands / FCC Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lake	Region 5 Quarterly Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Leon, Hillsborough	Response All Hands / Travel to Region 6
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Manatee, Sarasota	Fiscally Constrained County Mtg / Higher Ed EM Group Mtg / RC Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Quarry 2 Wildfire Support / FIFA Mtg

Region 4 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 6 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 9
 Region 8 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 5

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton / Okaloosa	FCC Meeting / RDSTF
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Liberty	Regional Quarterly Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia / Alachua	FCC Meeting / City of Gainesville
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Columbia	FCCN Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Lake	Regional Quarterly Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Columbia	Fiscally Constrained County Network Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 10: Brian Lee	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)

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

Region 8 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 5 & 10

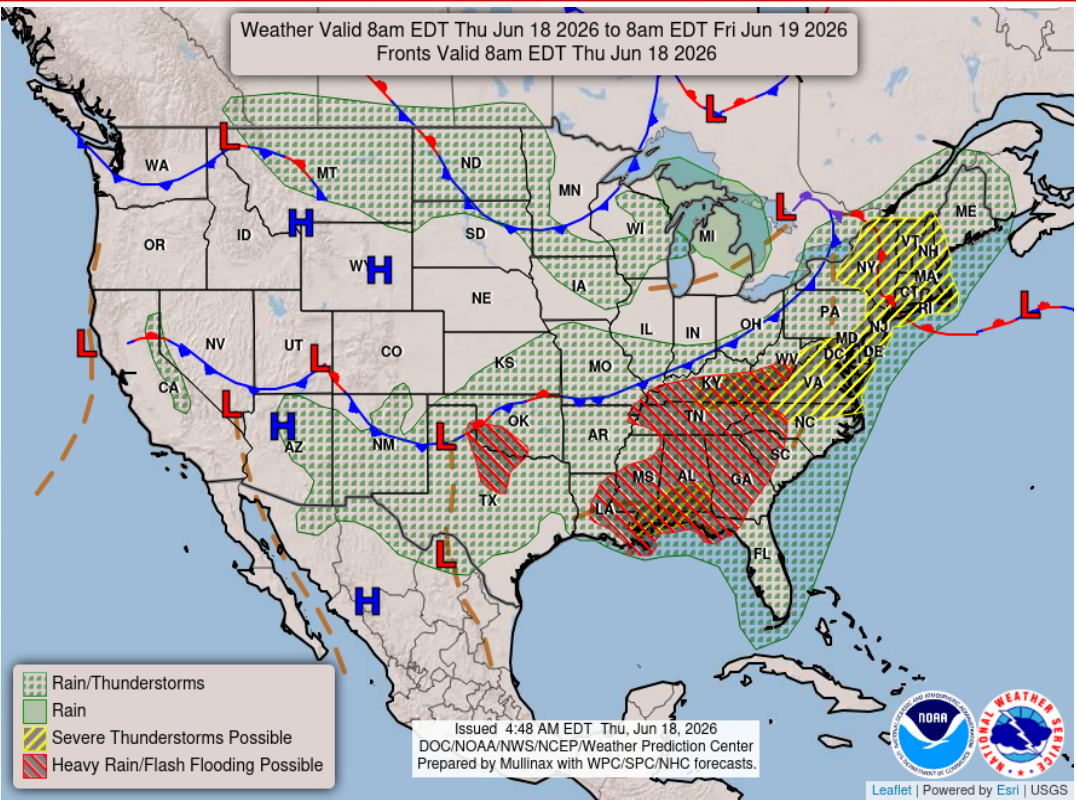
Region 9 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6 & Recovery RC Supervisor

Region 10 Coverage Provided By Recovery Coordinator 6

Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable

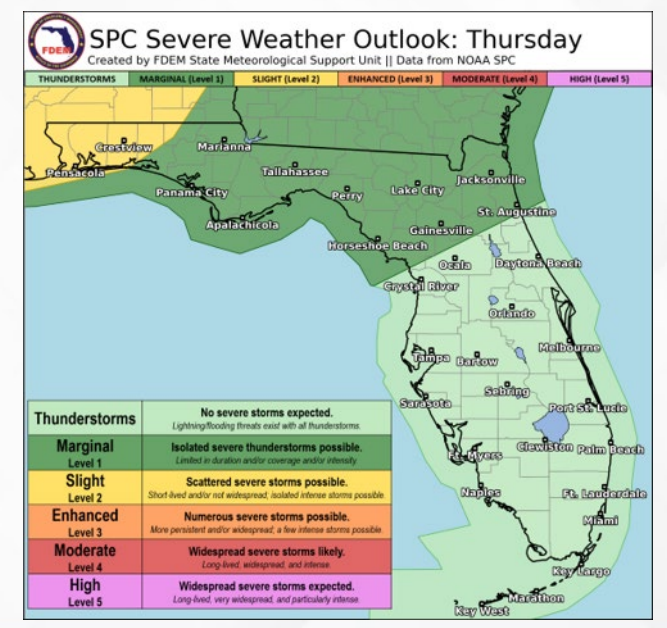
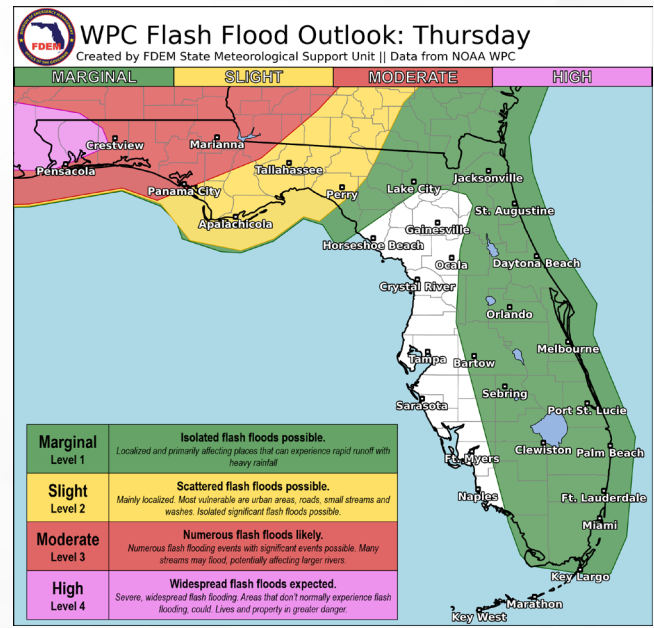


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	H	M	L	M	M	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado	M	L								
Damaging Wind	L	L	L	L						
Hail										
Flash Flooding	H	H	M	L	L		L	L	L	L
Extreme Heat					M	M	M	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire					L	L				
Rip Currents	H	H	M	L	M	H		M	H	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.07 ft. (2.12 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	374 (-37) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





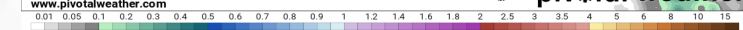
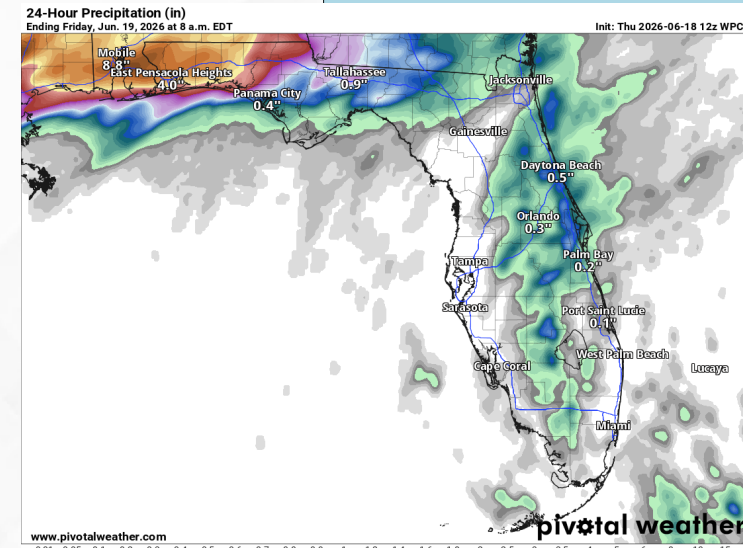
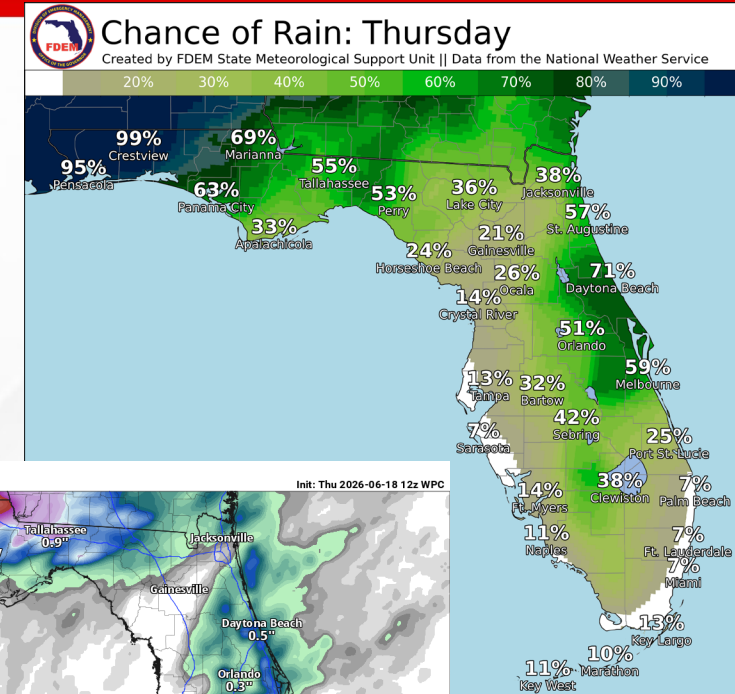
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

All attention immediately shifts to the Florida Panhandle as we are monitoring the potential for **considerable to catastrophic flooding** across the Western Panhandle. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a rare **High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across portions of the Central Gulf Coast, including Escambia, Santa Rosa, and western Okaloosa Counties. Elsewhere, a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4)** remains in effect for the Central Panhandle, and a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** remains for the Eastern Panhandle and portions of North-Central Florida. Remnants of former Tropical Storm Arthur are currently swinging northeastward across the Deep South, with its associated moisture plume and rainfall shield already producing very heavy rainfall rates across the Central Gulf Coast. This shield of rainfall will continue spreading northeastward throughout the late morning and early afternoon hours. By the afternoon, daytime heating will lead to sufficient destabilization and the development of scattered to widespread thunderstorms across much of the Panhandle. There is a real concern with this afternoon's storm development that 1-2 training/back-building bands of very heavy rainfall may set up. Should this occur, the areas that are impacted by these storm complexes will very likely see the highest rainfall accumulations. To reflect today's threat, a **Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) Flood Watch** is in effect for our western Panhandle counties where the heaviest rainfall is expected. An additional **Flood Watch** is in effect for the central and eastern Panhandle counties. Rainfall amounts through tonight will generally add up to 1-2" throughout the eastern Panhandle and **3-5"** across the central and western Panhandle. Localized amounts **upwards of 5-8" or more** may occur in areas that see training thunderstorms and repeated rounds of heavy rain.

In addition to the heavy rainfall potential, unseasonably strong shear and seasonable instability will promote the risk for isolated severe weather with many of today's storms. The primary hazards will be isolated damaging winds (40-60mph) and a few tornadoes. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) has outlooked a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the western Panhandle today, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** outlooked throughout the remainder of North Florida.

Across the southern half of the state, surface high pressure will result in **very hot and humid** conditions – potentially some of the hottest of the year so far. Heat indexes will be in the **middle to upper 100s** for most of the peninsula. A **Heat Advisory** is in effect for the entire Florida Peninsula south of Ocala. The Peninsula will be largely dry today, with today's activity largely confined to the interior and central portions of the state. Expectedly, rainfall will remain across the Panhandle tonight, as moisture interacts with the approaching cold front and continues to promote **heavy rainfall and flash flooding**. Any lingering within the Peninsula will dissipate or move offshore by midnight (20-50% chance of rain). Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide overnight.





Tropical Weather

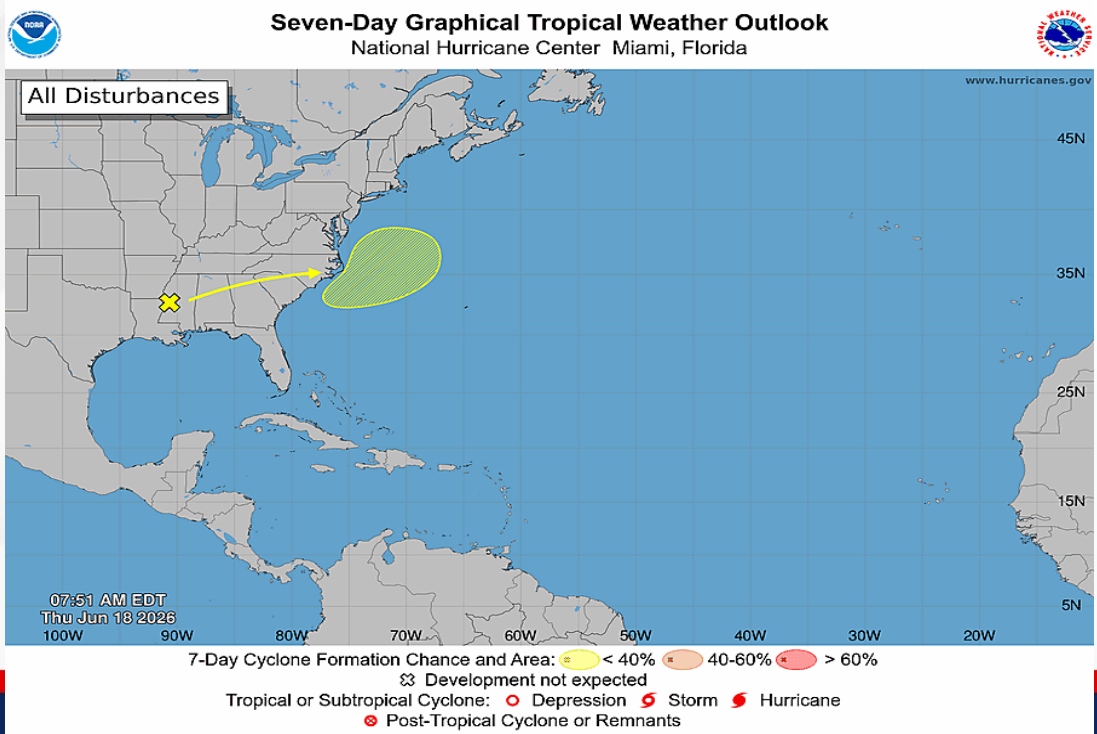
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Offshore East Coast of the United States (Remnants of Arthur):

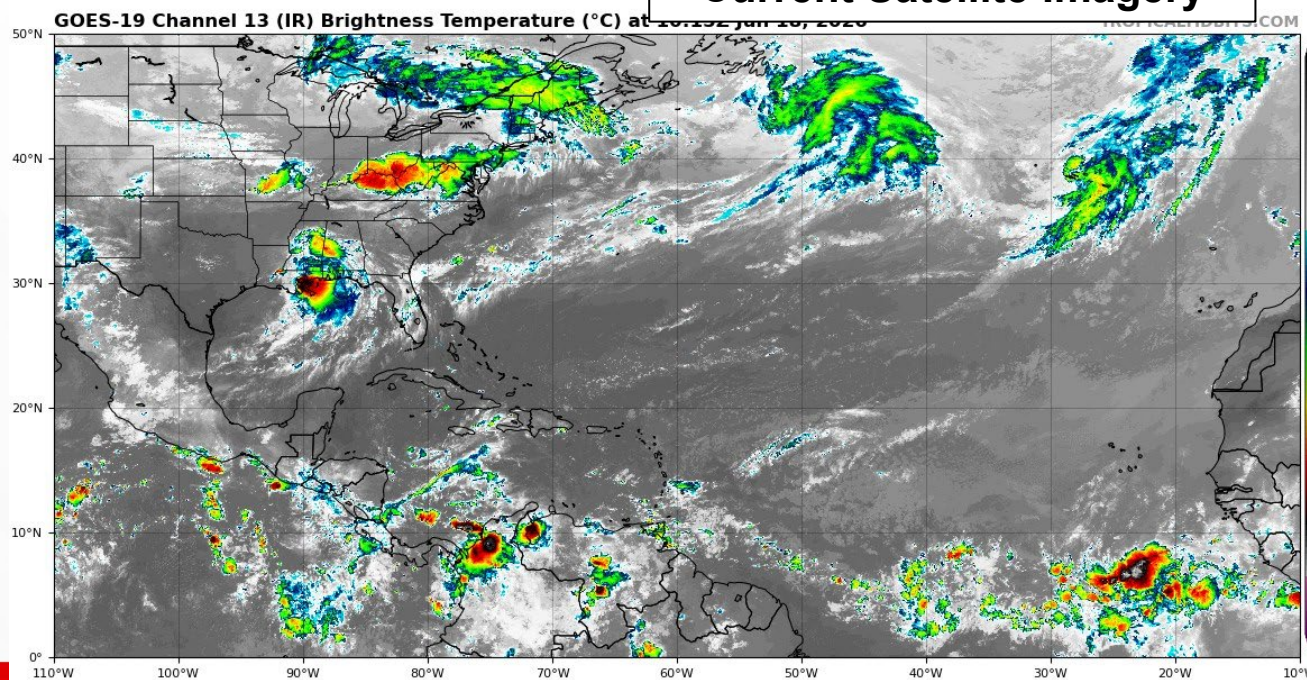
Showers and thunderstorms associated with a trough of low pressure (the remnants of Arthur) are located over the southeastern United States. Environmental conditions appear marginally conducive for some subtropical or tropical development on Friday or Saturday, as the system moves northeastward at around 15 mph, and emerges offshore the east coast of the United States and into the Western Atlantic Ocean. Regardless of development, heavy rainfall with the potential for widespread and life-threatening flash flooding is likely across portions of the Southeast United States during the next day or two.

*Formation chance through 48 hours... **low... 10%**.

*Formation chance through 7 days... **low... 10%**.



Current Satellite Imagery





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Persistent onshore winds along the Panhandle and West Coast today has resulted in a **moderate to high risk for rip currents**. A low to **moderate risk** is expected for the East Coast of Florida. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will increase this afternoon for most West Coast Beaches to **2-4'**. A **High Surf Advisory** goes into effect at midnight for Western Panhandle Beaches, where wave heights of **4-6'** are expected. Elsewhere, surf will remain calm at 1-2'.

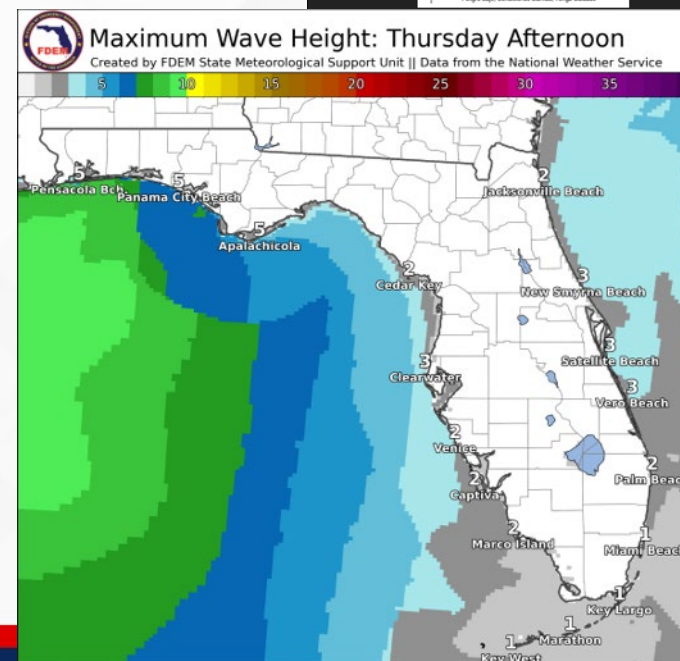
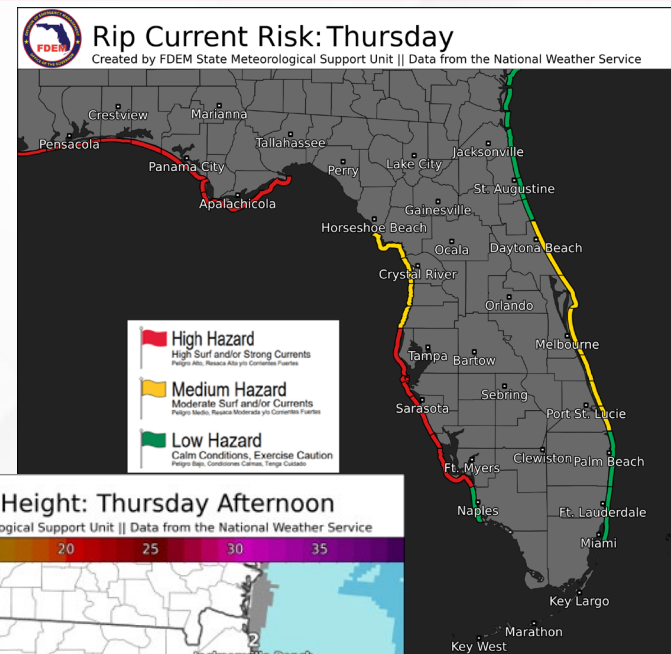
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations offshore Taylor County over the past week. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 6/12/26).

Coastal Flooding: There are no current coastal flood alerts for the state.

Flash Flooding: In anticipation of the potential for **considerable to catastrophic** flash flooding today across the Deep South, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across portions of the Central Gulf Coast, including Escambia, Santa Rosa, and western Okaloosa Counties. Elsewhere, a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4)** remains in effect for the Central Panhandle, and a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** remains for the Eastern Panhandle and portions of North-Central Florida. Rainfall amounts through tonight will generally add up to 1-2" throughout the eastern Panhandle and **3-5"** across the central and western Panhandle. Localized amounts **upwards of 5-8" or more** may occur in areas that see training thunderstorms and repeated rounds of heavy rain.

Riverine Flooding: Multiple river gauges across the Western Panhandle are expected to reach minor or action stages in the coming days in response to the upcoming heavy rainfall threat and the potential for it to bring increasing water levels to area rivers, creeks, and streams. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.11 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.07 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



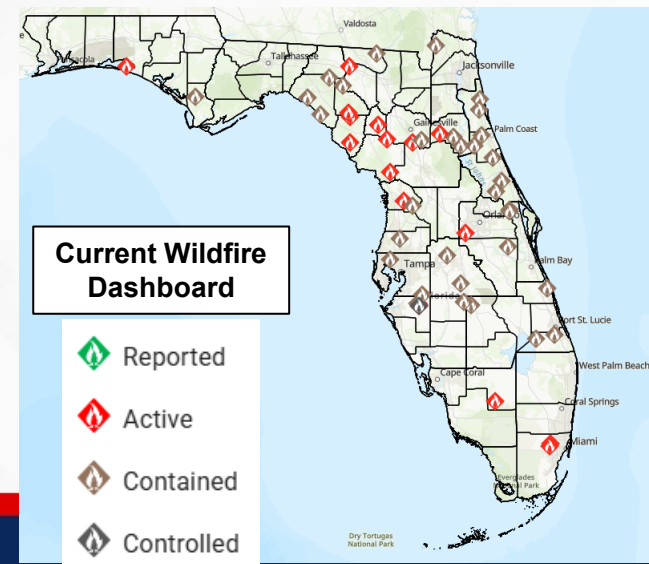
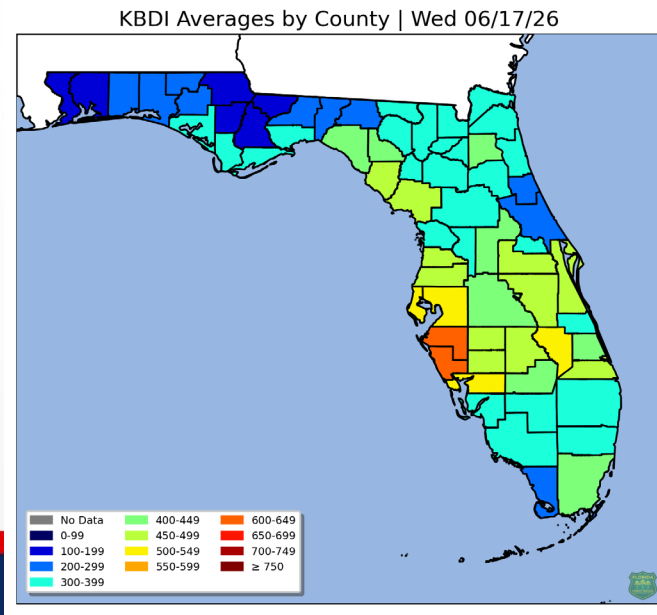
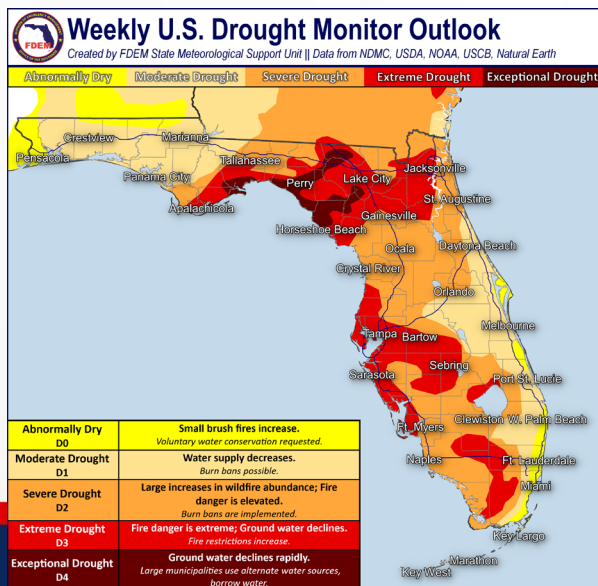


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Deep tropical moisture continues to pool across much of North Florida as the remnants of Tropical Storm Arthur moves to the northeast and interacts with a slow-moving cold front.. Widespread swaths of rainfall are expected in the Panhandle later today. Seasonable moisture will reside across the remainder of the Peninsula with sea breeze showers and storms expected to develop along the I-95 corridor. Any of today's thunderstorm activity may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds. Recent hot and dry weather combined with long-term drought conditions will promote at least **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** across the Peninsula, especially with the risk of lightning-based ignitions. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 46 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 22,838 acres.

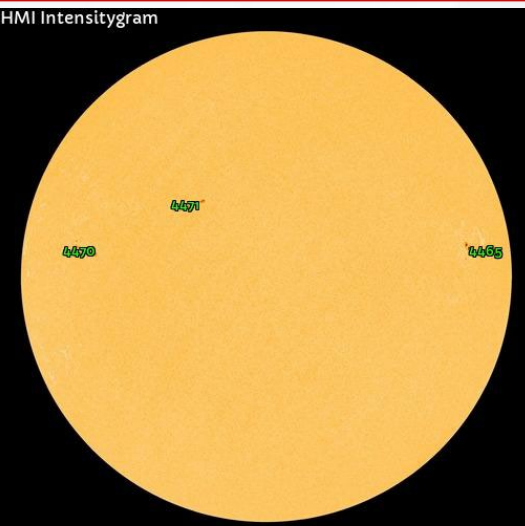
Drought (6/9/26): Additional improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update throughout much of the state with the recent wet pattern bringing beneficial rainfall. Across portions of the northern and far western Panhandle, areas of moderate drought have been reduced to abnormally dry (*receding drought*) conditions on this week's update. These areas have seen rainfall departures 8-10 inches above normal since the beginning of May which has quickly brought an end to the worst drought conditions. Many areas in the **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** to **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida have also seen one or even two category drought reductions with recent rainfall over the past month. The areas of **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** are now found in localized pockets of the Suwannee River Valley and along the Forgotten Coast. The heaviest rainfall in the past 7 days was observed across South Florida and along the I-95 corridor. Many of these areas have also seen one category of drought reduction after receiving 1-3" of rainfall, or more, since last week. Localized pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remain across West Central and interior South Florida due to the scattered nature of recent thunderstorm activity. In general, however, much of the I-75 corridor has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** with 30-day rainfall departures returning closer to normal or even above normal. Drought conditions along the immediate Southeast Coast continue to lessen with abnormally dry conditions (*receding drought*) expanding. 95% of Florida remains in at least moderate drought, with only ~4% of the state under exceptional drought – a 6% reduction in exceptional drought coverage compared to last week. Looking ahead, a wetter pattern is expected over North Florida, and scattered shower and thunderstorm activity will continue to favor the Peninsula with daily sea breeze activity. Additional drought improvements appears likely.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **374 (-37)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

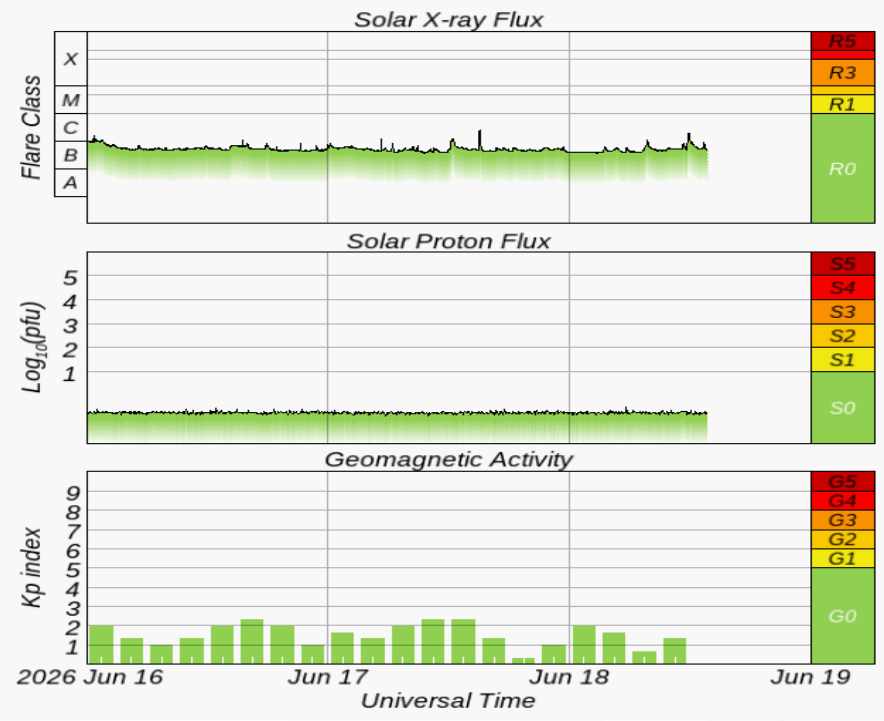
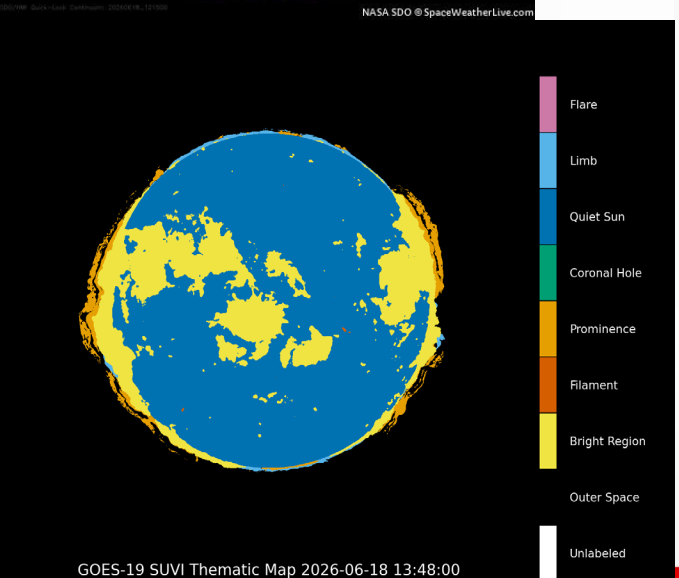




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
6/18	6/19
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels through Saturday with a slight chance for an M-class flare. This is due to combined flare probabilities of Regions 4465 and 4470. Any M-class flares will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. 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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