



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, July 15, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@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	Cody Nowak	(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	Claudia Riddle	(850) 755-2924	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	Gadsden, Escambia	Blue Angels Airshow Event Travel
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Alachua	County EM Visit / LSA Follow Up
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Putnam	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Brevard	L-449 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas	Logistics Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA Meeting / Healthcare Coalition Meetings

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	Escambia	Pensacola Air Show
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off/Monitoring
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Lafayette	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St. Johns	Instructing FL 681
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	ILO Training
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Administration
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 10: Brian Lee	Miami-Dade	Grants Portal Training

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

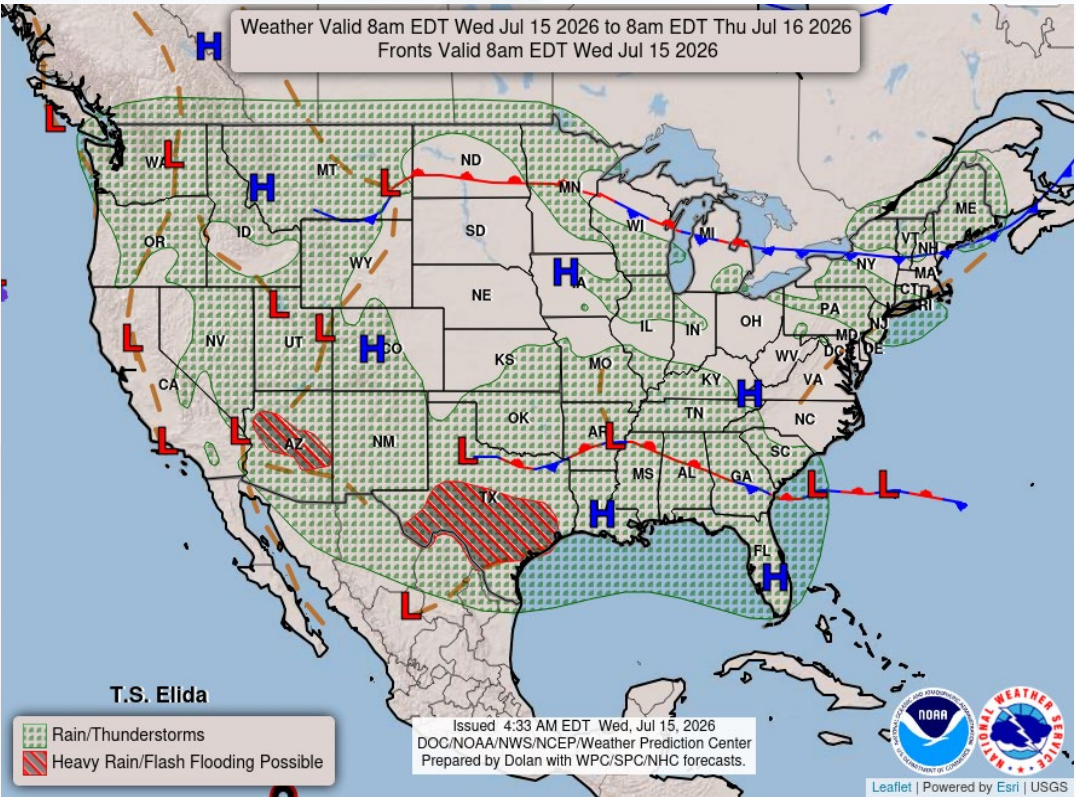
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

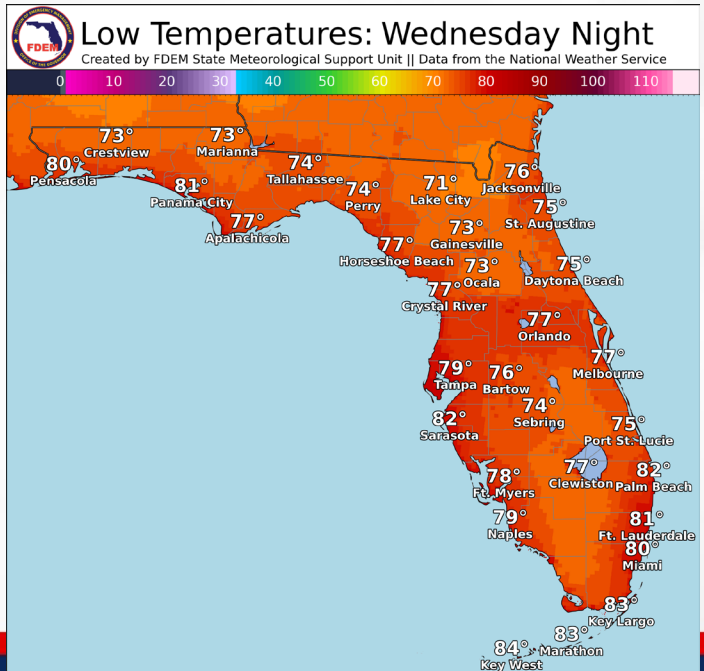
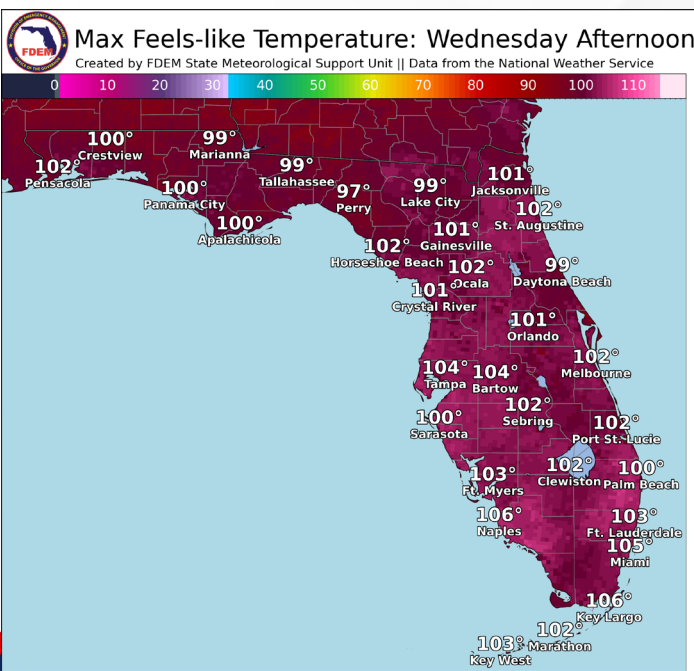


Meteorology Summary



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	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.94 ft. (2.64 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	354 (-29) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





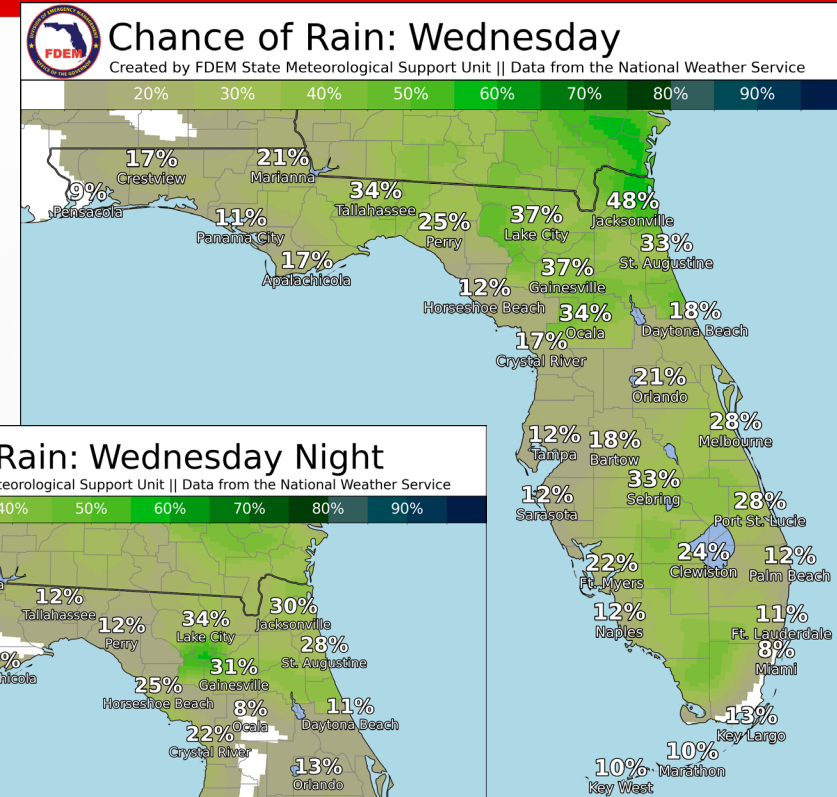
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Drier air will begin to filter into much of the state today as the upper-level disturbance influencing our pattern in recent days lifts northward and dissipates. At the same time, high pressure will continue building across the southern Peninsula and into the Gulf. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop along the sea breezes as they advance inland today under a predominate west to west-northwesterly flow, especially across the Big Bend, Northeast Florida, and interior Peninsula where the highest chances of rain exist (30-40% chance of rain). Any thunderstorm activity could become **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing **lightning**, **gusty winds (30-50 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" for most locations that do receive rainfall today, however locally higher totals **upwards of 2-3"** cannot be ruled out. A few wind gusts **upwards of 20-25 mph** are possible throughout North and Central Florida today outside of thunderstorm activity.

High temperatures this afternoon will reach the **lower to middle 90s** throughout much of the state. Combined with the humidity, **feels-like temperatures** will soar into the **lower to middle 100s** for most locations. Locally greater sunshine and humidity will bring heat index values near the **upper 100s** across Collier County and coastal Southeast Florida where a **Heat Advisory** is in effect for this afternoon. **Heat-related illnesses** will be possible with prolonged exposure to the heat across the state today.

Tonight, a few showers and thunderstorms may linger throughout the Peninsula before dissipating shortly after sunset (15-30% chance of rain). Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s across the state tonight which will bring little relief from the heat when combined with the humidity.



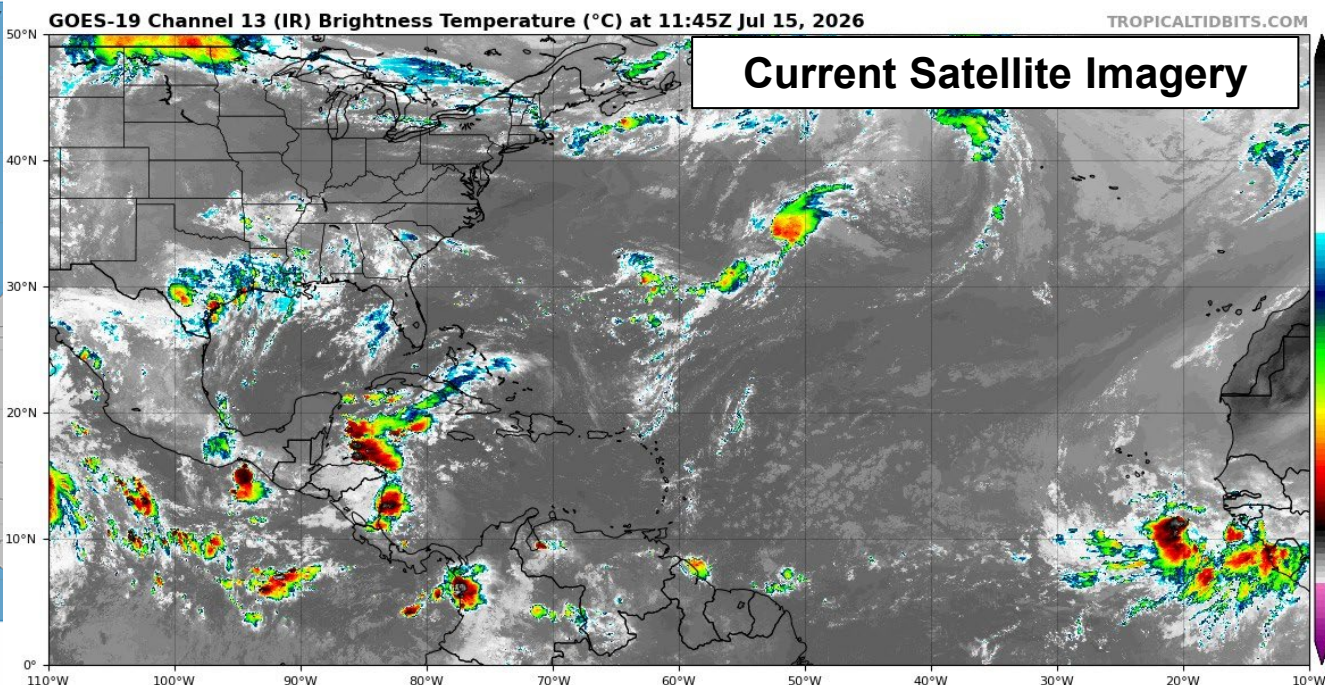
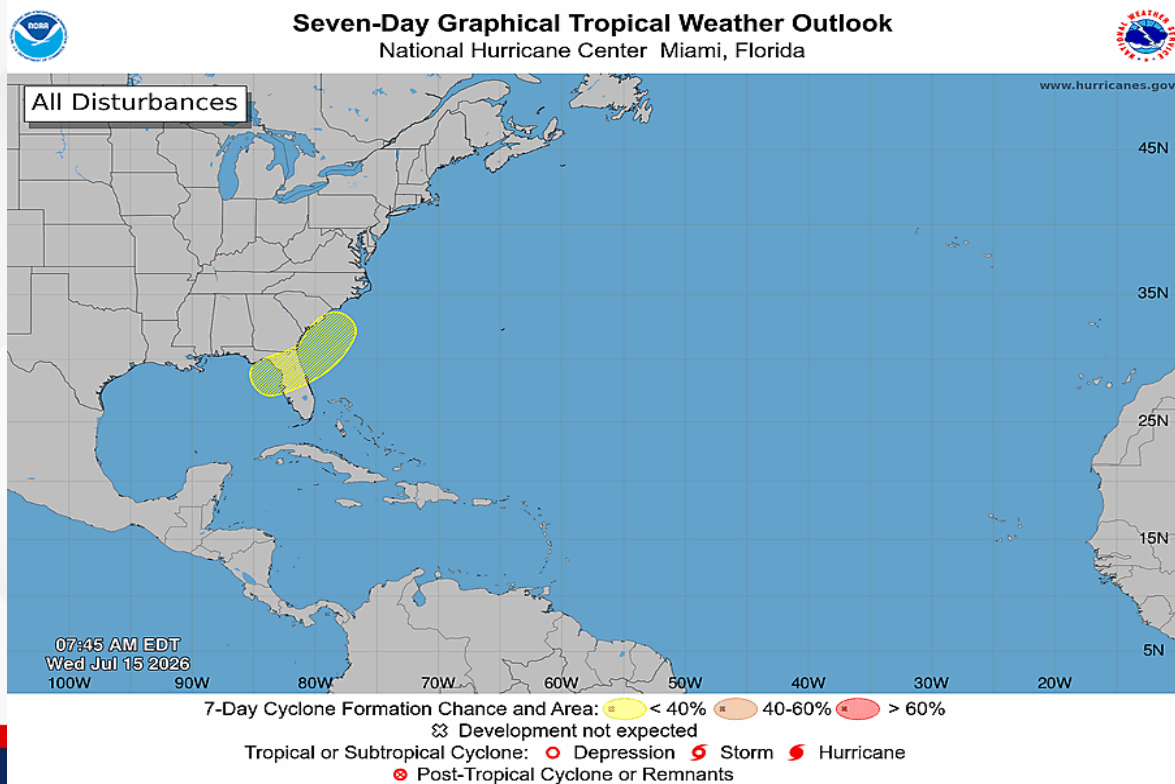


Tropical Weather

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

Northeastern Gulf: An area of low pressure is expected to form during the weekend over the northeastern Gulf of America. Subsequent slow development of this system is possible while it moves slowly northeastward over the northeastern Gulf and or near the southeastern coast of the United States by early next week.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**low... near 0%.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**low... 20%.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** is expected at all eastern Panhandle and Forgotten Coast beaches today. A **moderate risk** is outlooked for the western Panhandle, Space Coast, and Treasure Coast where locally stronger onshore winds are expected. A low risk will persist for all other East and West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will generally remain near 1-2' for all statewide beaches today.

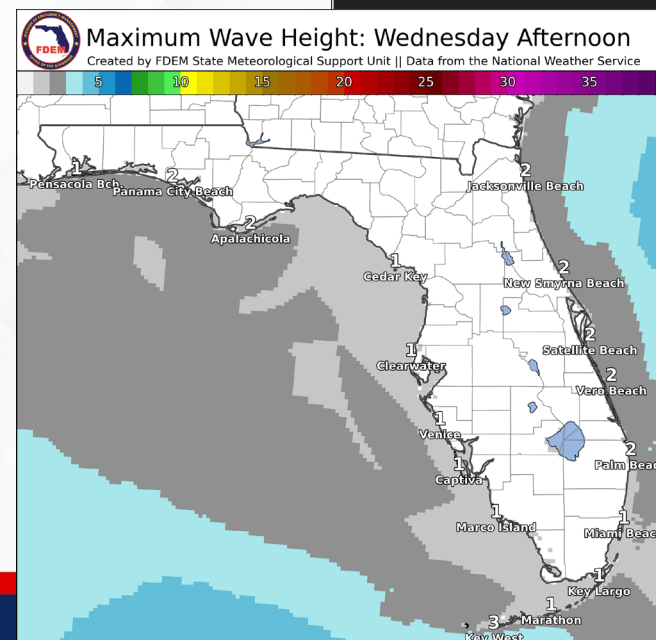
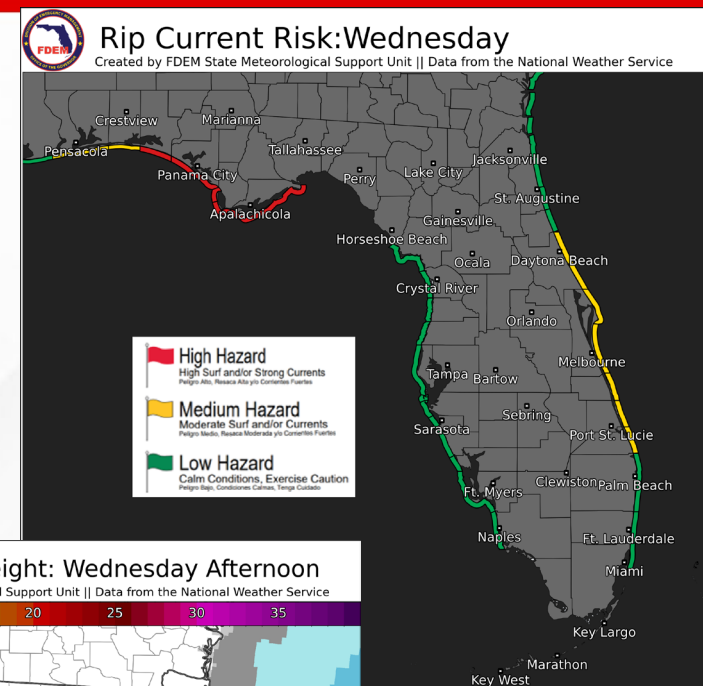
Red Tide: was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 7/10/26).

Coastal Flooding: A **Coastal Flood Statement** is in effect for the Lower Florida Keys where nuisance saltwater flooding may occur near and during times of high tide this morning.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms across the state today may be accompanied by **locally heavy downpours** which could drop a quick **1-2" of rainfall** under the heaviest activity. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 10.94 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.64 feet below normal for this time of year.



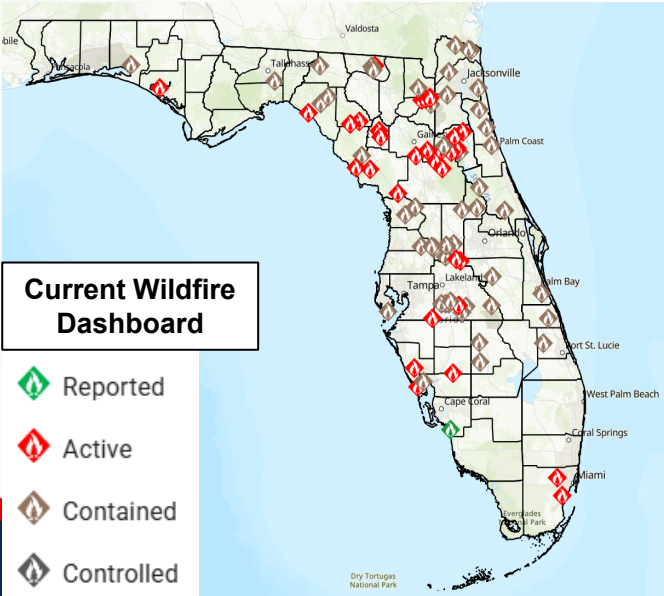
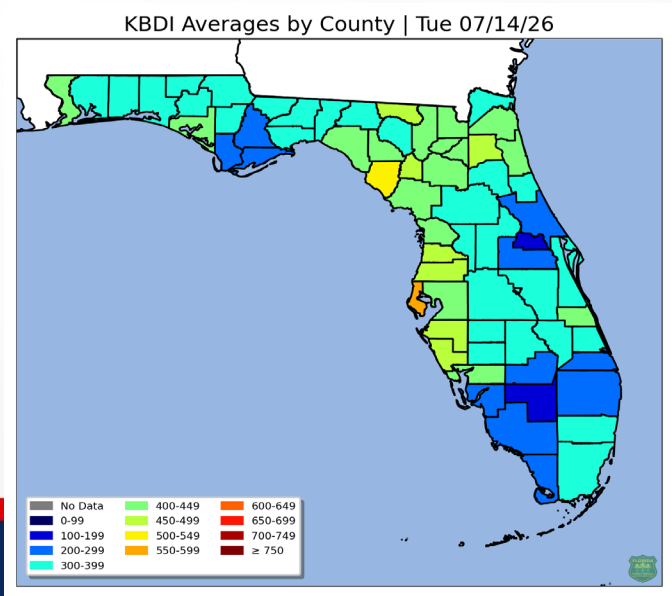
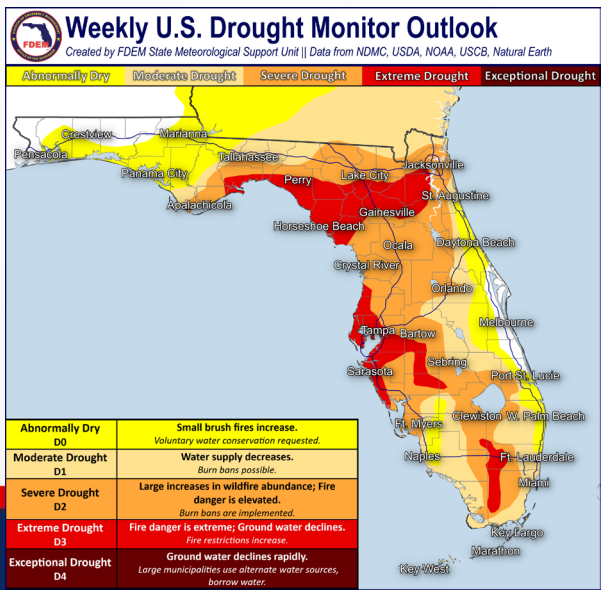


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Despite drier air filtering into the state today, the overall wildfire threat will remain low given relative humidities staying above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Isolated to widely scattered afternoon thunderstorms across the state may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds would could ignite new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 85 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 8,639 acres.

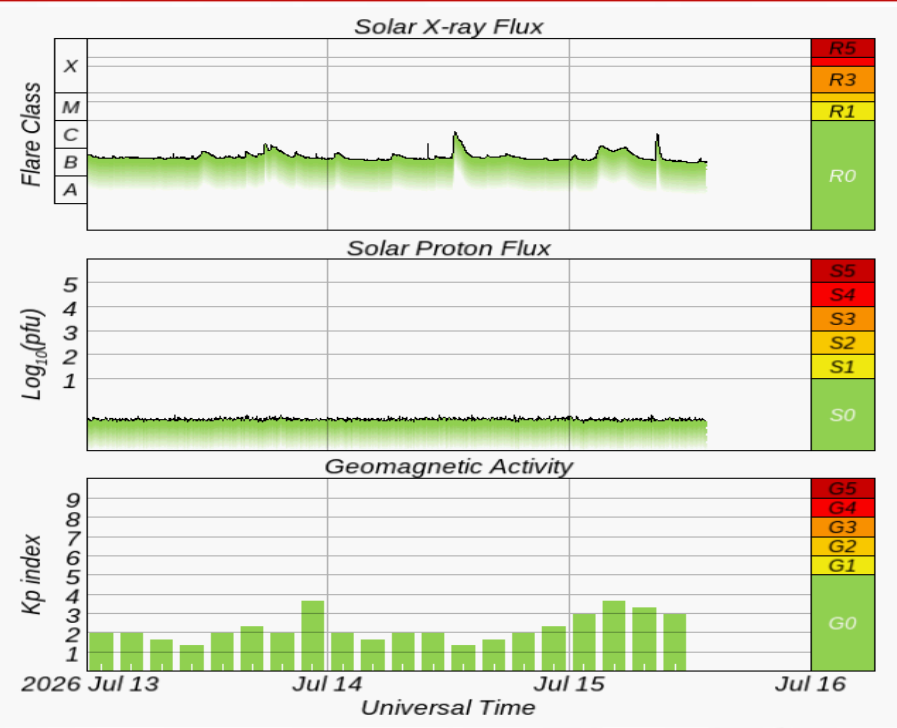
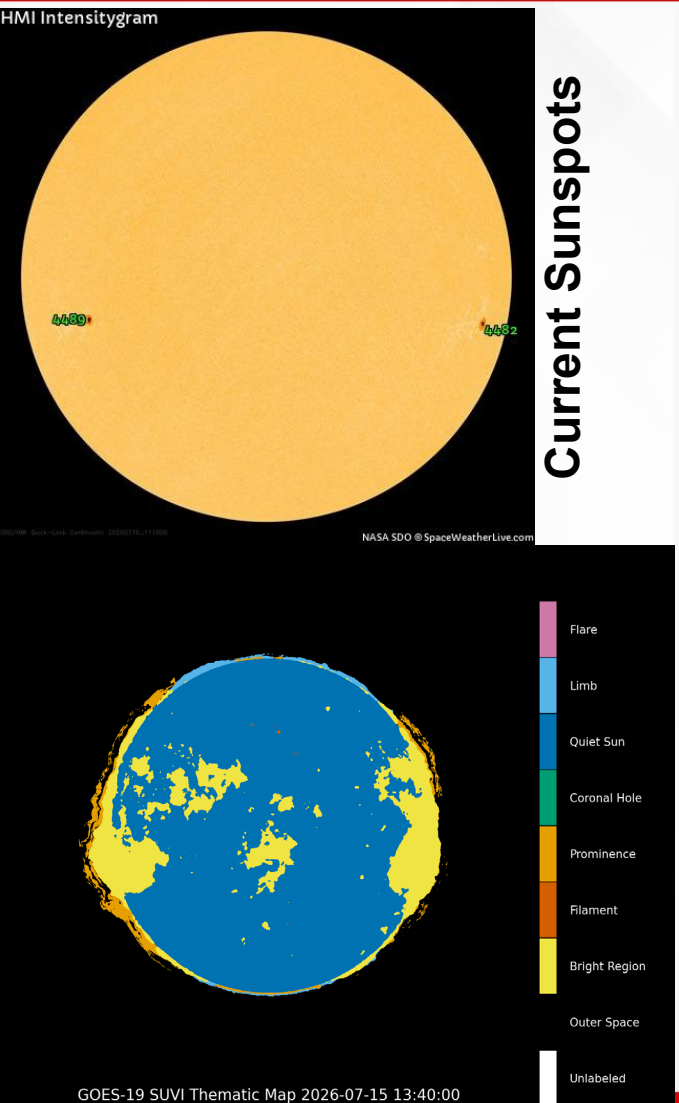
Drought (7/7/26): Another week of fairly seasonal rainfall brought few changes to the larger drought picture across the Sunshine State. A general 0.5-2" of rainfall was observed across North Florida and 1-3" throughout Central and South Florida, with locally higher amounts. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remain in place across 16% of the state, including along the Forgotten Coast and extending inland into the lower Suwannee River Valley and lower St. Johns River basin, as well as some areas of West Central Florida near Tampa Bay and interior South Florida. Locally higher rainfall totals of around 2-3" were observed across southern Gulf and Franklin counties, resulting in the extreme drought being reduced to a **moderate to severe drought (level 1-2 of 4)**. Upwards of 5-7" of rainfall this past week along the north and western shorelines of Lake Okeechobee has also brought extreme drought down to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. **Moderate to severe drought (level 1-2 of 4)** still surrounds most of the Peninsula, affecting about 55% of the state. The remainder of the state across the Florida Panhandle, Space Coast, Treasure Coast, Southeast Florida, and interior Southwest Florida are in abnormally dry to no drought conditions with some small improvements this week. Looking ahead, drier air will slowly filter out of the state today and tomorrow, bringing a return of seasonal sea breeze rainfall by the weekend. An approaching cold front will also begin to settle across the Deep South this weekend bringing elevated rainfall chances to North Florida beginning on Sunday. Some drought improvements are expected throughout the state in areas that receive beneficial rainfall, especially across North Florida given closer proximity to the frontal boundary this weekend and early next week. However, with hot summertime temperatures also expected, any areas that fail to see scattered rainfall throughout the state will see local drought conditions persist or worsen.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **354 (-29)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **2 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/15	7/16
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 remain at low levels through Friday, primarily driven by active regions set to rotate into view over the eastern limb over the next few days. Should any M-class flares occur, they will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. The combined effects of a glancing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) and Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) will keep solar wind conditions weakly enhanced today before waning over the course of the week. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic field activity is expected through 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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