



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, July 8, 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	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Okaloosa	FROC Meeting / County EM Visit
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Gadsden	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafayette, Suwannee	Storm Ready Meeting / County EM Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Flagler	County EM Visit
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	FAMU SAFE Assessment (Orlando Campus)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	L-449 Pre-Course Exam / Office Admin
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	County Air Operations Branch Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	OVS UC Meeting / FIFA Meeting

Region 7 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 6 & 9

Region 8 Coverage Provided By Response Coordinator 5

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

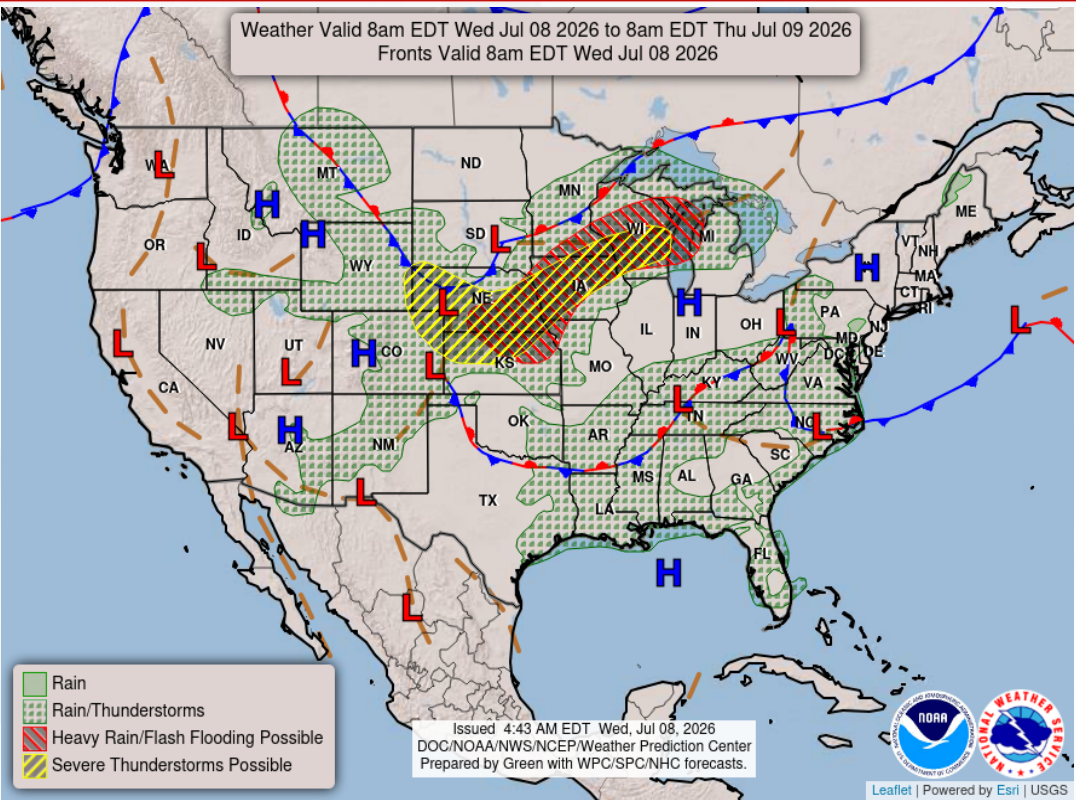
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Okaloosa	FROC Tour
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Gadsden	Project Status Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Alachua	Assisting 804 w/ FL-601
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Alachua	Instructing FL-601
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	Instructing FL-601 & 603
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas/Hillsborough	Hurricane Exercise UAWG Meeting: FY-2026 NOFO Review/FY-2027 Funding Mtg
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Caoverage)
Region 9: Brian Geoghegan	Region 5	Field Training w/805
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miame-Dade	BOMA Miami-Dade Hurricane Session

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

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

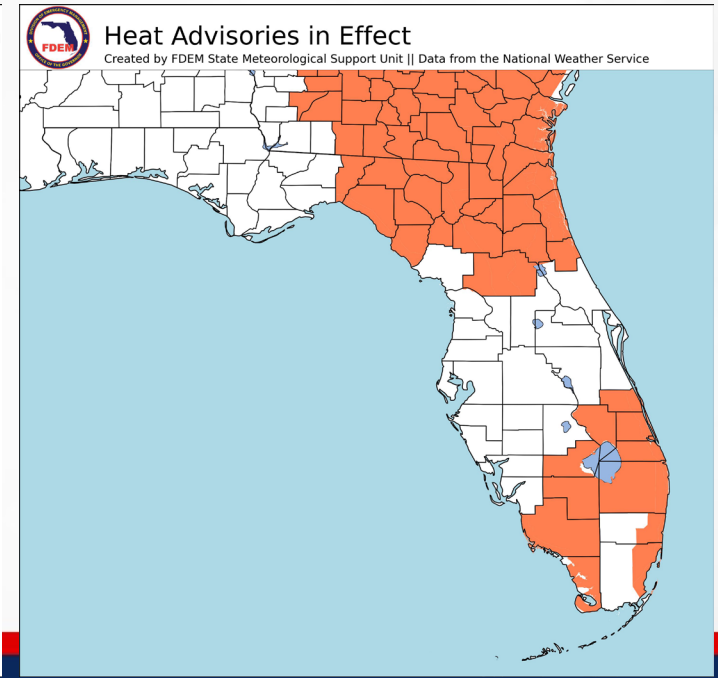
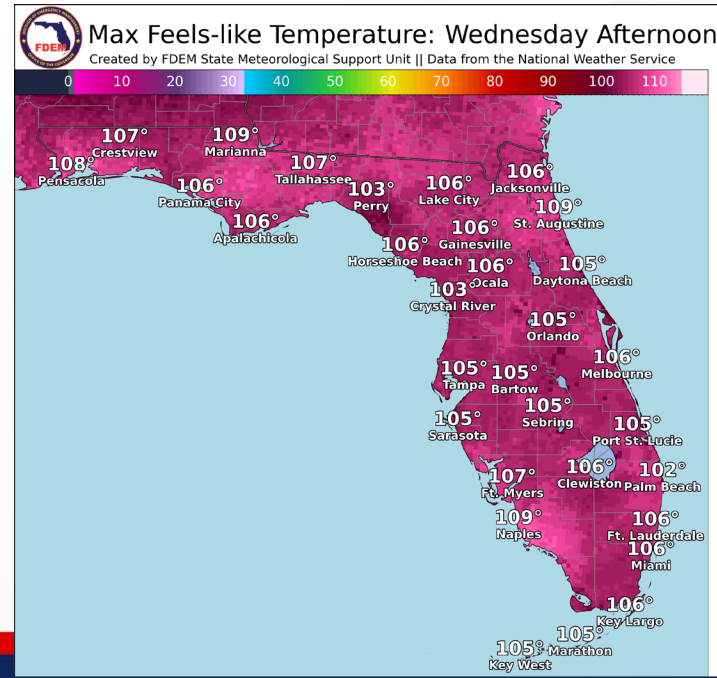


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	L	L		L	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.00 ft. (2.52 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	356 (-17) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

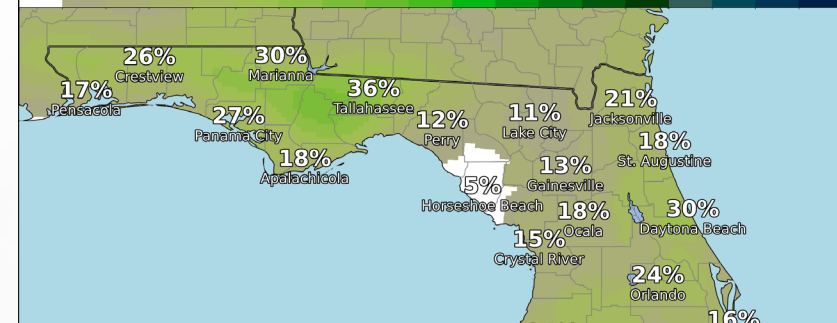
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Area of high pressure over the western Atlantic will continue to build across the state today with waves of dry, Saharan Air rotating into the region. Chances of rain will significantly diminish as a result with only a few isolated showers or thunderstorms expected statewide this afternoon along the sea breezes (15-30% chance of rain). Locally greater moisture and lift from the Gulf sea breeze over the Panhandle and Big Bend may bring slightly greater coverage of activity (30-40% chance of rain). **Occasional lightning** and **brief heavy downpours** are the main hazards with any thunderstorm activity statewide.

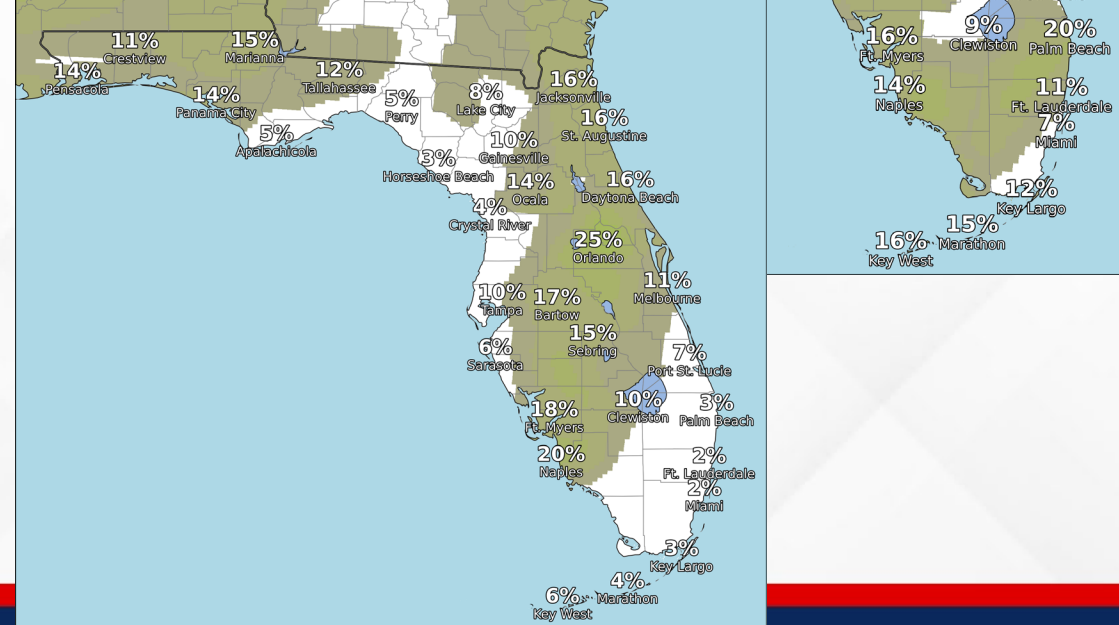
With drier air limiting cloud coverage and rainfall, the **hot and humid conditions** will be on the increase today. High temperatures will climb into the **middle to upper 90s** throughout much of the state and, combined with the humidity, afternoon feels-like temperatures will soar well into the **middle to upper 100s**. **Heat-related illnesses** will be possible with prolonged exposure due to these dangerous heat indices. **Heat Advisories** have been issued throughout Northeast Florida, the eastern Big Bend, and portions of South Florida through this afternoon where the highest probabilities are of heat indices exceeding **106-108 degrees**.

Any lingering shower or thunderstorm activity statewide will begin to dissipate or push offshore after sunset. Low temperatures will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide overnight. Humidity will hardly diminish overnight, however, with temperatures still feeling like the 80s and even 90s after midnight. As such, little relief from the daytime heat is expected tonight.

Chance of Rain: Wednesday
Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



Chance of Rain: Wednesday Night
Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service

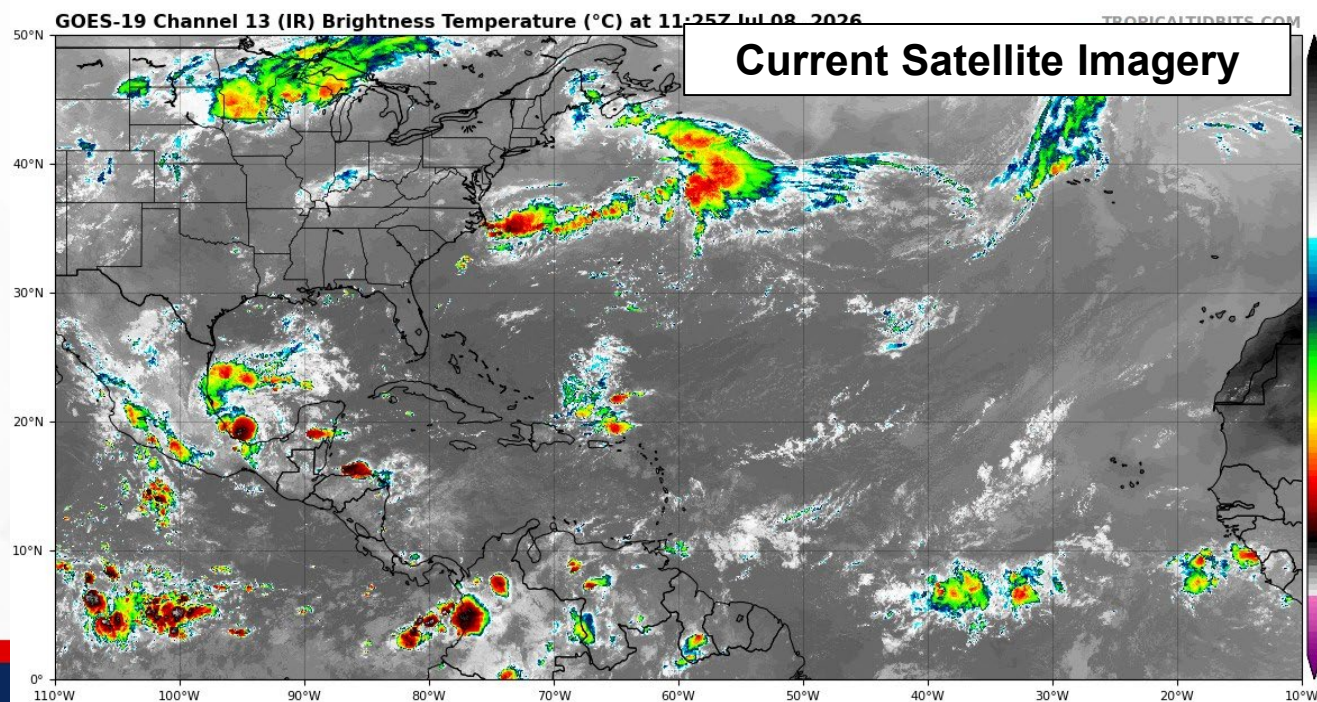
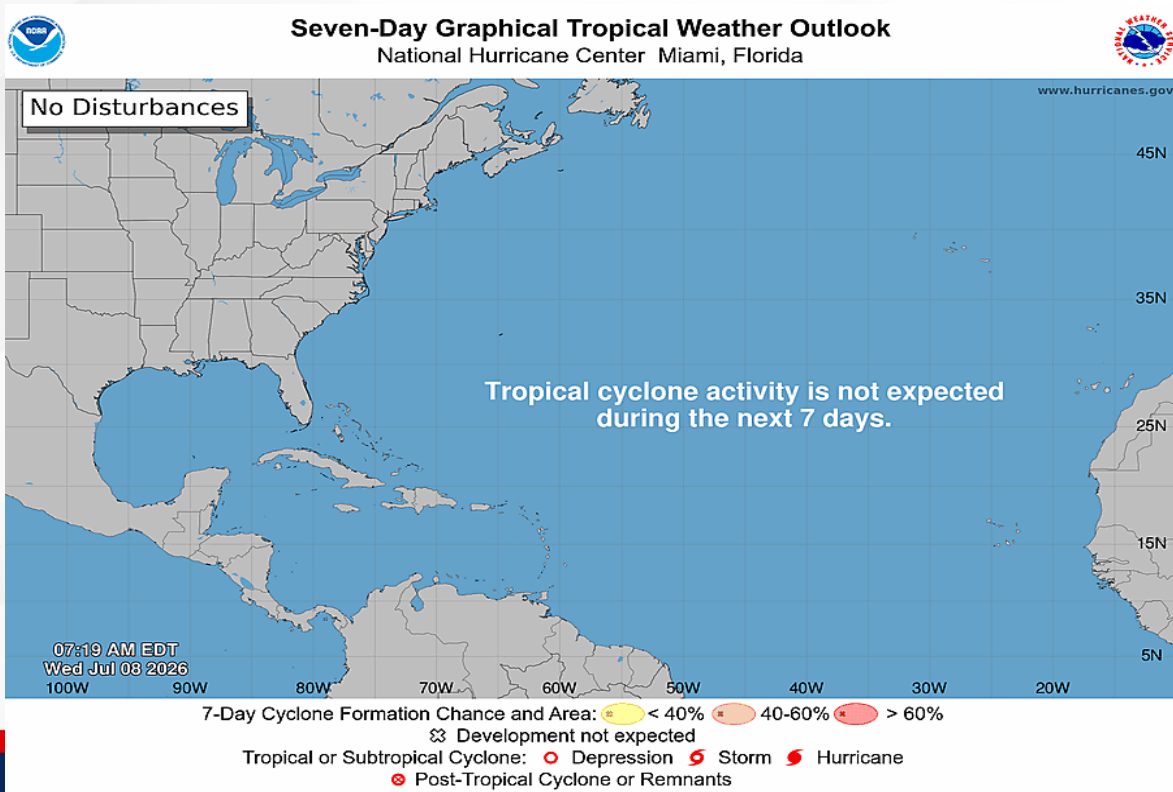




Tropical Weather

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

Tropical Cyclone Development is NOT Expected Over the Next 7 Days





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected at most Panhandle and Forgotten Coast beaches today as onshore winds persist. Local **moderate risks** are also outlooked for Northeast and Southeast Florida beaches along the East Coast. A low risk will persist for all other beaches statewide. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf heights will remain near the 1-3' range statewide today. Waves will begin to increase along Northeast and Space Coast beaches overnight, as well as south facing Florida Key shorelines, with surf of **3-4'** expected.

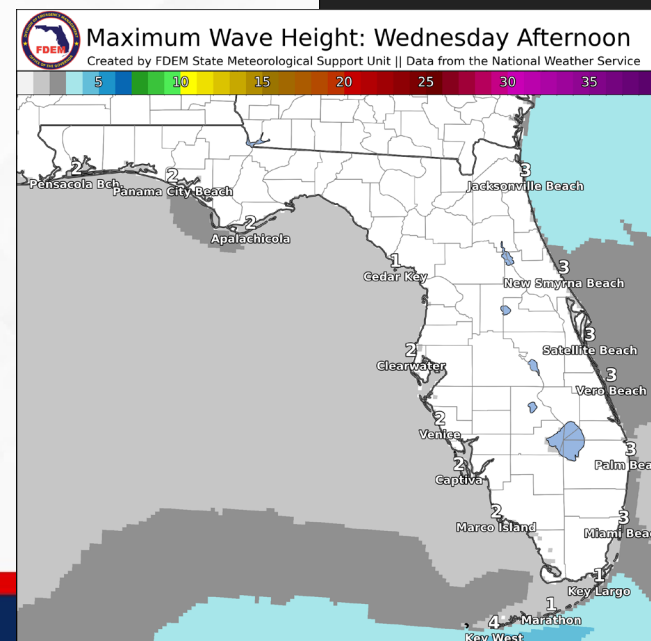
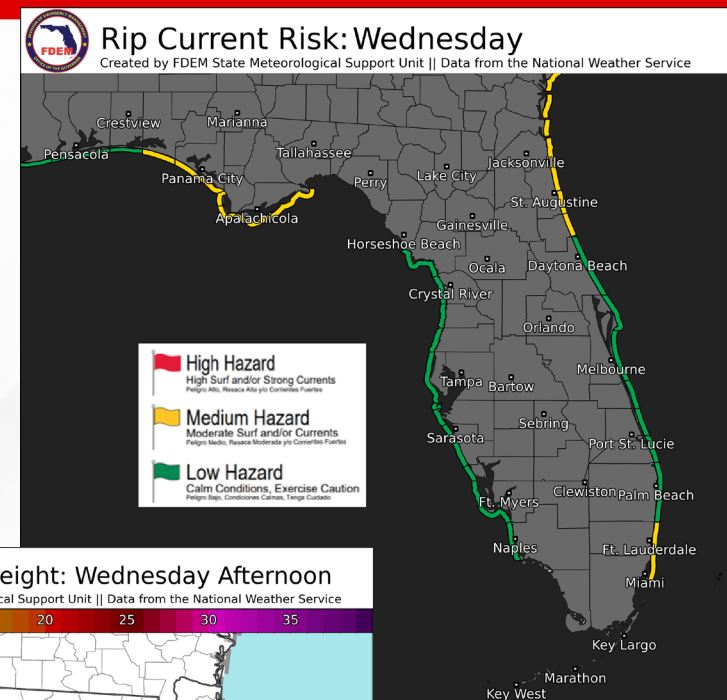
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations in Nassau and Monroe counties over the past week. It was not observed elsewhere across the state (valid 7/1/26).

Coastal Flooding: No coastal flooding is anticipated today.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding statewide today. A few isolated showers and thunderstorms will develop this afternoon, some of which may be slow-moving and capable of producing **brief heavy downpours**. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" in any areas that receive rainfall, though locally higher totals cannot be ruled out. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers are below flood stage. For more information, visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.00 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.52 feet below normal for this time of year.



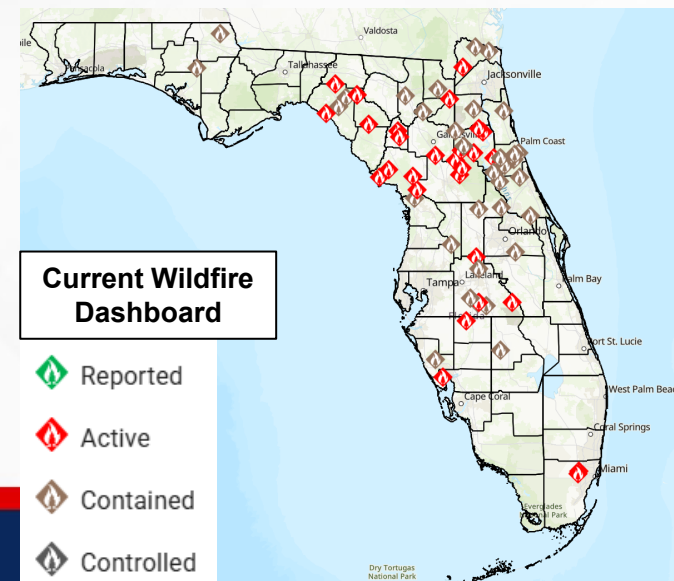
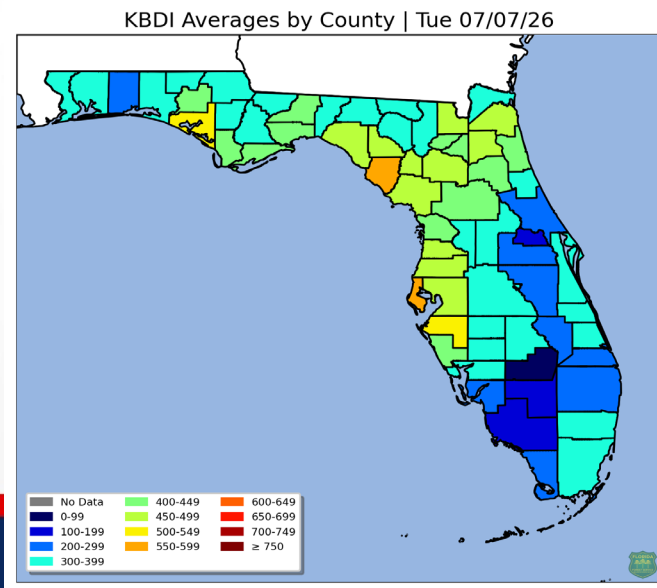
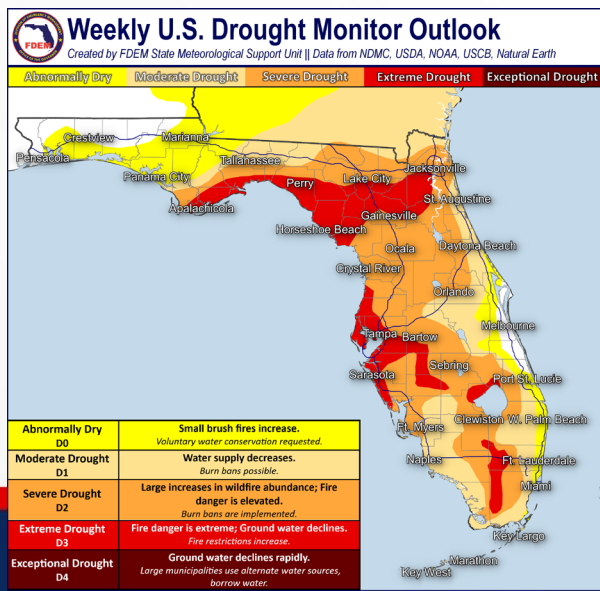


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Despite drier air filtering into the region today, limiting rainfall chances statewide, the overall wildfire threat will remain low as relative humidities remain well above critical thresholds and winds stay light. However, any isolated afternoon thunderstorms may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds could ignite new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 68 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 27,870 acres.

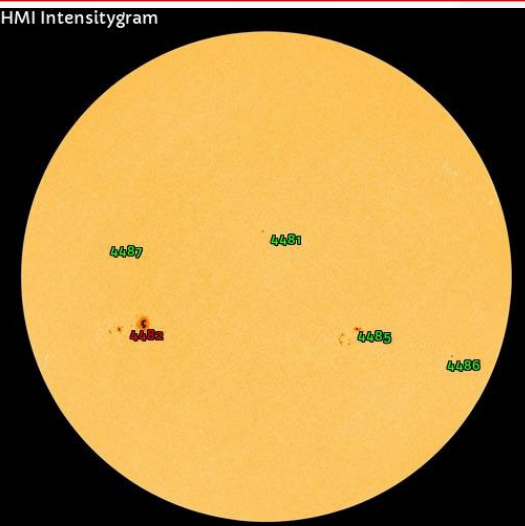
Drought (6/30/26): A more seasonal distribution and amount of rainfall over the past week driven by sea breeze showers and thunderstorms brought near normal rainfall to much of the state, resulting in very few changes to the Drought Monitor update this week. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place across 18% of the state, including along the Forgotten Coast and extending inland into the lower Suwannee River Valley and upper St. Johns River basin, as well as some areas of West Central Florida near Tampa Bay and Lake Okeechobee. **Moderate to severe drought (level 1-2 of 4)** still surrounds the majority of the Peninsula, affecting about 60% of the state. The remaining 20% of the state across the Florida Panhandle, Treasure Coast and metro Southeast Florida are in abnormally dry to no drought conditions. Looking ahead, drier air will begin to filter out of North Florida later this weekend bringing rainfall chances back to the area. Typical seasonal sea breeze showers and thunderstorms will persist each day statewide which will bring some localized drought improvements in areas that do receive rainfall, however with hot temperatures expected any areas that fail to see the scattered rainfall will see drought persist or worsen.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **356 (-17)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **4 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

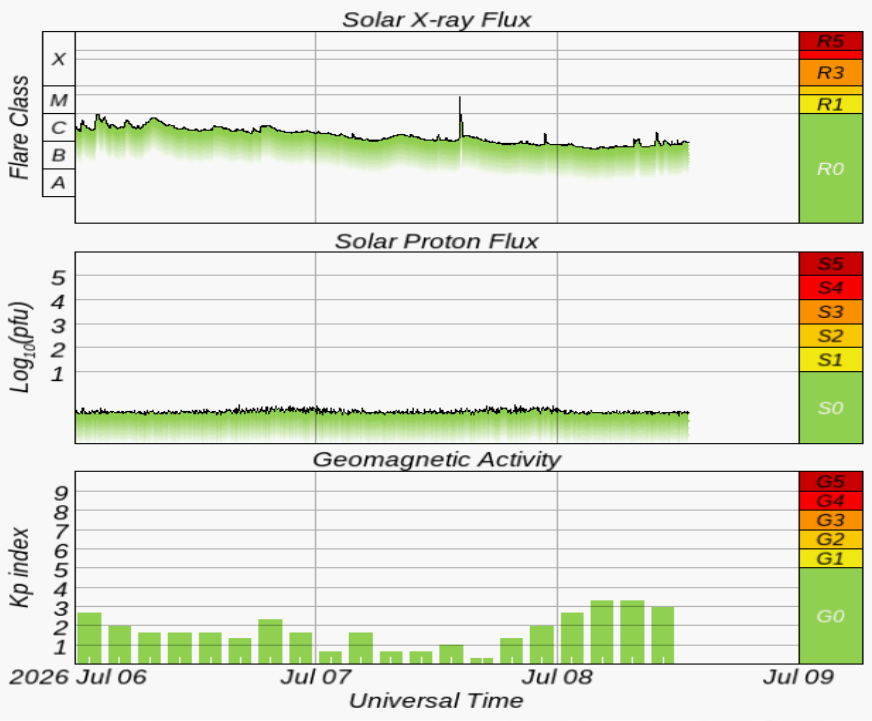
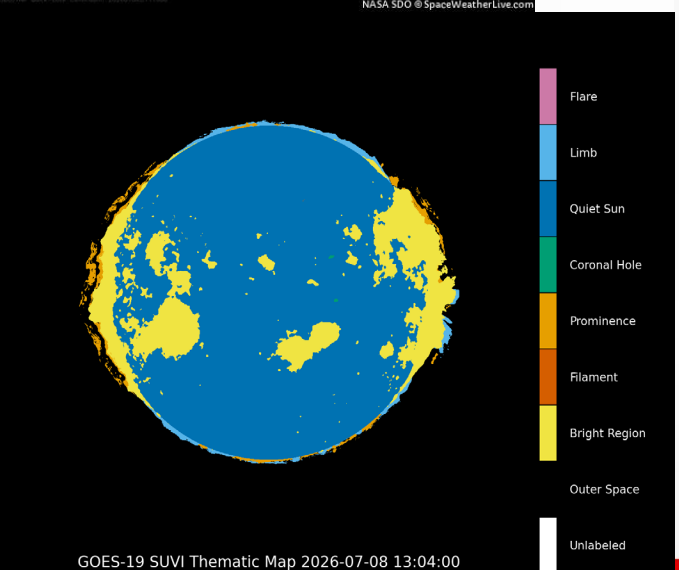




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M4 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/8	7/9
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low to moderate levels through Friday with decreasing chances of M-class or greater solar flares as sunspot Regions 4478 and 4479 rotate out of view of Earth. Should any M-class flares occur they will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts, and X-class flares strong (R3) radio blackouts. Nominal background solar wind conditions are expected through Thursday before enhancements on Friday ahead of a negative polarity coronal hole high solar stream (CH HSS). Mostly quiet to unsettled geomagnetic levels are expected before the arrival of CH HSS influences bring unsettled to active levels Thursday and Friday. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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