



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, July 18, 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	Escambia	Blue Angels Airshow Command
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave(See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Miami-Dade	FIFA Match Activation
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA Match Activation

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2
Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
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	On call Response Region 2
Region 3: Kevin Blom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	On Call Response Region 4
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Out of Region	Leave
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	FIFA Game Support

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

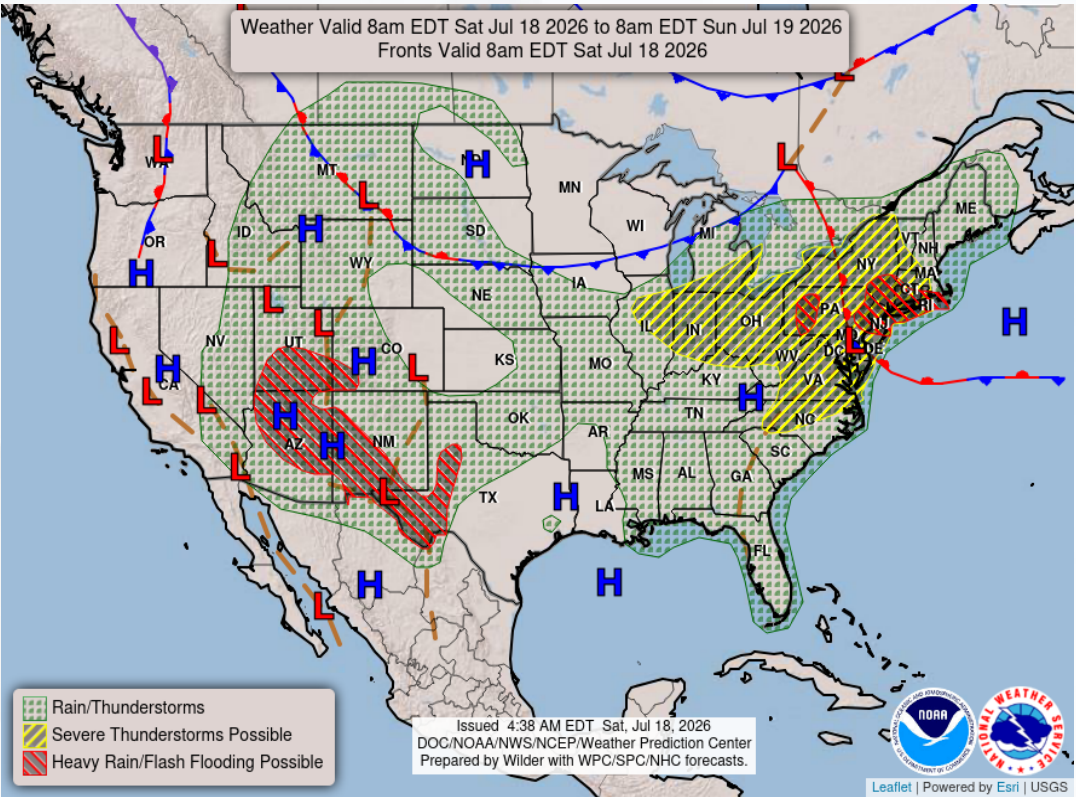
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

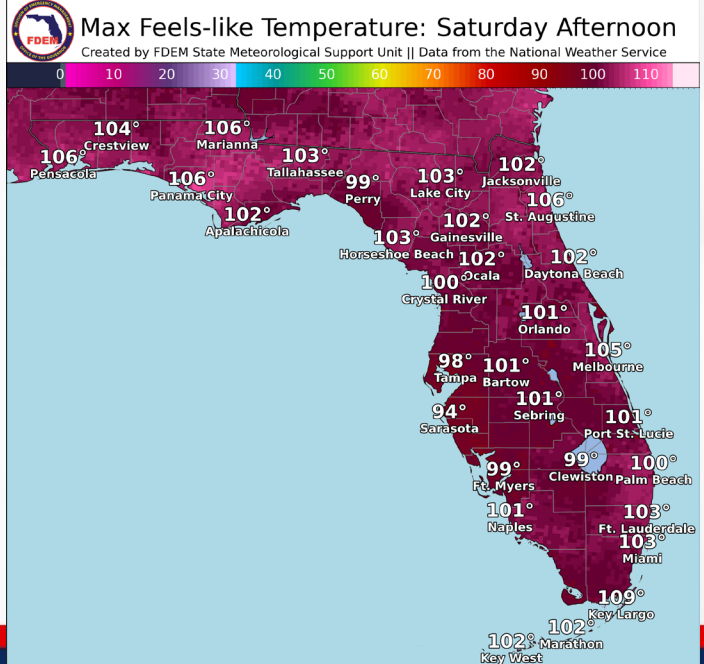
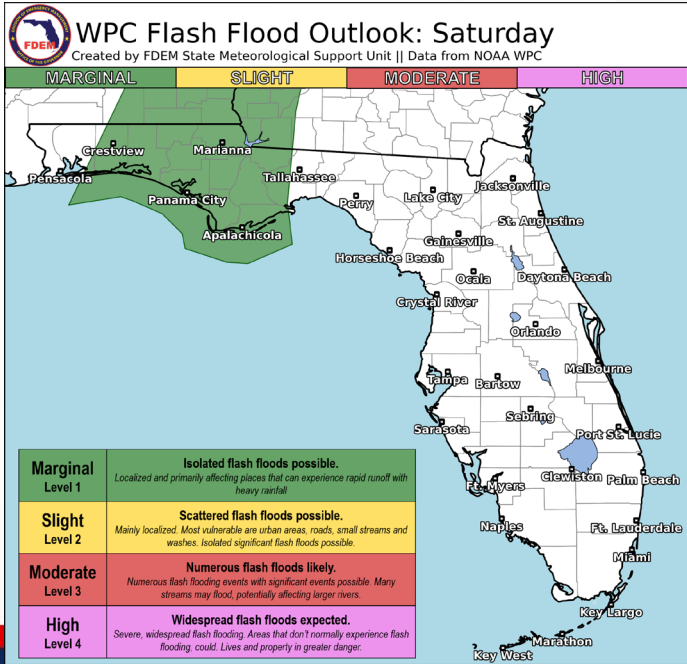


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	H	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L				L	L		L	
Extreme Heat	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	M		M	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.95 ft. (2.67 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	375 (+13) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





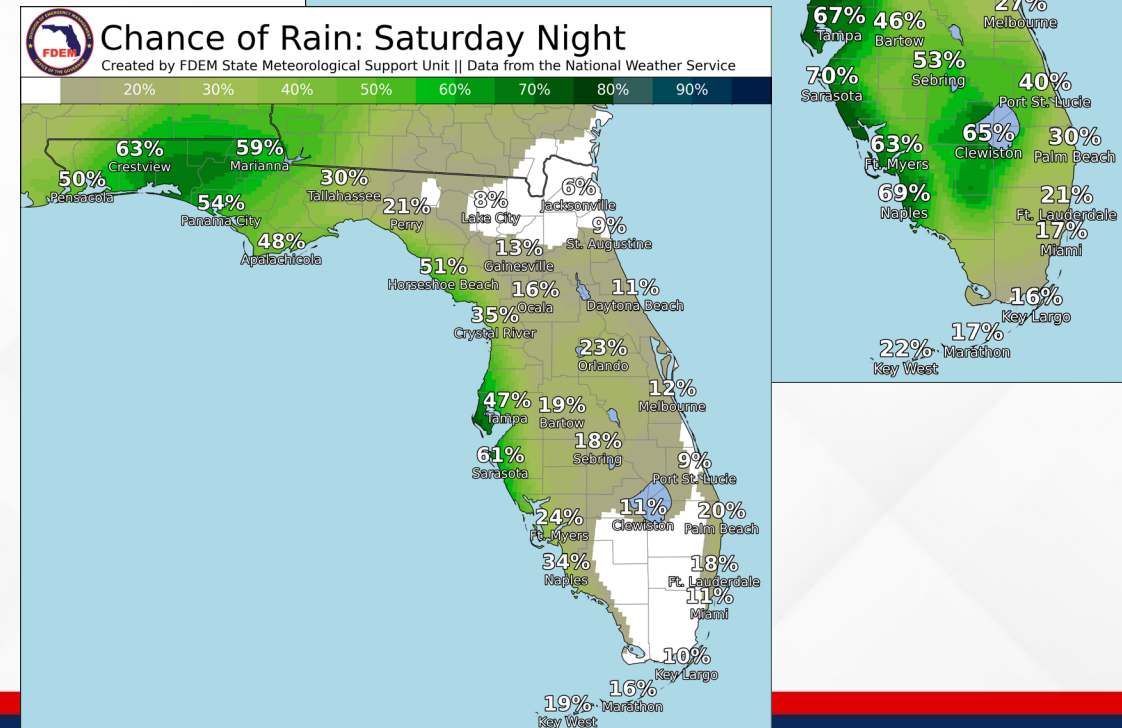
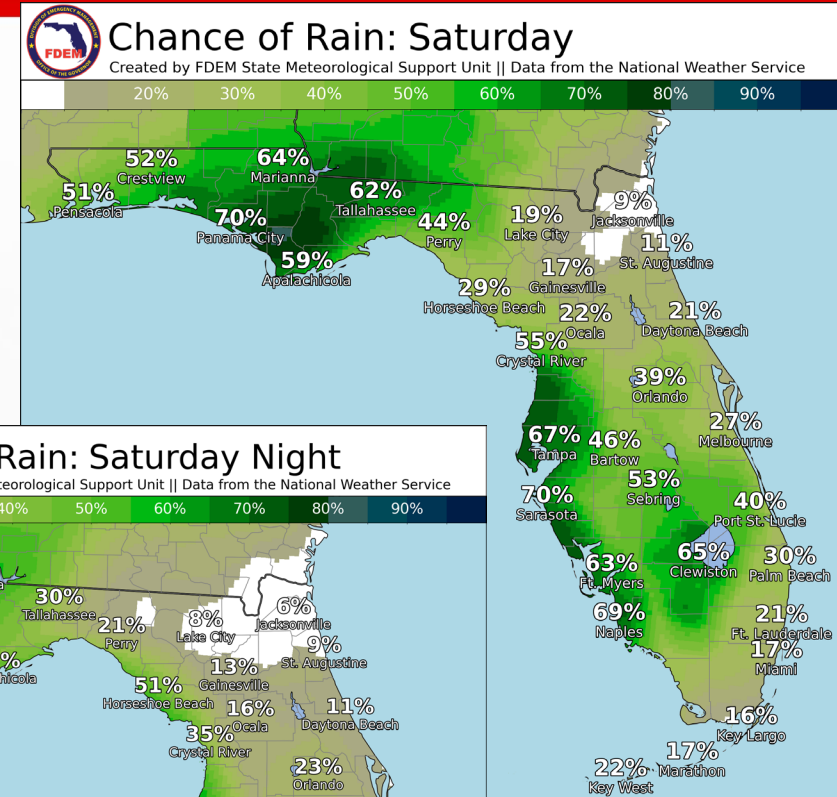
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Evident on radar imagery this morning is a large swath of showers with embedded thunderstorms pinwheeling northward along the West Coast associated with our broad area of low-pressure over the northeastern Gulf. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) continues to designate this area with a **low (20%)** chance of tropical development in the next 48 hours, and **low (30%)** chance of tropical development in the next 7 days. Regardless if this system can consolidate into a weak tropical entity or not today, rounds of **heavy rainfall** will be the primary headline along much of the West Coast and northward into the Big Bend/Panhandle. Multiple rounds of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop throughout Central Florida, the Big Bend, and Panhandle today as a few impulses in the middle to upper-levels of the atmosphere rotate around our broad area of low-pressure, providing additional lift for activity beyond just the typical summertime sea breezes (40-70% chance of rain). Given the richly moist environment, a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked across the eastern Panhandle and western Big Bend where the highest probabilities are of **torrential downpours** producing areas of **flooding and ponding of water** this afternoon. Although chances of rain will not be zero across portions of the East Coast and Northeast Florida (15-30% chance of rain), activity will be much more isolated and driven by the sea breezes. Any thunderstorm activity throughout the state today could become **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing **frequent lightning**, **locally damaging wind gusts (40-60 mph)**, and **heavy downpours**.

High temperatures will remain seasonably hot today, reaching the lower to middle 90s throughout the state. Feels-like temperatures will reach the **lower to middle 100s** for most locations, with localized areas in North Florida climbing into the **upper 100s**. **Heat-related illnesses** are possible statewide today with prolonged exposure to the heat.

Tonight, showers and thunderstorms will likely be ongoing across much of the Panhandle this evening as they push westward and eventually dissipate shortly before midnight (40-60% chance of rain). Additional showers and thunderstorms are also expected along the West Coast throughout the night as the Gulf disturbance meanders off the coast (40-60% chance of rain). Otherwise, any activity across the Peninsula will dissipate after sunset, with dry conditions prevailing overnight. Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide.



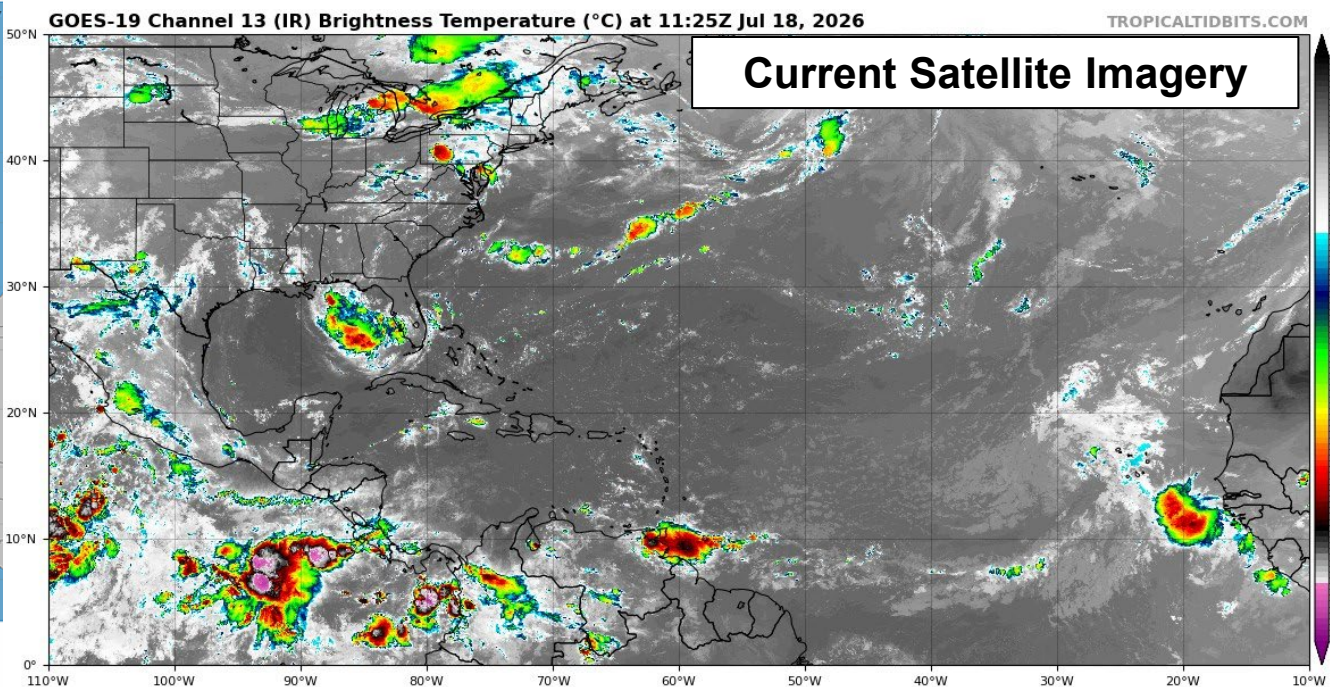
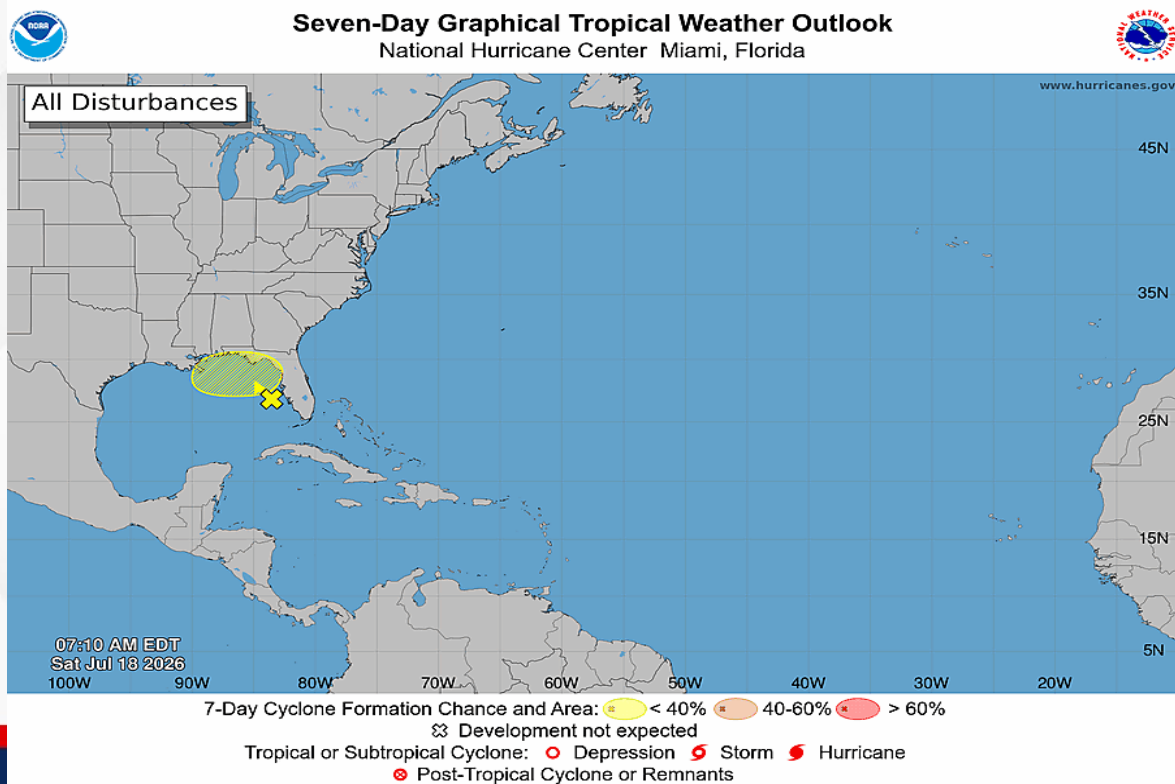


Tropical Weather

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

Northern Gulf of America and near Florida: Showers and thunderstorms over the eastern Gulf of America are associated with an upper-level low and a surface trough. Surface observations indicate that pressures remain high in the area, and winds are generally light. However, some gradual development of this system is possible while it moves slowly northward or north-northwestward during the next few days. ***Regardless of development, this system is expected to bring heavy rainfall to much of the Florida West Coast and Panhandle during the next several days.***

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...20%.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**low... 30%.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked for all eastern Panhandle, East Coast, and West-Central Florida beaches today. A low risk will persist for all other statewide beaches. 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 the West Coast and Northeast Florida.

Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from St. Johns County (valid 7/17/26).

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 much of the eastern Panhandle and western Big Bend today. Scattered to numerous heavy showers and thunderstorms will develop across the area later this afternoon on the northern periphery of a broad low-pressure meandering west of Florida. Instances of **flooding and ponding of water** cannot be ruled out in areas that receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours**. Rainfall totals will generally remain around 1" in areas that do receive rainfall, though locally higher totals **upwards of 2-4"** cannot be ruled out. Throughout the remainder of the state, isolated to widely scattered activity may bring rainfall amounts upwards of 1". For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

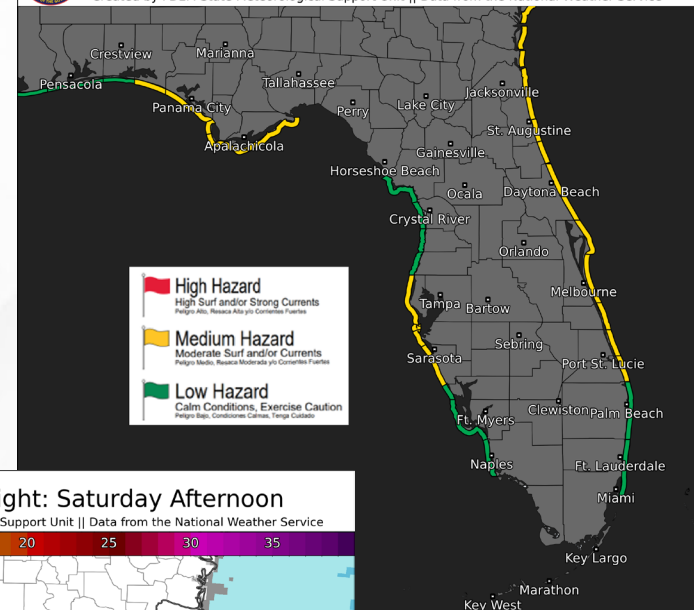
Riverine Flooding: All rivers are below flood stage across Florida. For more information, visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 10.95 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.67 feet below normal for this time of year.



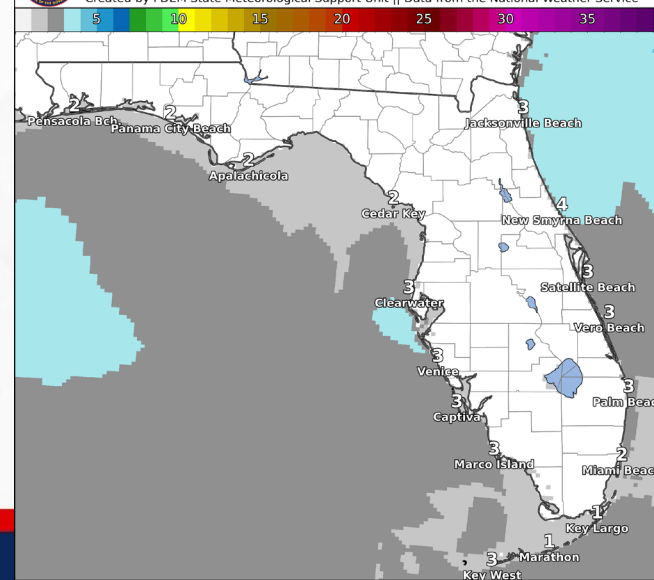
Rip Current Risk: Saturday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



Maximum Wave Height: Saturday Afternoon

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



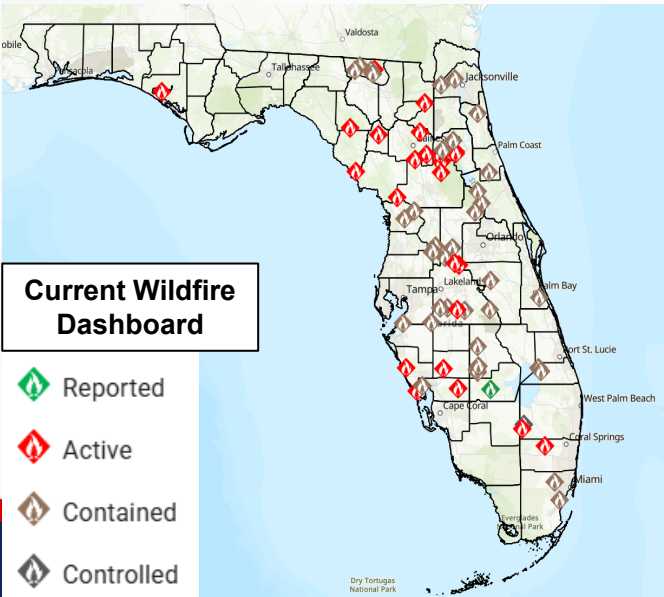
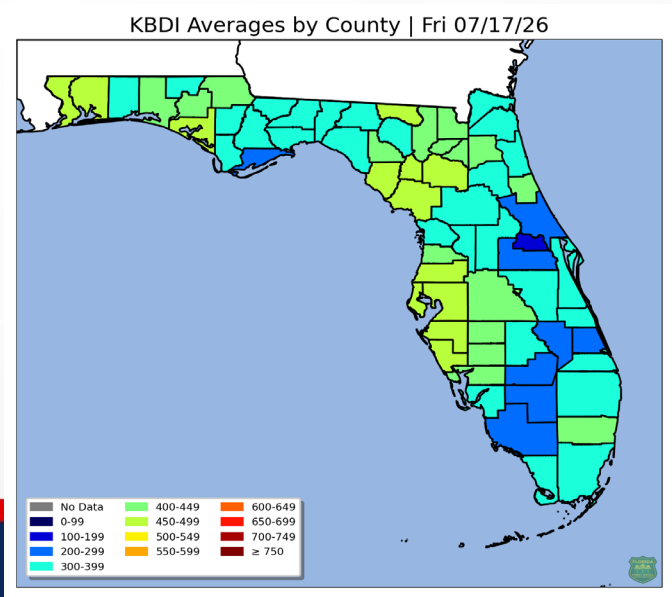
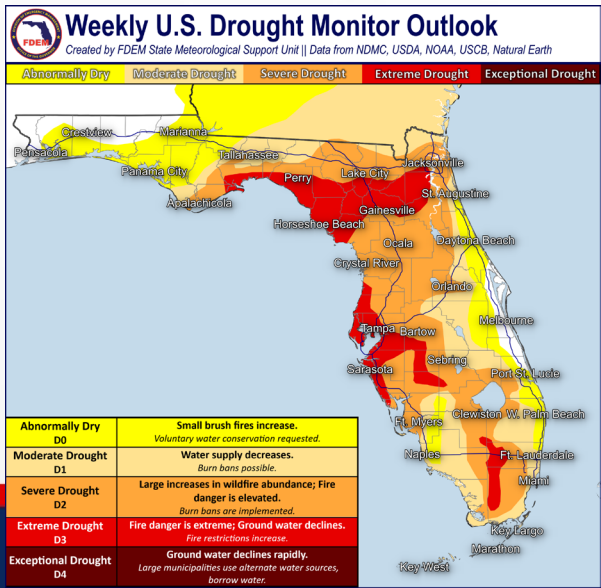


Drought & Fire Weather

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 state 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 65 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 16,568 acres.

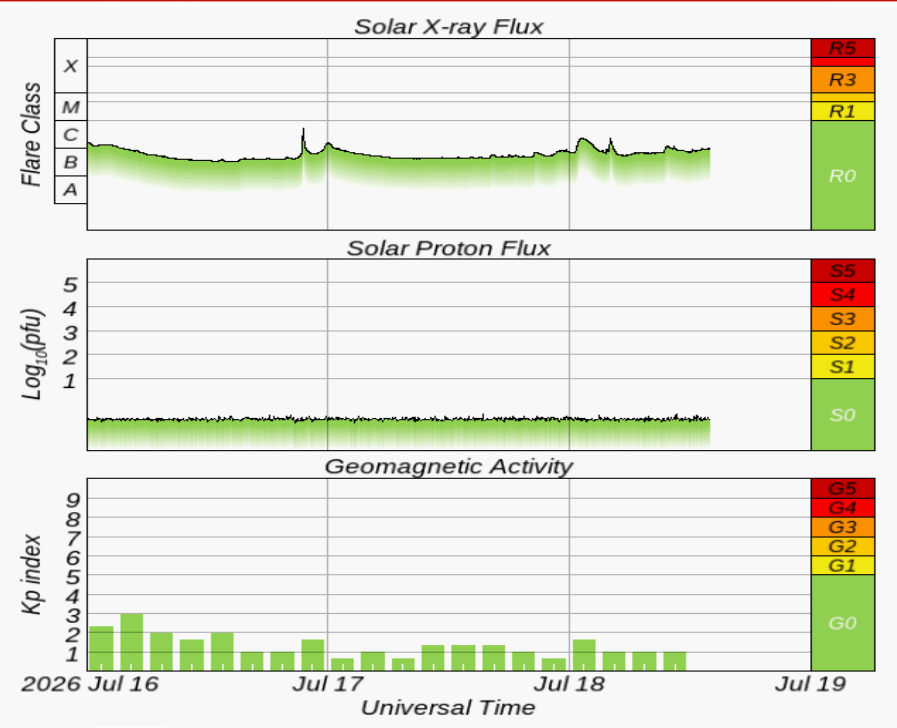
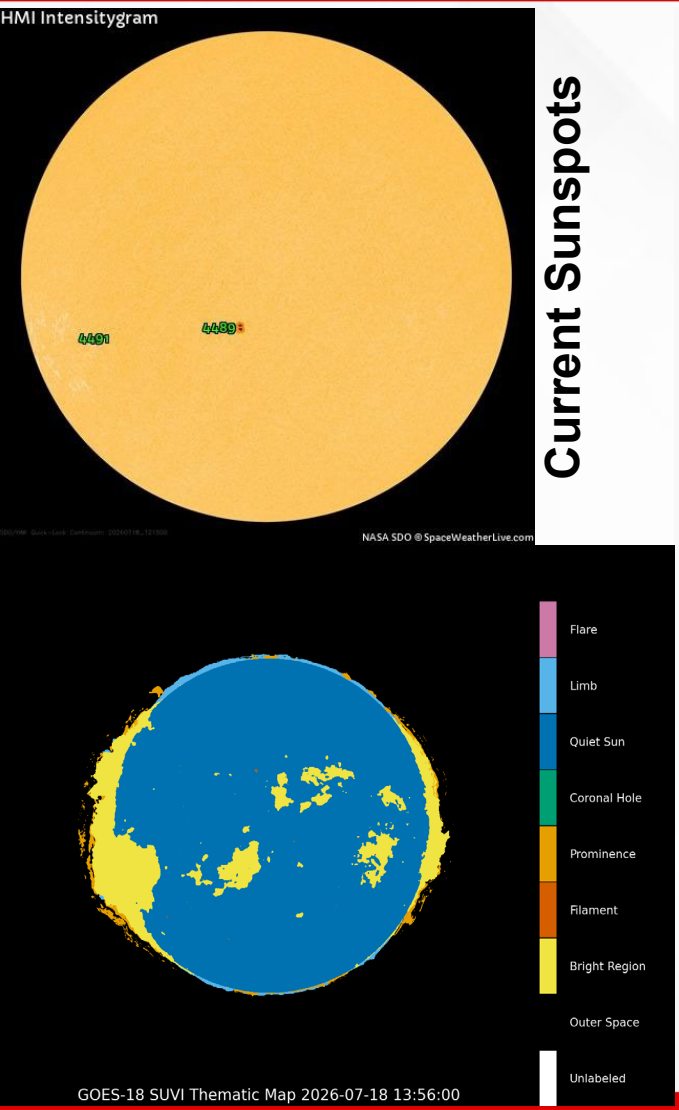
Drought (7/14/26): Another week of fairly seasonal rainfall brought very few changes to the larger drought picture across the Sunshine State. A general 0.5-2" of rainfall was observed across the state with locally higher totals upwards of 3-5" in pockets. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** 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 **375 (+13)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **0 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: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/18	7/19
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels through Monday, with any flare activity driven by active regions rotating 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 today before background conditions prevail on Sunday and Monday. 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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