



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, July 16, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@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	Escambia	Blue Angels Airshow Command
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson	County EM Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Regional Exercise Planning Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Brevard	L-449 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Universities & Colleges Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Lee County School District Meeting / FGCU Exercise AAR / RC Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Shelter Exercise / FIFA Meeting / Response Coordinators 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	Escambia	Pensacola Air Show
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Levy	EM Meeting/Meeting with 806
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	Day Trip
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Brevard	FEPA Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Levy	Meeting 803/Regional Quarterly Meeting
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	Broward	Shelter Exercise

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

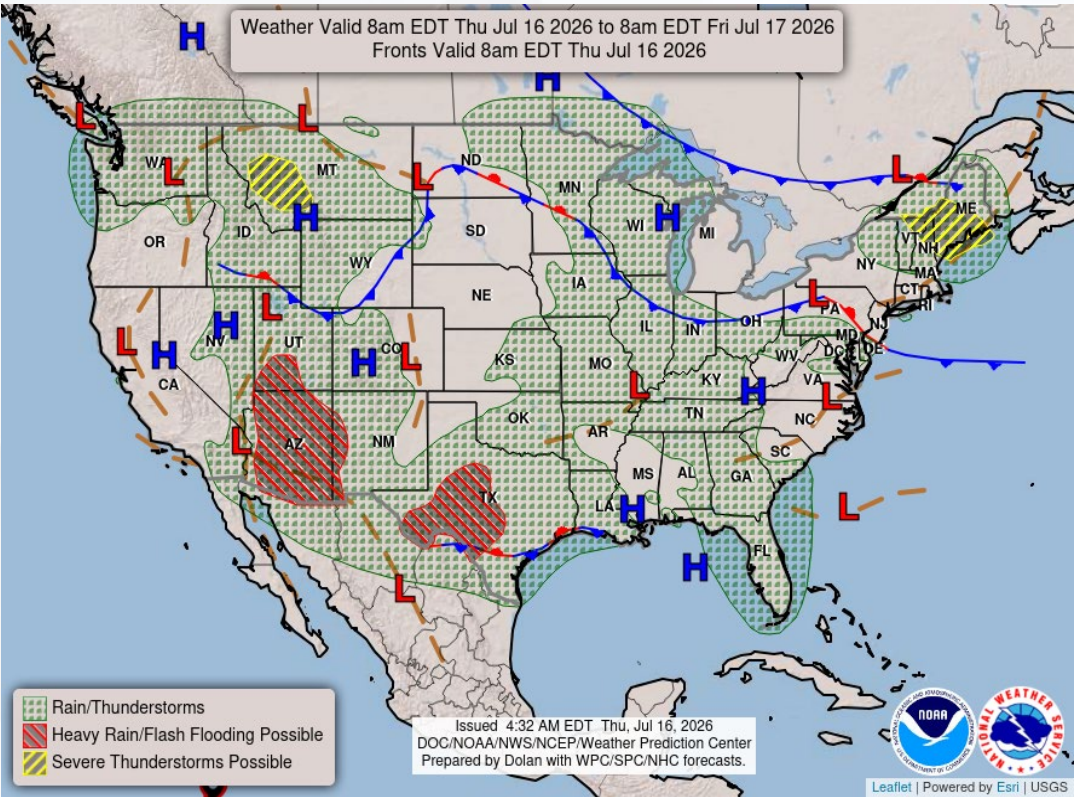
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

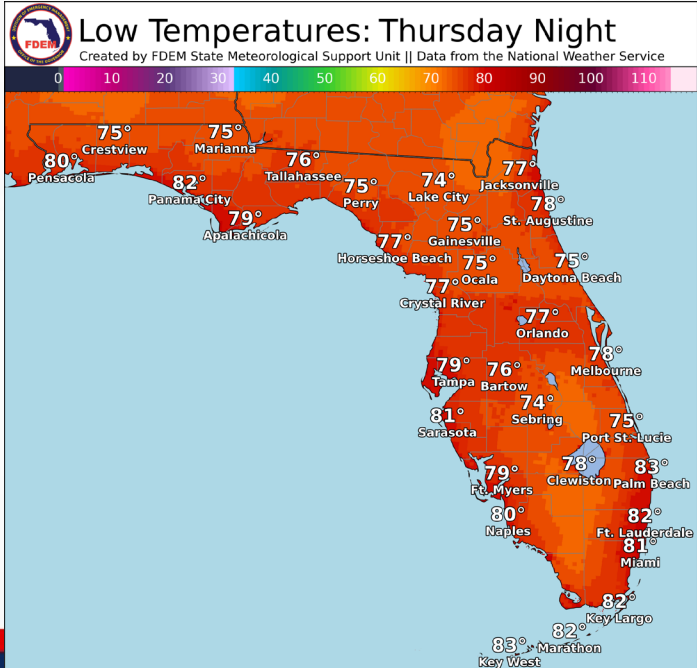
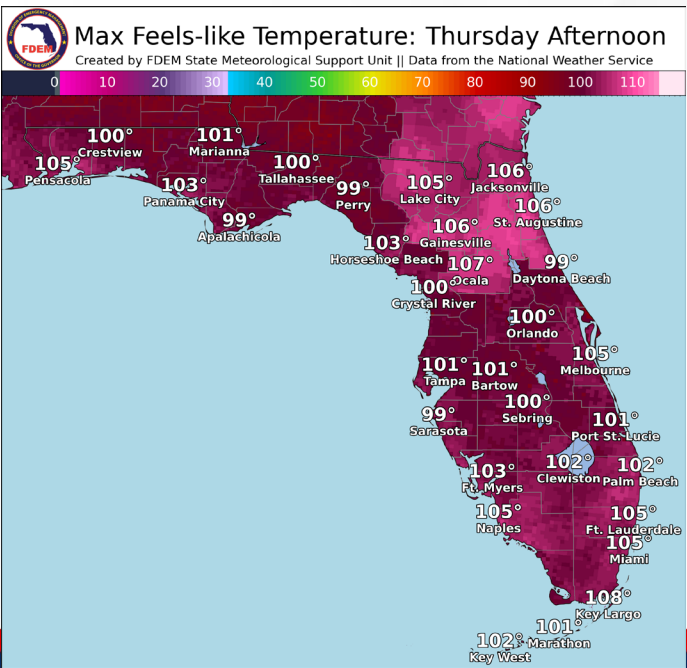


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning		L	L	M	M	L	M	M	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat	L	L	M	M	M	L	L	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.96 ft. (2.63 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	345 (-9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





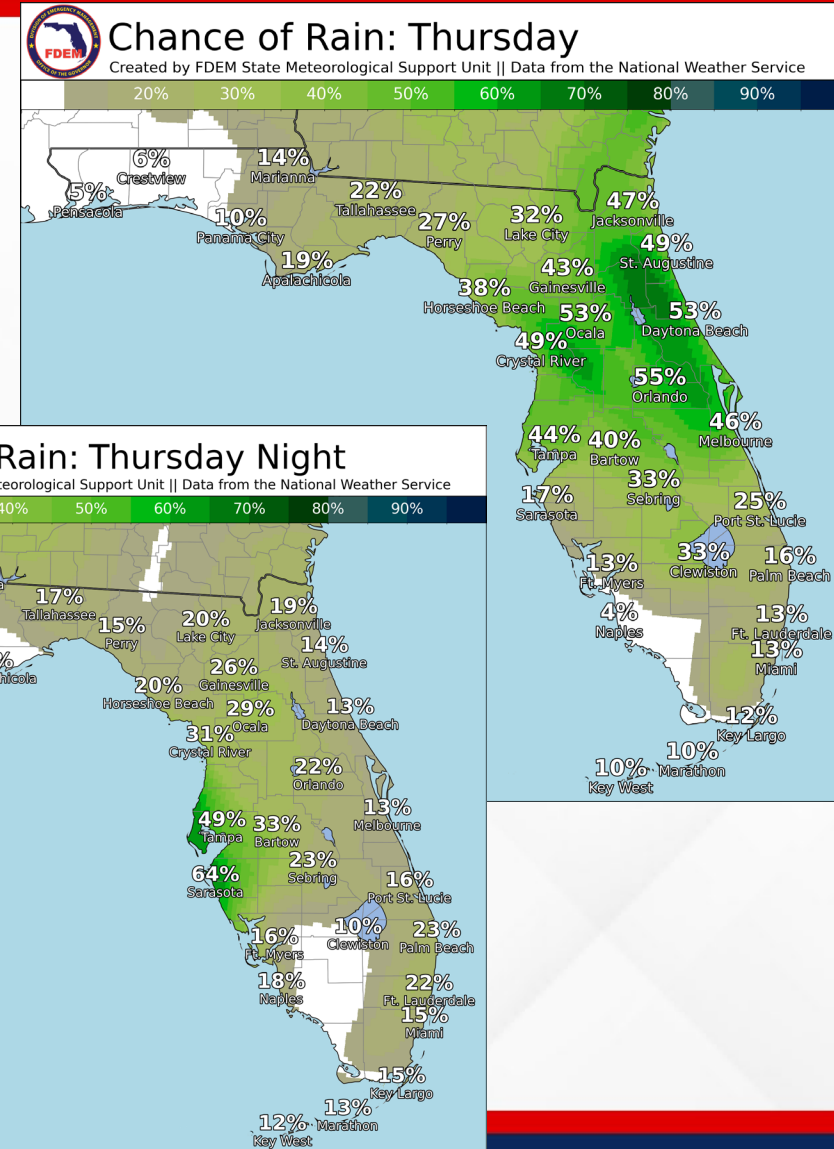
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

West to west-northwesterly flow across the state today around area of high pressure will filter drier air across the Panhandle and Big Bend, where chances of rain will remain well below normal for a typical summertime day (<15-25% chance of rain), with deeper tropical moisture off the Gulf filtering across the Peninsula. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will likely develop along the inland advancing West Coast sea breeze towards 12-2 PM EDT this afternoon across interior Northeast and Central Florida, eventually increasing in coverage as it collides with the East Coast sea breeze pinned near the I-95 corridor (40-60% chance of rain). Isolated activity is expected across interior South and Southeast Florida today where moisture levels will be a bit less but still enough to promote afternoon storms along the sea breezes (25-35% chance of rain). Any thunderstorm across the state could become **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing **frequent lightning**, **gusty winds (30-50 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. Rainfall totals will generally remain at or below 1" for most locations that do receive activity, however locally higher totals **upwards of 2-3"** cannot be ruled out.

High temperatures will reach the **lower to middle 90s** throughout the state this afternoon. Combined with the humidity, **feels-like temperatures** will approach the **lower to middle 100s** for most, with locally **upper 100s** possible in coastal Collier County and Southeast Florida where **Heat Advisories** are in effect for this afternoon. **Heat-related illnesses** will be possible anywhere statewide with prolonged exposure to the heat.

Tonight, any shower or thunderstorm activity will push offshore or dissipate after sunset. Showers and thunderstorms may get off to an early start across portions of West-Central Florida towards daybreak Friday (30-60% chance of rain). Lows will only fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s tonight.





Tropical Weather

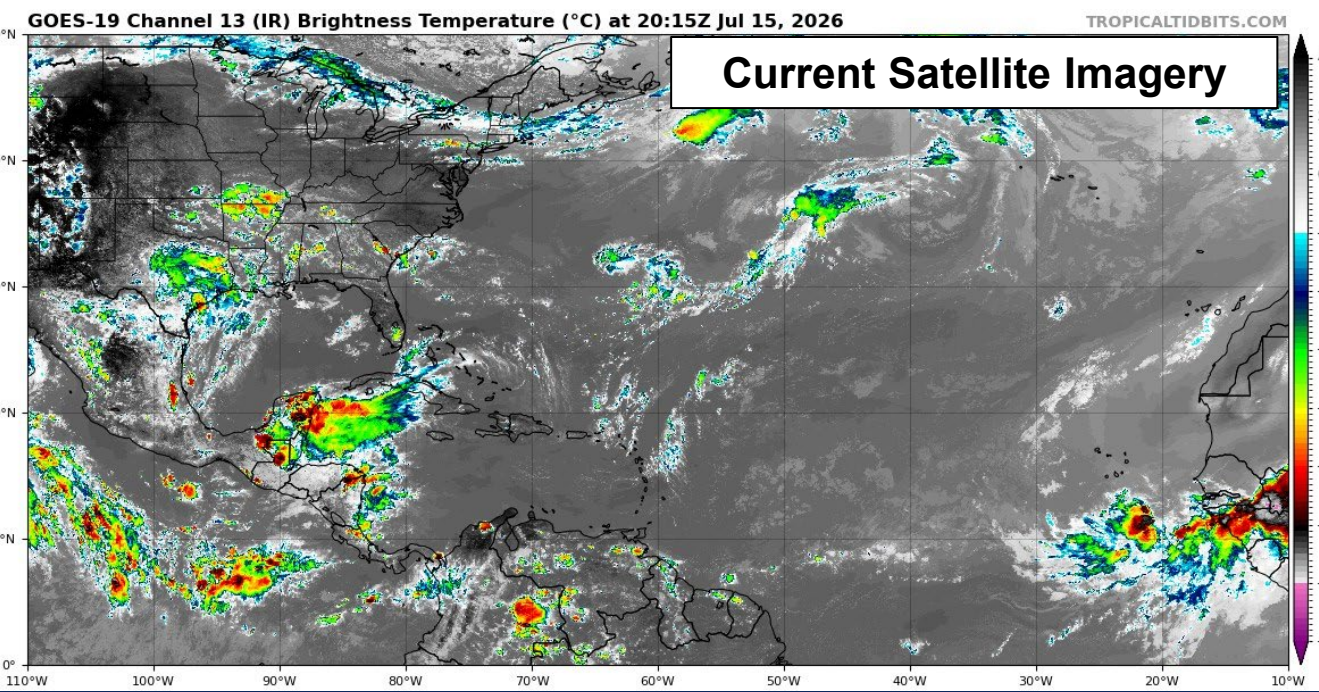
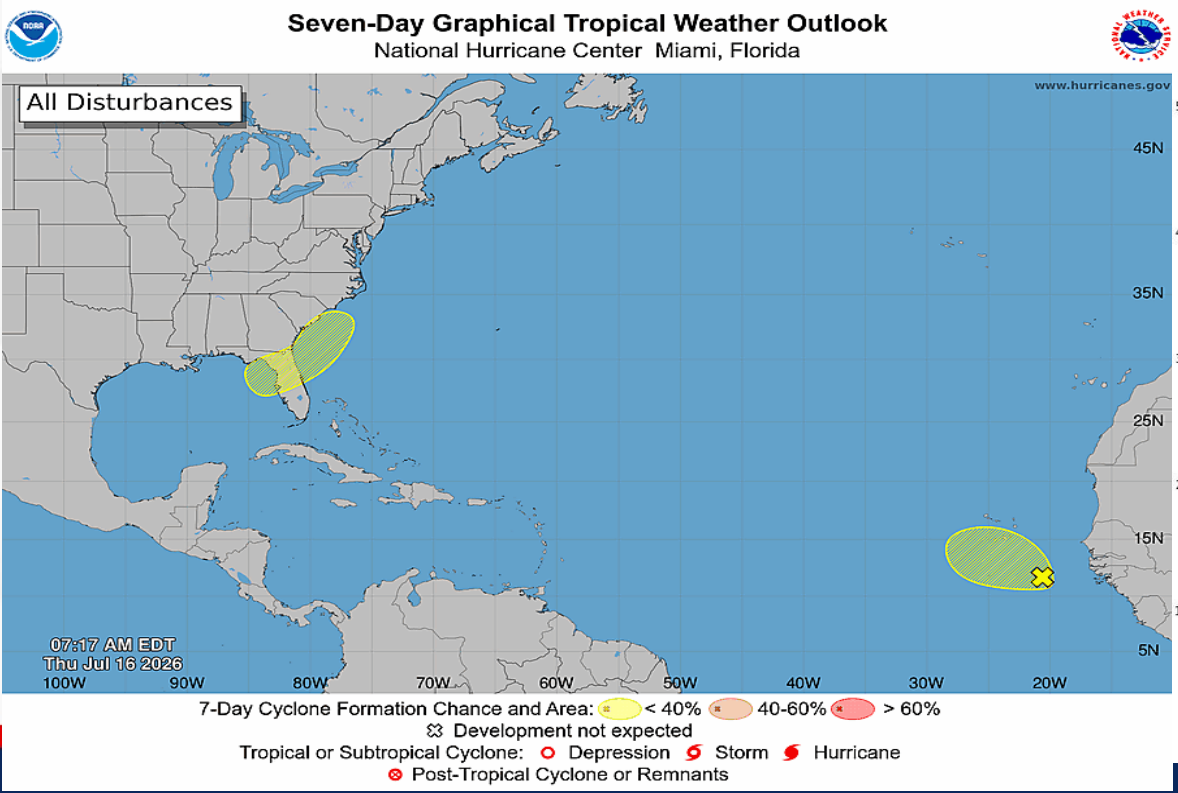
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Northeastern Gulf and Offshore the Southeastern U.S.: An area of low pressure is forecast to form this weekend over the northeastern Gulf of America. Some gradual development of this system is possible while it moves slowly northeastward over the northeastern Gulf and near the coast of the southeastern United States early next week.

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

Eastern Tropical Atlantic: Showers and thunderstorms associated with a tropical wave located southeast of the Cabo Verde Islands remains disorganized. Some slow development is possible during the next day or two while the system moves generally west-northwestward over the eastern Atlantic. By this weekend, the system is forecast to enter a less conducive environment, and further development is not expected.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**low... 10%.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**low... 10%.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked for all Panhandle and East Coast beaches today, with a low risk persisting for Southeast Florida and the West Coast. 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. A few waves upwards of 3' are possible along Gulf County beaches.

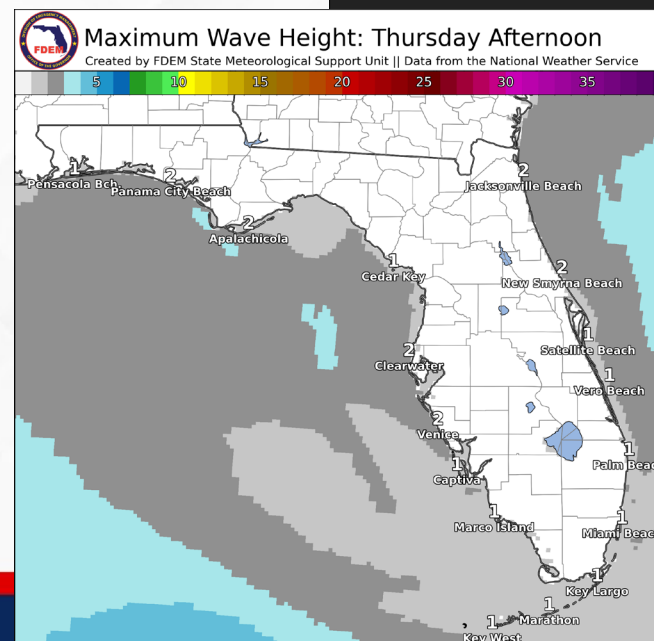
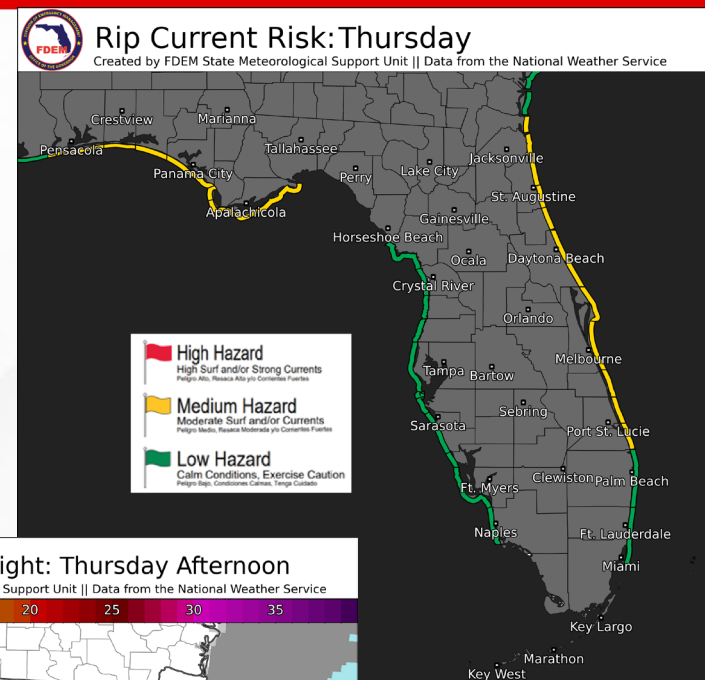
Red Tide: was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 7/10/26).

Coastal Flooding: There is no coastal flooding occurring across Florida.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms across the Peninsula today may be accompanied by **locally heavy downpours** which could drop a quick **1-2" of rainfall** under the heaviest activity in short time. Total rainfall amounts will generally remain around 1", though locally higher totals **upwards of 2-3"** cannot be ruled out. 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 10.96 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.63 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



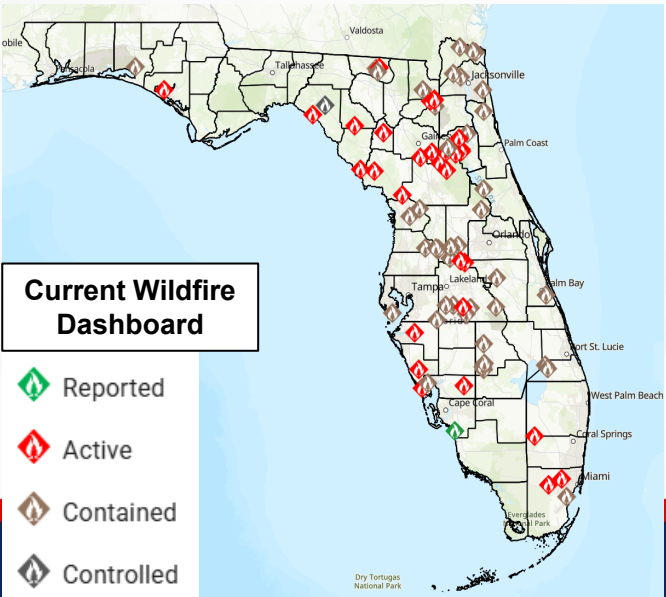
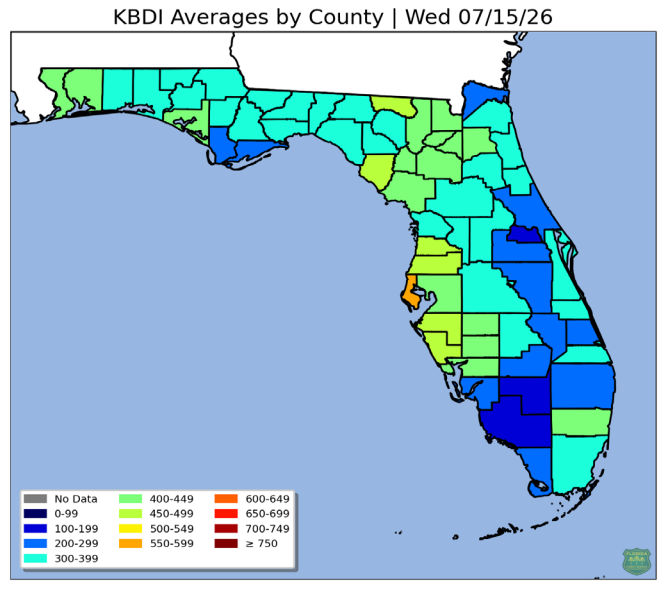
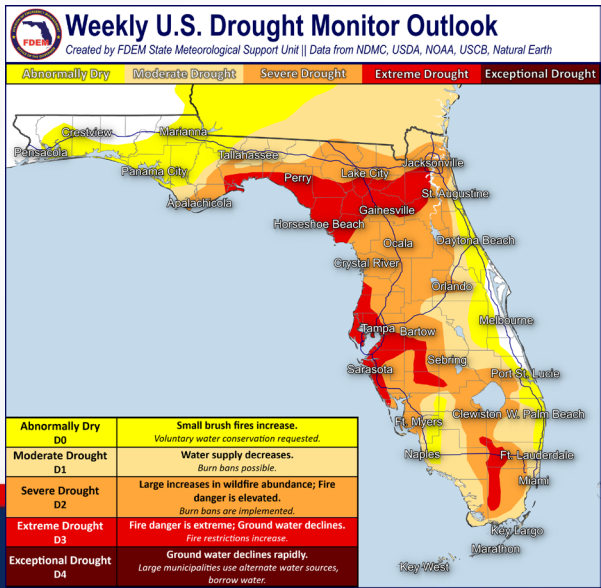


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout much of the Peninsula this afternoon and evening, some of which 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 86 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 8,739 acres.

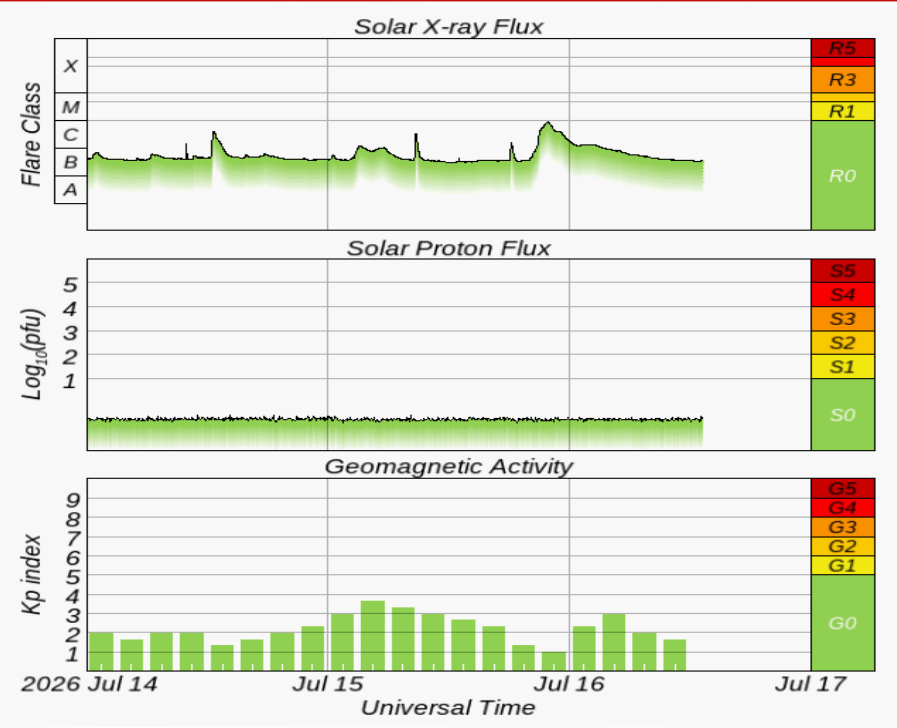
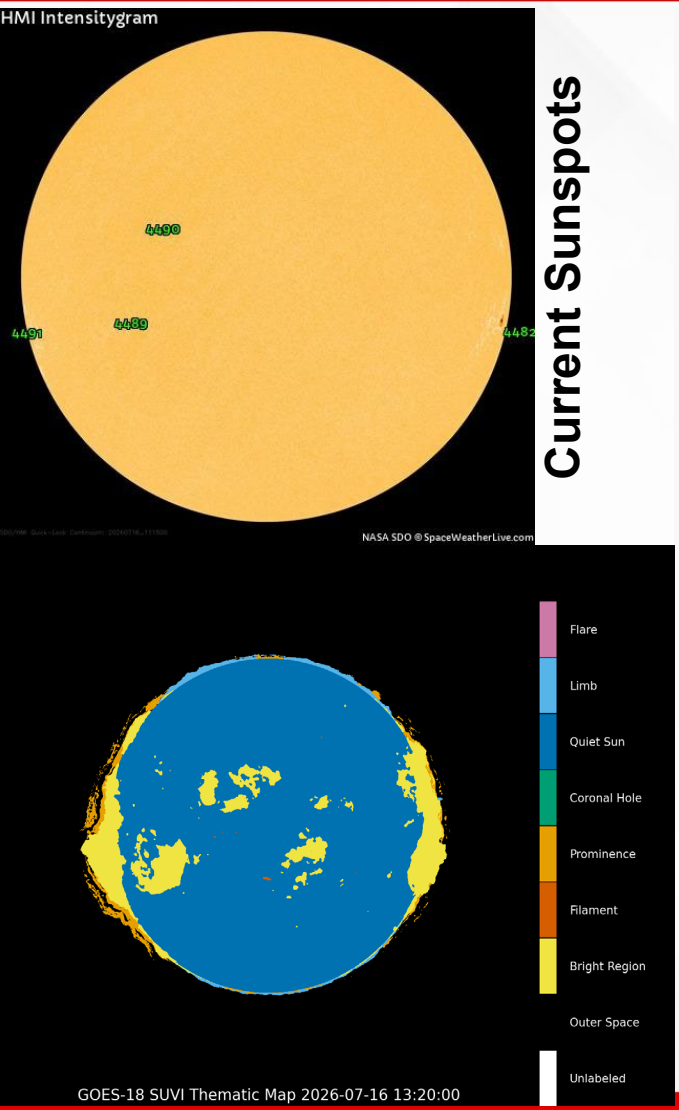
Drought (7/14/26): Another week of fairly seasonal rainfall brought very few changes to the larger drought picture across the Sunshine State. A general 0.5-2" of rainfall was observed across the state with locally higher totals upwards of 3-5" in pockets. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** 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. **Moderate to severe drought (level 1-2 of 4)** still surrounds most of the Peninsula, affecting about 55% of the state. Only slight changes were observed in interior Miami-Dade and Broward counties where **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** expanded slightly eastward and in southern Leon/northern Wakulla counties where **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** has returned. 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 no changes this week. Looking ahead, daily rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected across much of the Peninsula to end the week, bringing seasonal rainfall activity to the area. Beginning this weekend, and into early next week, an upper-level disturbance will dive into the northeastern Gulf with a potential low-pressure system developing briefly before being pulled northward by a few cold fronts sliding across the East Coast. Numerous rounds of heavy rainfall are possible throughout the state as a result, with the Big Bend, Northeast Florida, and Central Florida the focus right now for the heaviest rainfall. Significant drought improvements are possible on next week's update in the Big Bend and West-Central Florida where the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** still persists.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **345 (-9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **1 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	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/16	7/17
Max Kp= 3 (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 remain at low levels through Saturday, 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. A return to ambient-like background solar wind conditions is expected over the next 3 days. Geomagnetic activity is also anticipated to decrease to mostly quiet to unsettled levels through Saturday. 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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