



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, July 17, 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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Alachua	LSA Follow Up Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	HCA Orange Park Hospital Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Brevard	L-449 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas	Region 6 Quarterly Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Pinellas	Region 6 Quarterly Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA Meeting / Presentation Prep

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 1

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	Leon	4794 & 4828 Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Lafayette/Suwannee	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Insturction Coordination Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	LMS Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	Region 6 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	Miami-Dade	Admin Duties

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

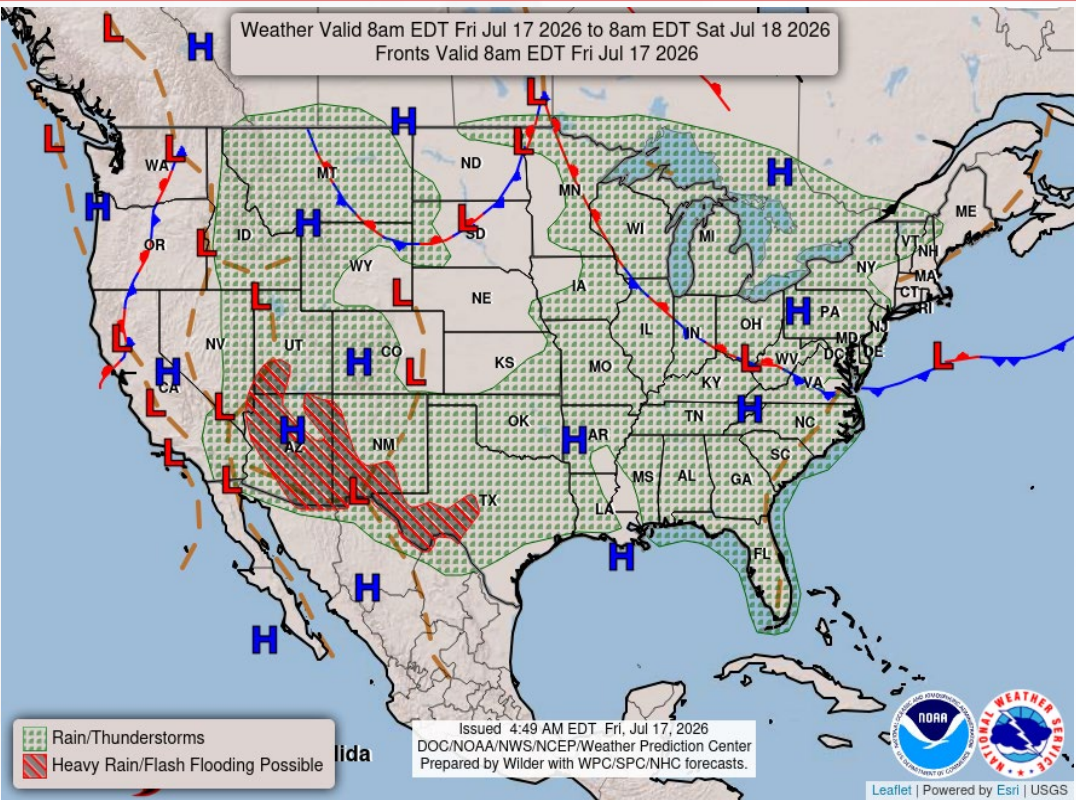
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

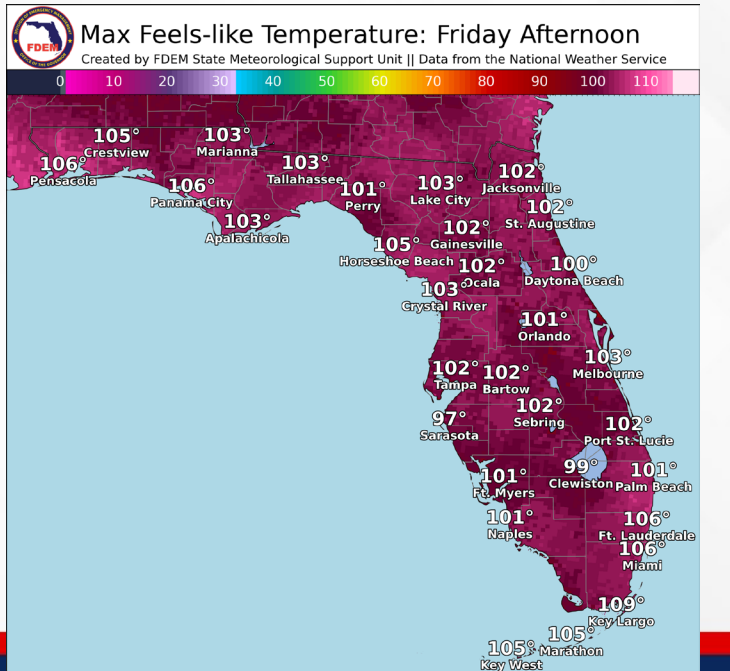
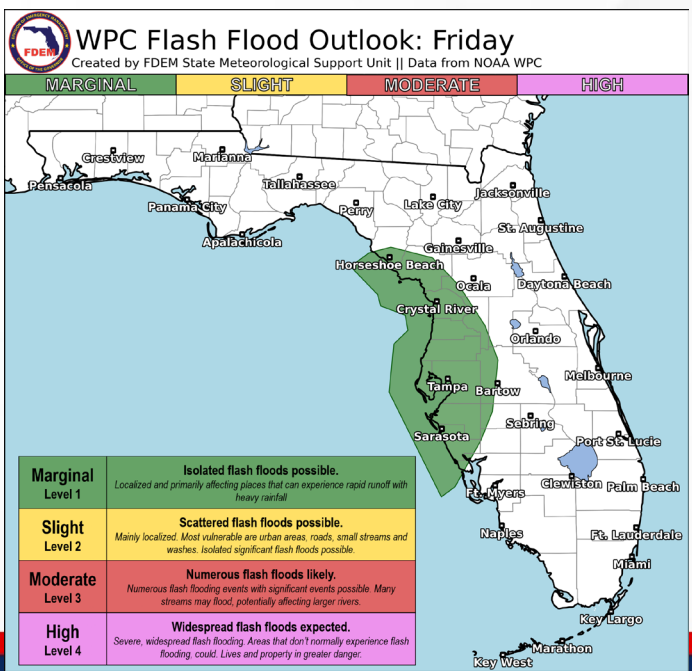


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	M	M	H	H	H	M	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding			L		L	L	L		L	
Extreme Heat	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.93 ft. (2.68 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	362 (+17) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





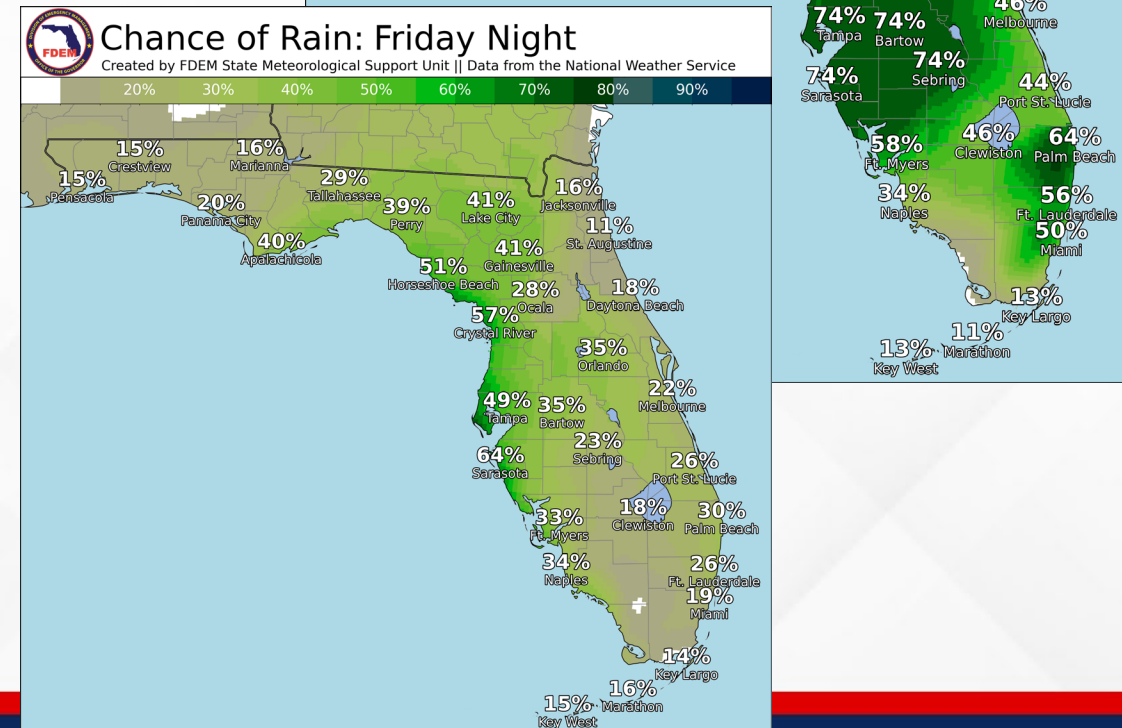
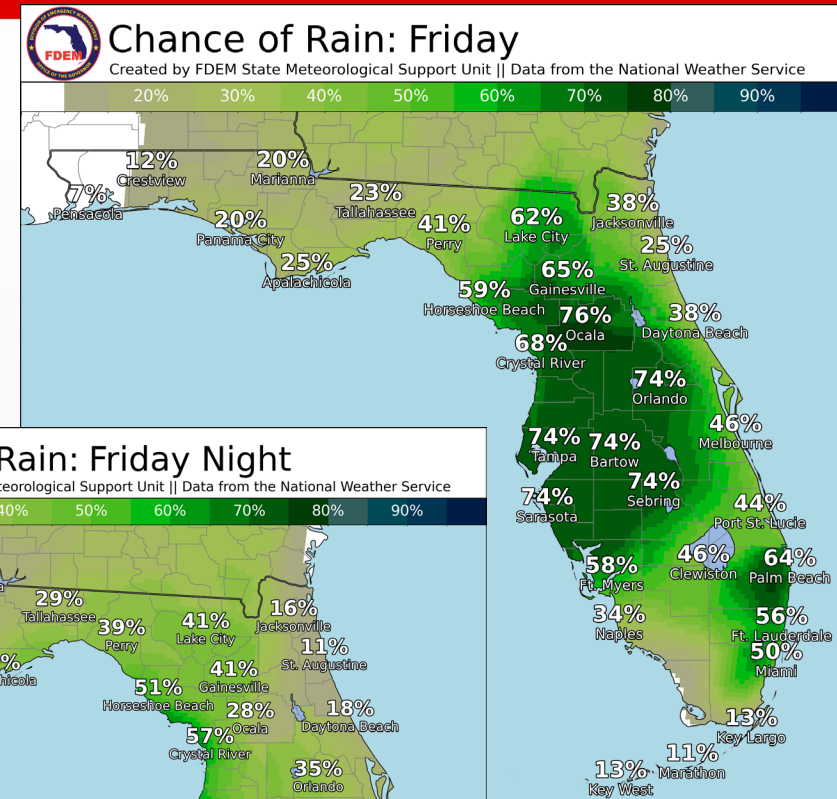
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A middle to upper-level atmospheric disturbance will move into the northeastern Gulf today, setting the stage for a rather wet and unsettled start to the weekend across much of the Peninsula. Showers and thunderstorms are already ongoing across West-Central Florida this morning associated with a large complex of storms aided by enhanced lift near the coast, though this activity has begun to largely push offshore. This afternoon, ample tropical moisture will pool across the state enhanced by the disturbance over the Gulf waters. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will develop along the sea breezes as they advance inland with activity focused across Northeast Florida, through Central Florida, and into portions of interior South Florida as well (50-80% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across West-Central Florida today where the richest moisture will reside, which could promote **torrential downpours** capable of producing **flooding and ponding of water** within the heaviest thunderstorm activity. Throughout the Panhandle, Big Bend, and portions of Southwest Florida, only isolated activity is expected today (15-25% 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 **heavy rainfall**.

High temperatures will remain seasonably hot today, reaching the lower to middle 90s across the state. Despite a bit more cloud coverage and rainfall, afternoon feels-like temperatures will still reach the **lower to middle 100s** throughout the state. Locally hotter heat indices into the **middle to upper 100s** will be possible across coastal Collier County and Southeast Florida where **Heat Advisories** are in effect through this afternoon. **Heat-related illnesses** will be possible statewide with prolonged exposure to the heat.

Tonight, showers and thunderstorms throughout Northeast Florida, the Big Bend, and along the West Coast will generally dissipate or push offshore before midnight (30-50% chance of rain). Additional activity may get off to an early start along the West Coast shortly before sunrise Saturday. Lows will only fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s across the state tonight.





Tropical Weather

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

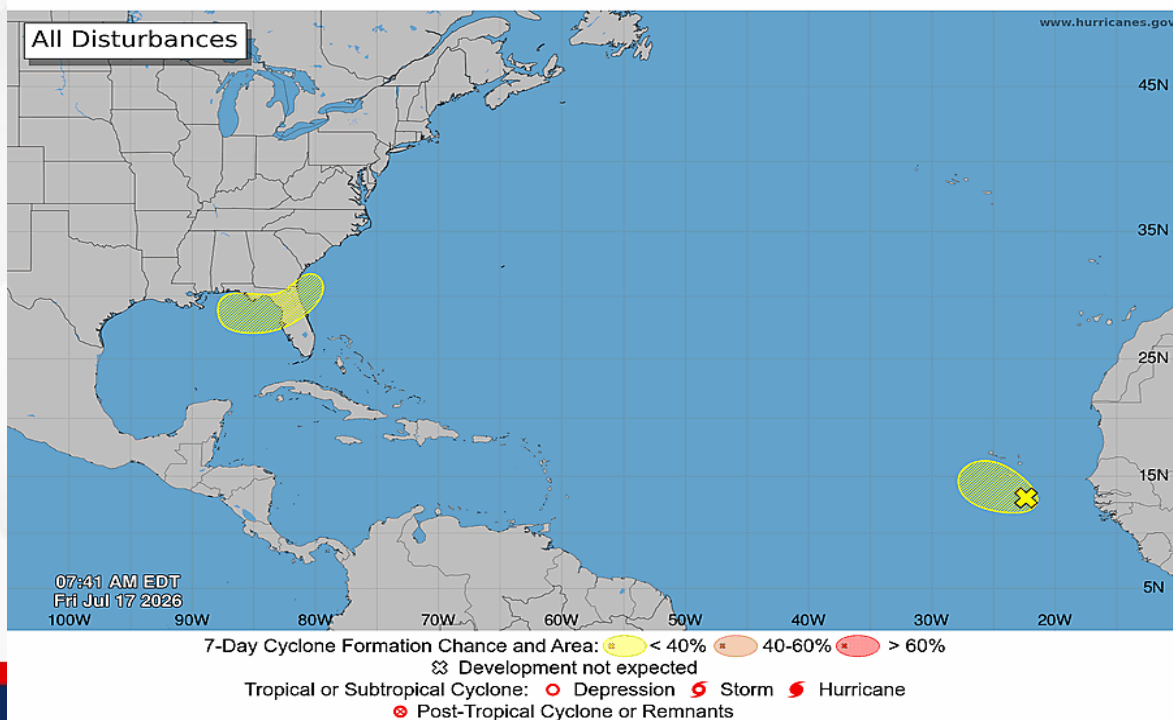
Northeastern Gulf and Offshore the Southeastern U.S.: An area of low pressure is forecast to form this weekend over the northeastern Gulf of America. Some gradual development of this system is possible while it meanders over the northeastern Gulf, northern Florida, or the extreme western Atlantic near northeastern Florida early next week.

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

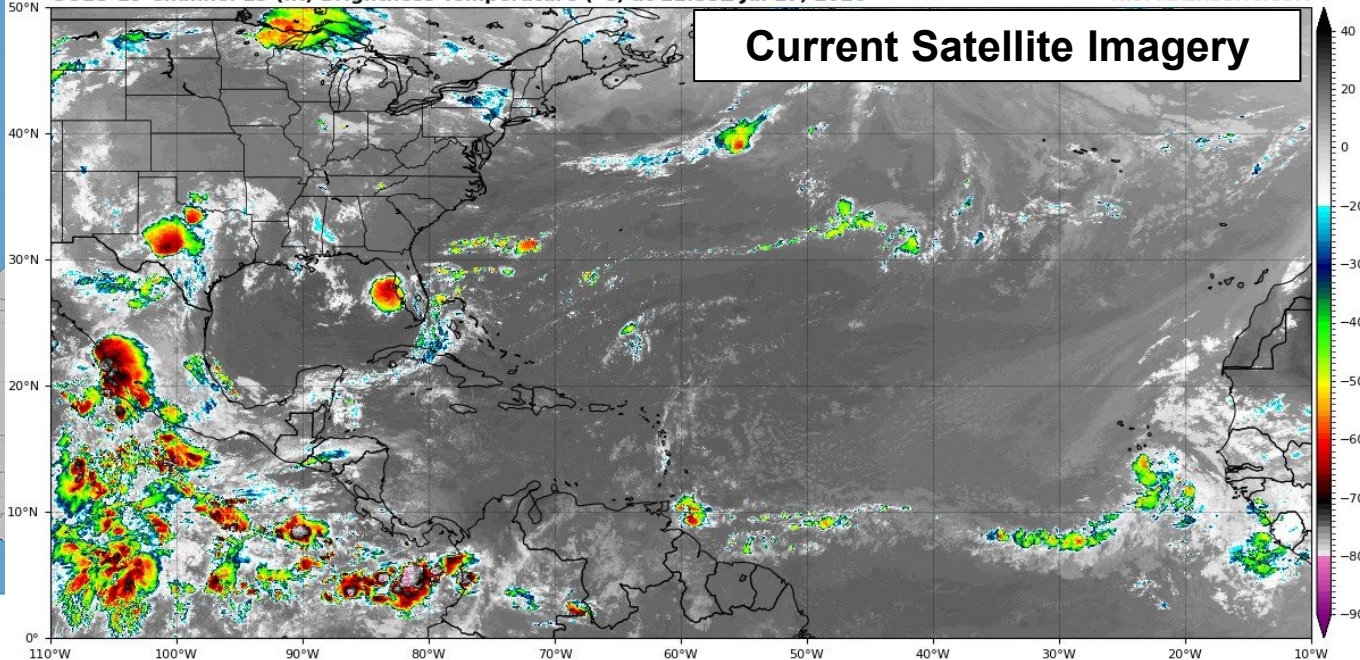
Eastern Tropical Atlantic: A broad area of low pressure, associated with a tropical wave is located about 175 miles southeast of the Cabo Verde Islands. The low continues to produce a limited and disorganized area of showers and thunderstorms while it moves west-northwestward at 10 to 15 mph. Significant development of this system is not expected before environmental conditions become even less favorable for development over the weekend.

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

Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



GOES-19 Channel 13 (IR) Brightness Temperature (°C) at 11:55Z Jul 17, 2026





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked for all eastern Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. A local **high risk** is expected for Gulf County beaches. A low risk will persist for Southeast Florida, the West Coast, and the western Panhandle. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will generally remain near 1-3' for all statewide beaches today. A few waves **upwards of 4'** are possible along Gulf County beaches and across the West Coast.

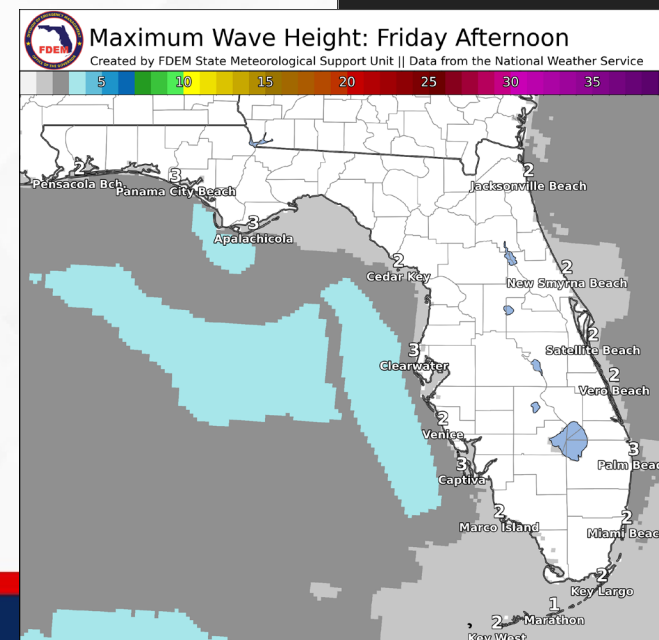
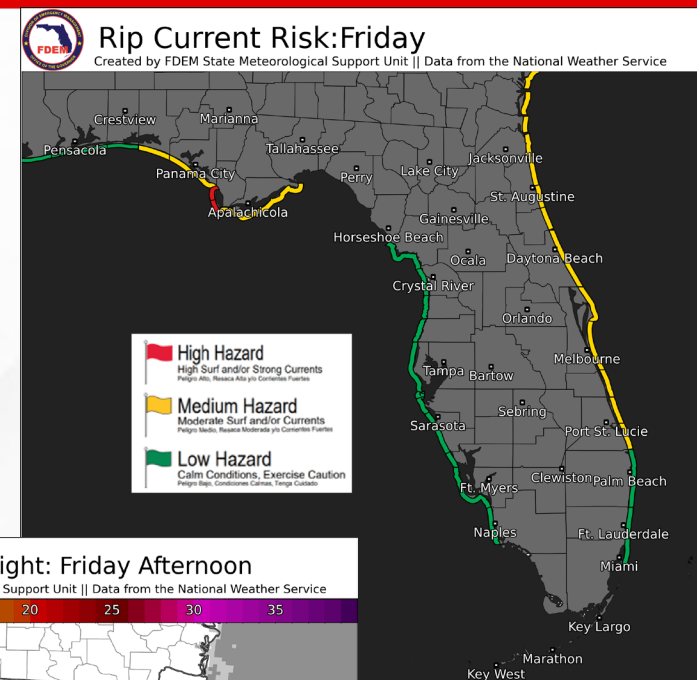
Red Tide: was not observed statewide over the past week (valid 7/10/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked for the West Coast of Florida today. Abundant tropical moisture will allow for scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms this afternoon to be accompanied by **torrential downpours**, which could lead to areas of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. Rainfall totals will generally remain around 1-2" for areas that do receive rainfall today across the state. However, locally higher totals **upwards of 3-4"** 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 10.93 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.68 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



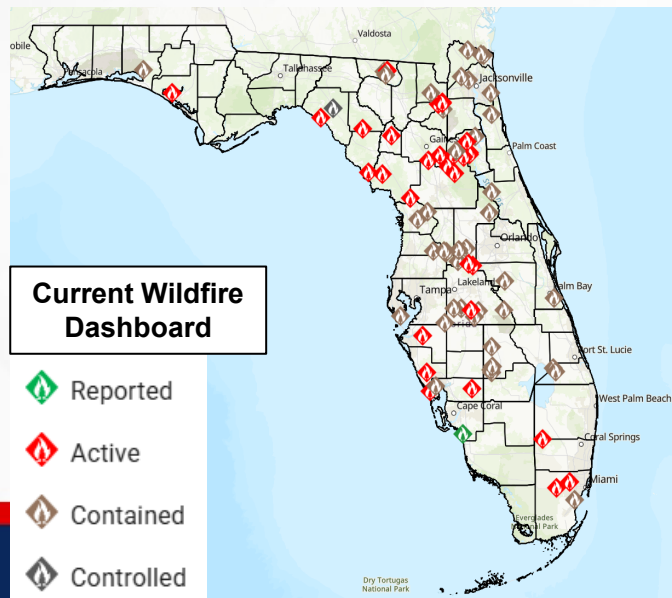
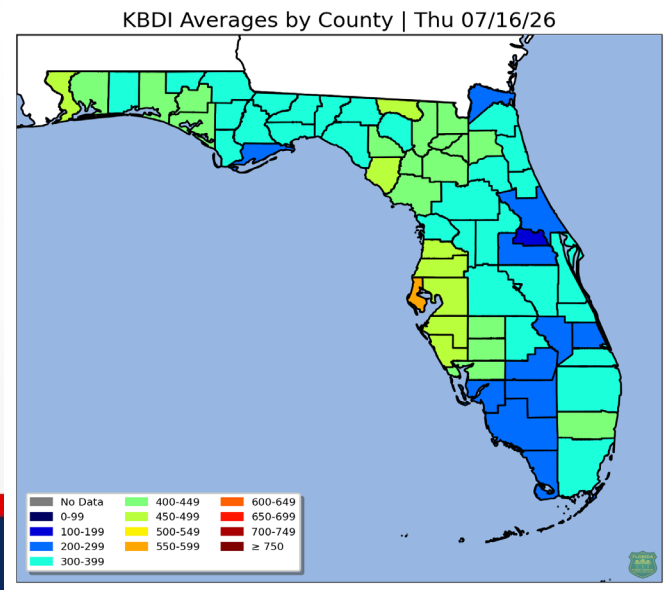
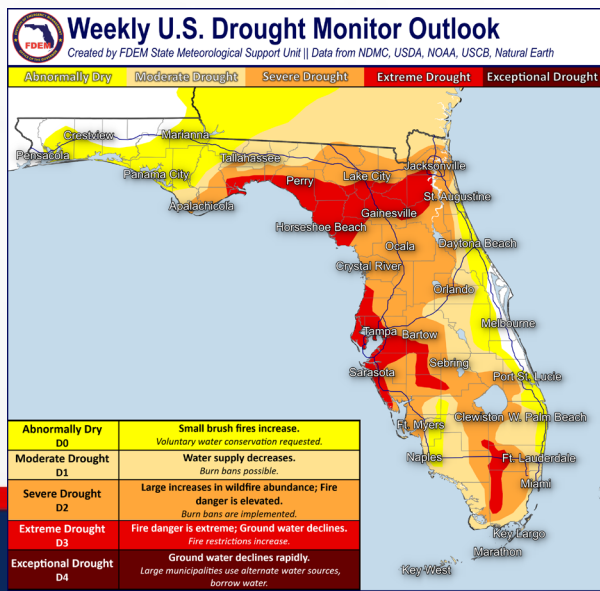


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Scattered to numerous 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 70 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 12,624 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.

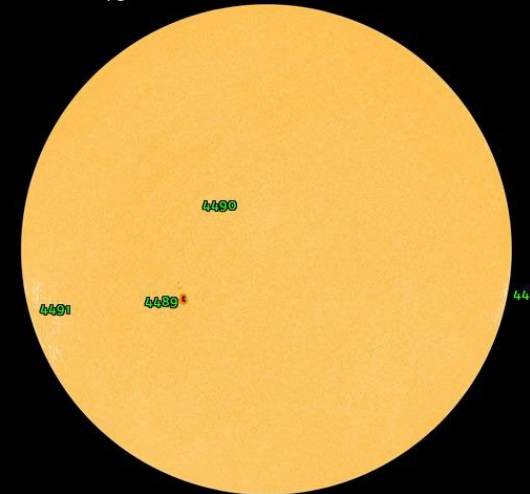
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **362 (+17)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **1 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



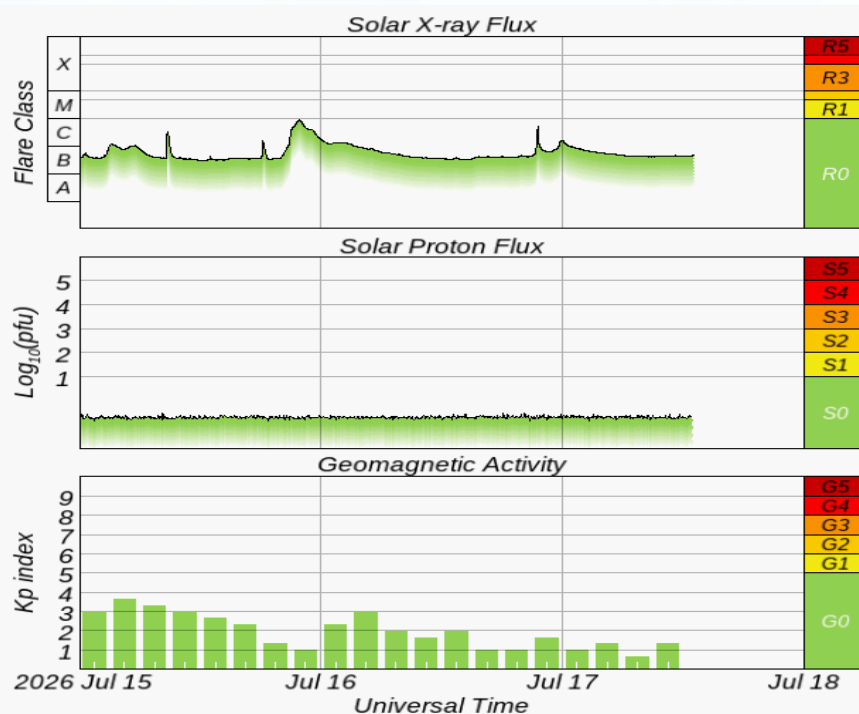
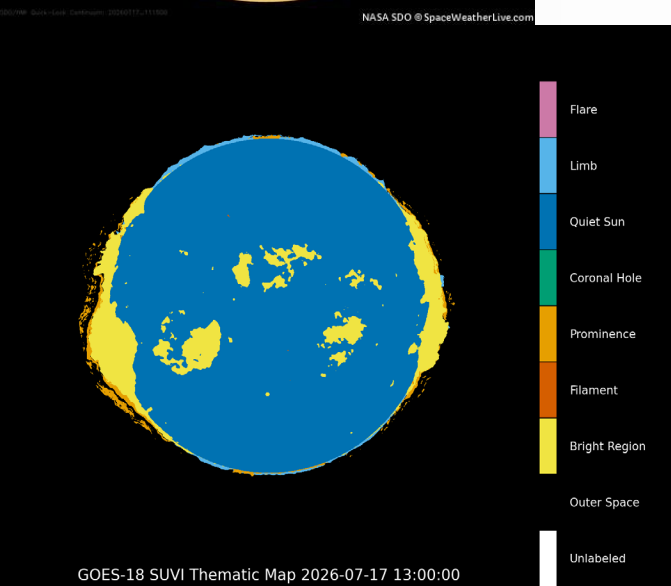


Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	A1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/17	7/18
Max Kp= 2 (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 Sunday, with any flare activity 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. Solar wind conditions will remain slightly enhanced through Saturday before background conditions prevail on Sunday. The geomagnetic field is likely to be at quiet to unsettled levels through this weekend. 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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