



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, July 21, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Ian Danley	(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	Ian Mutschler	(850) 688-2119	Ian.Mutschler@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	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	Escambia, Okaloosa	Equipment Demobilization / G-300 Course Instruction / TS Bertha Monitoring
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty	Course EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton	Response & Finance Meeting / EM County Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Putnam	Active Assailant Exercise
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Polk, Orange	CEVO Instruction / Response & Finance Meeting / Disney FSE
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Collier	Tampa EM Meeting / ESF-8 Meeting / Travel to Region 9
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Vehicle Maintenance/Response & Finance MTG/R6 & R9 Response Coord MTG
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Response & Finance Meeting / OVS Meeting

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 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	Instructing G-300
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Liberty	EM Meeting & TS Bertha Monitoring
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Taylor	EM Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	NEMAA
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
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	Professional Development / Virtual First Aid,CPR, and AED Course

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

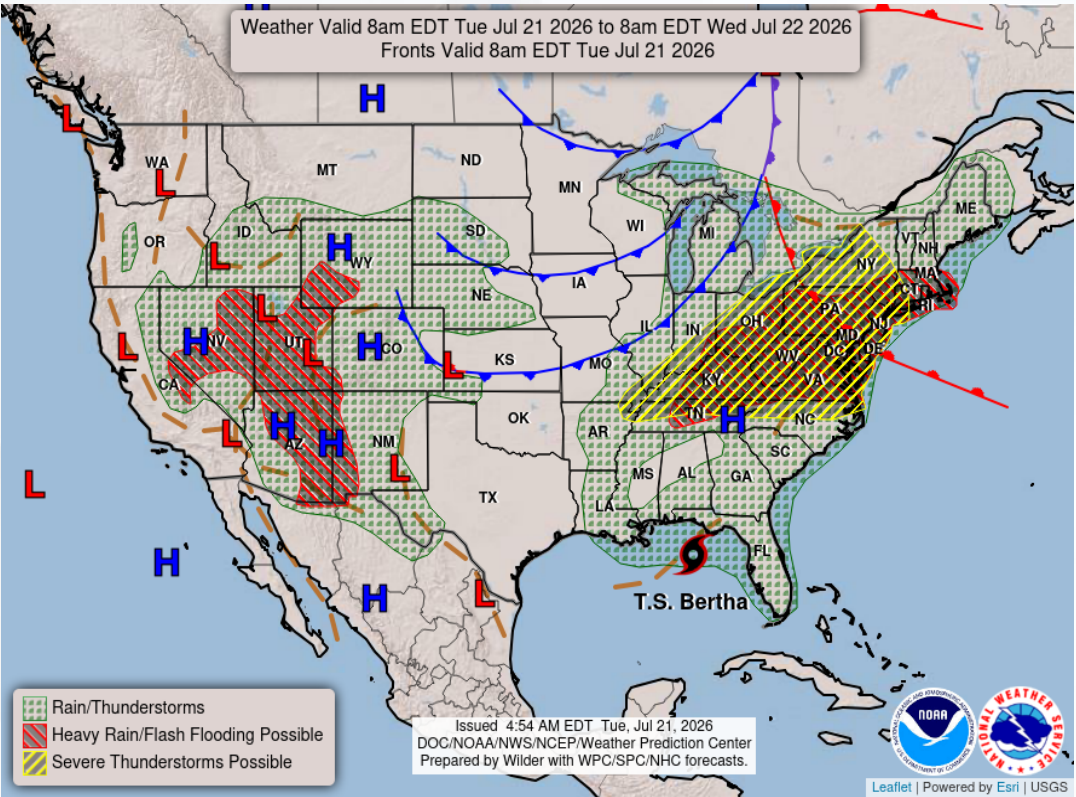
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

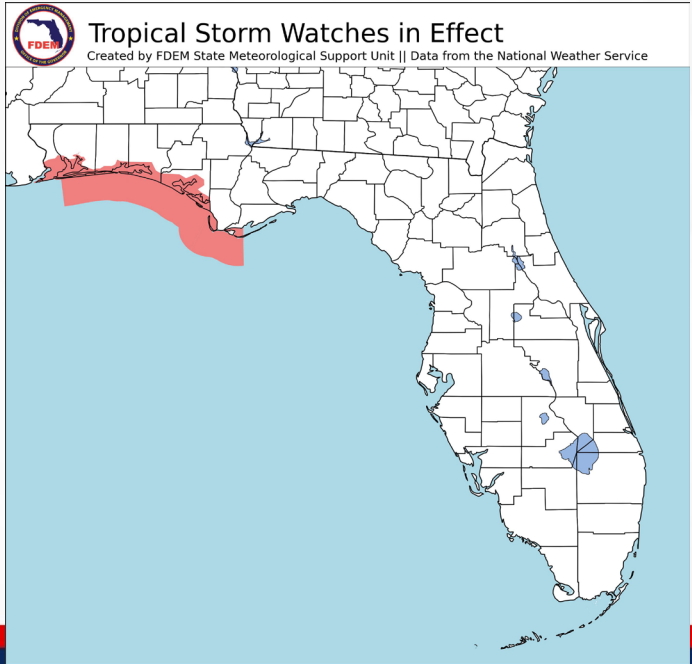
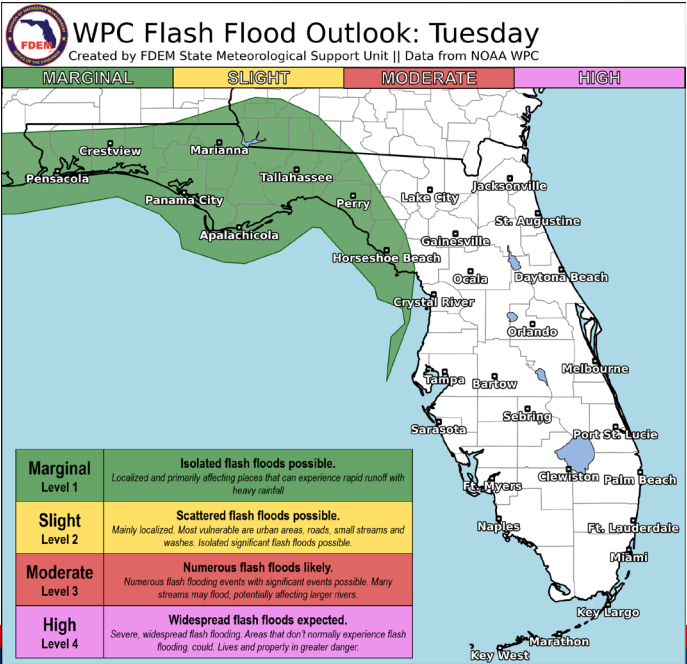


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

T hreat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado	L	L	L							
Damaging Wind	L	L	L							
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L							
Extreme Heat			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire					L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	M	M	M	H		M	H	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.95 ft. (2.69 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	355 (+1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





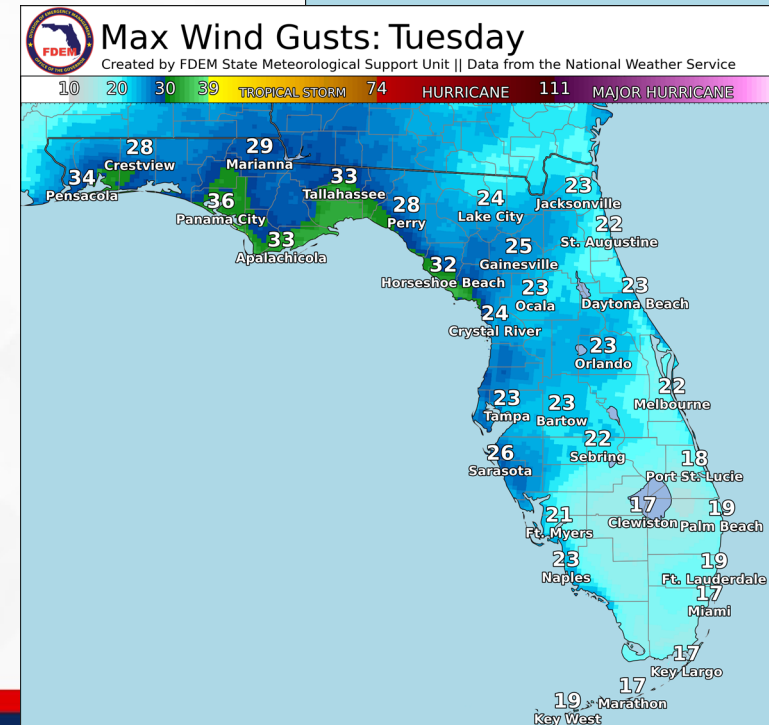
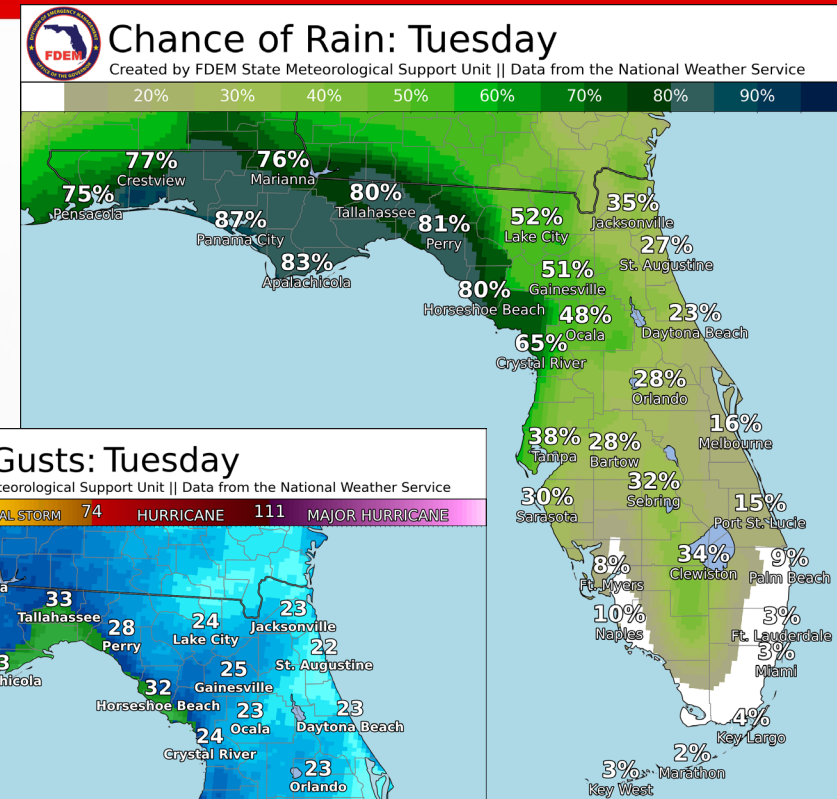
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Tropical Storm Watches remain in effect for portions of the coastal Panhandle until further notice as **Tropical Storm Bertha** slowly drifts northwestward over the northeastern Gulf. The outer rain bands of Bertha are moving onshore across the Panhandle and Big Bend this morning, and rain band activity is expected to increase in coverage and intensity later this afternoon during peak heating hours across the area (70-90% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** remains outlooked for the Big Bend and Panhandle today for localized instances of flooding and ponding of water, especially in areas that receive training thunderstorms within the outer rain bands. Rainfall amounts today will generally amount to 1-2" along the coast with lesser amounts towards the I-10 corridor. Locally higher totals **upwards of 2-4"** cannot be ruled out in areas that receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours**. Breezy winds are also expected across the Panhandle and Big Bend, with gusts **upwards of 30-40 mph** at times; A **Wind Advisory** is in effect for coastal Franklin, Wakulla, and Gulf counties. Higher wind gusts **upwards of 45-50 mph** will accompany the strongest thunderstorms embedded in the spiraling rain bands. A brief tornado or waterspout cannot be ruled out along the Panhandle or Big Bend coast today. Throughout the Peninsula, a few isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible on the outer periphery of Tropical Storm Bertha and along the inland advancing sea breezes this afternoon (30-50% chance of rain).

High temperatures will reach the middle to upper 80s across the Panhandle and Big Bend today with **middle 90s** throughout the Peninsula. Feels-like temperatures will be warmest throughout the Peninsula, soaring into the **lower to middle 100s** this afternoon. A few localized **upper 100s** cannot be ruled out, especially in urban areas.

Tonight, Tropical Storm Bertha will continue its slow drift northwestward with the outer rain bands continuing to move onshore across the Panhandle and Big Bend, though will decrease in coverage and intensity from the afternoon (50-75% chance of rain). Any showers or storms throughout the Peninsula will dissipate or push offshore after sunset. Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s across the state tonight.

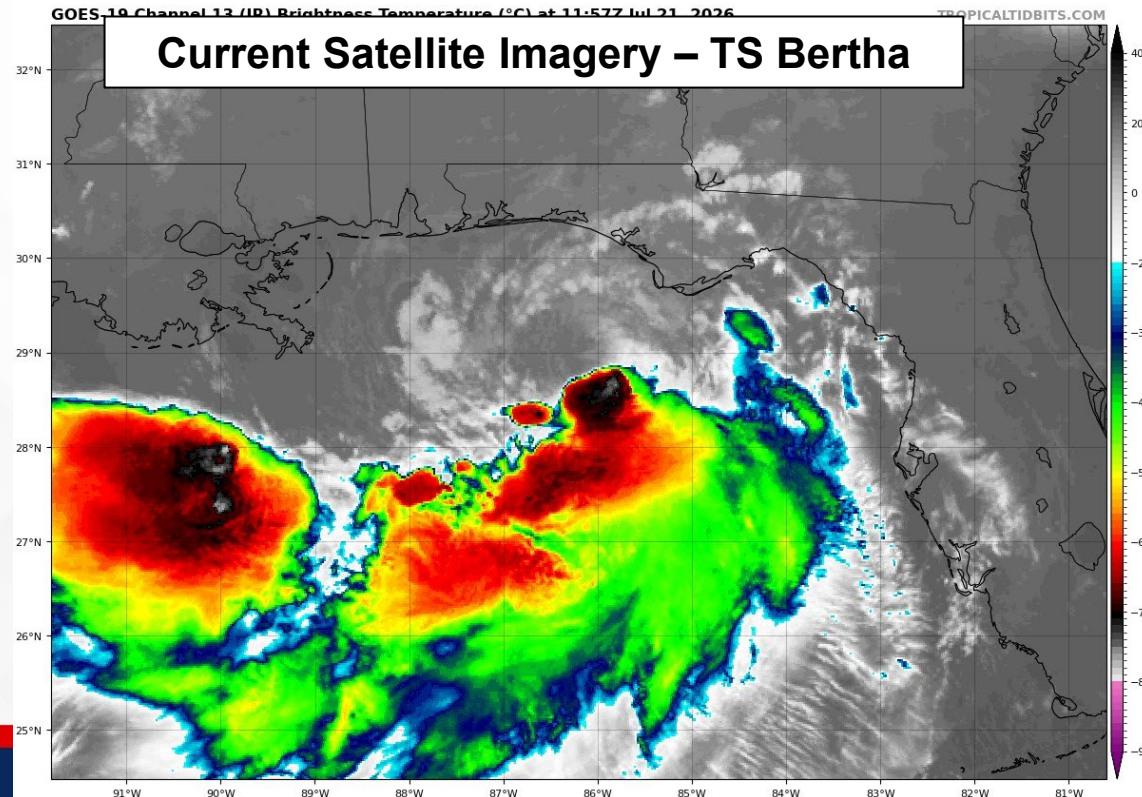
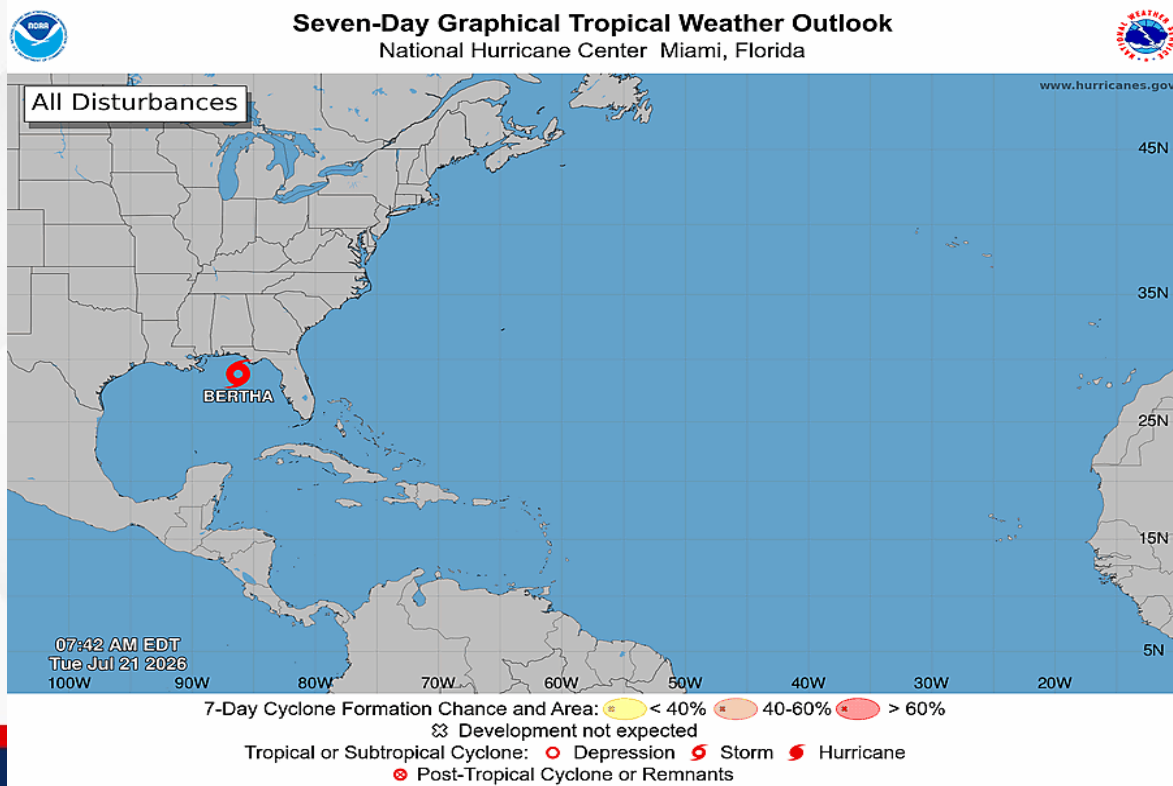




Tropical Weather

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

Tropical Storm Bertha: is located about 100 miles south-southwest of Panama City, Florida, moving towards the northwest at 5 mph. A slow northwestward to west-northwestward motion is expected today, followed by a turn toward the west by the middle part of this week. On the forecast track, Bertha will move near or along the northern Gulf coast during the next several days. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts. Some slight strengthening is possible later today, followed by gradual weakening through the middle of this week. ***Bertha will continue to bring periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, dangerous surf, and life-threatening rip currents to the Florida Gulf Coast as it moves off to the northwest early this week.***





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** is outlooked for all Gulf-facing beaches in association with Tropical Storm Bertha in the northeastern Gulf. A low **to moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked across East Coast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Dangerous high surf is expected across all Gulf-facing beaches today, with the highest surf expected along the Panhandle and Big Bend. A **High Surf Warning** is in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties where waves of **8-11'** are expected beginning this afternoon. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect for coastal Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties for surf **6-10'**, with locally higher waves **upwards of 12'** possible in the surf zone. High surf will continue through the nighttime hours throughout all Panhandle and Big Bend beaches. Areas of **minor beach erosion** cannot be ruled out along the most susceptible Panhandle beaches. Waves along the West Coast will reach **5-7'** today and tonight. Along the East Coast, surf near **3-4'** is expected.

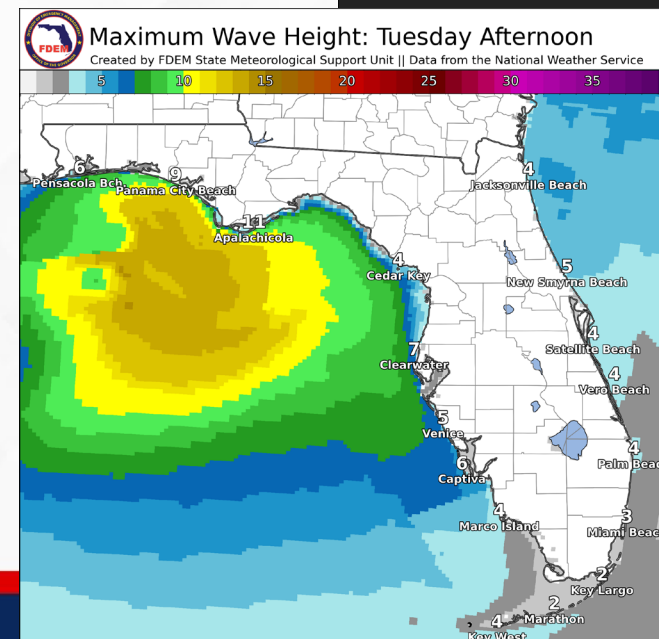
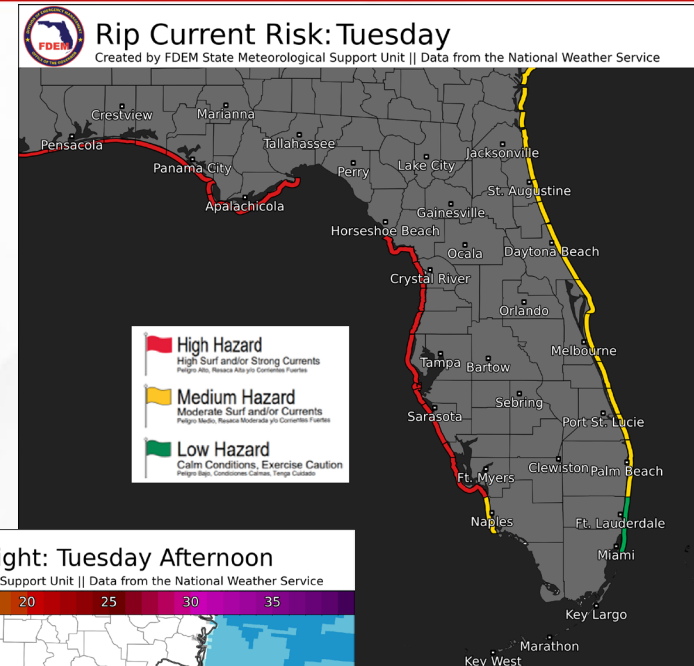
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from St. Johns County (valid 7/17/26).

Coastal Flooding: A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coast today, extending from Dixie County to Walton County. Instances of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** are possible near and during times of high tide, with water levels reaching upwards of **2-2.5 feet above normally dry ground**.

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked across all of the Panhandle and Big Bend today. Heavy rain bands associated with offshore Tropical Storm Bertha will continue to spiral onshore throughout the day, increasing in coverage and intensity this afternoon. Areas of **flooding and ponding of water** cannot be ruled out, especially in urban and poor drainage locations that receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours**. Rainfall totals will be greatest today along the Panhandle and Big Bend coast, generally amounting to 1-2" for most locations. Locally higher totals **upwards of 2-4"** cannot be ruled out. Lesser amounts are expected towards the I-10 corridor. Throughout the remainder of the state, rainfall totals will generally remain below 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 2.69 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



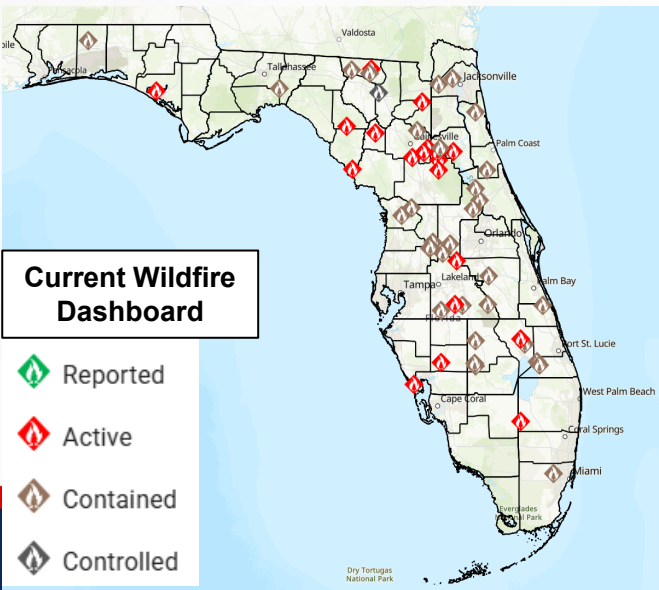
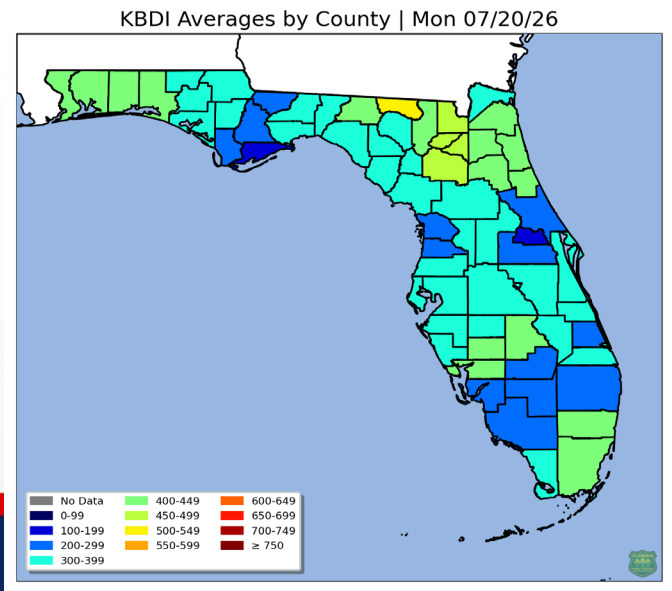
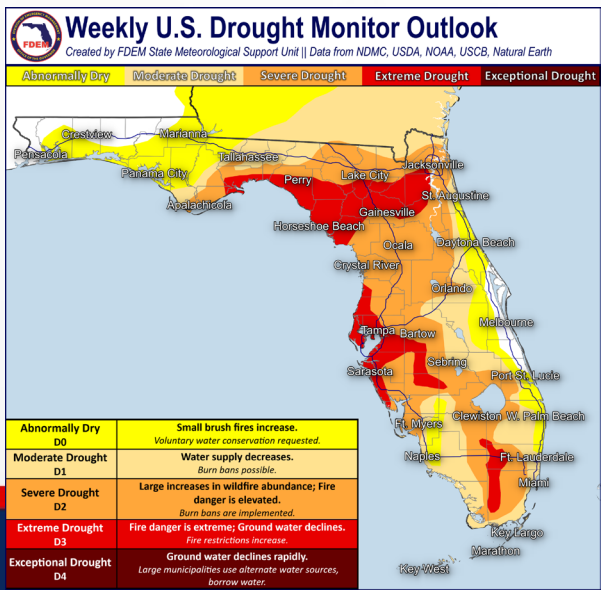


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds. Drenching rains are expected across North Florida associated with the outer rain bands of Tropical Storm Bertha, with breezy winds gusting **upwards of 30-40 mph** across the area. Winds will also gust **upwards of 20-30 mph** throughout much of Northeast and Central Florida today where a few scattered showers or storms will develop this afternoon. Any thunderstorm activity could be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds, which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 46 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 21,637 acres.

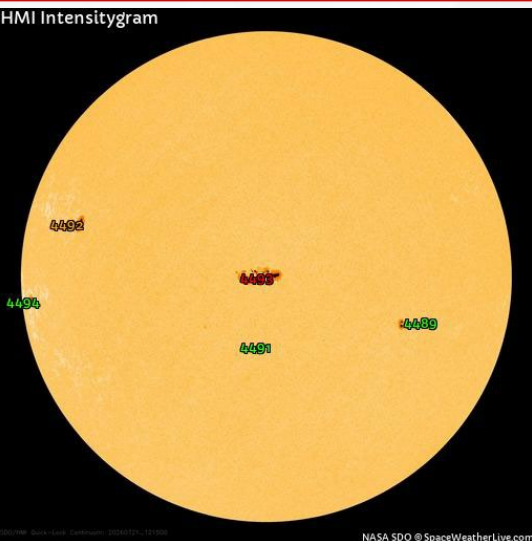
Drought (7/14/26): Another week of fairly seasonal rainfall brought very few changes to the larger drought picture across the Sunshine State. A general 0.5-2" of rainfall was observed across the state with locally higher totals upwards of 3-5" in pockets. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** 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 **355 (+1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **1 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

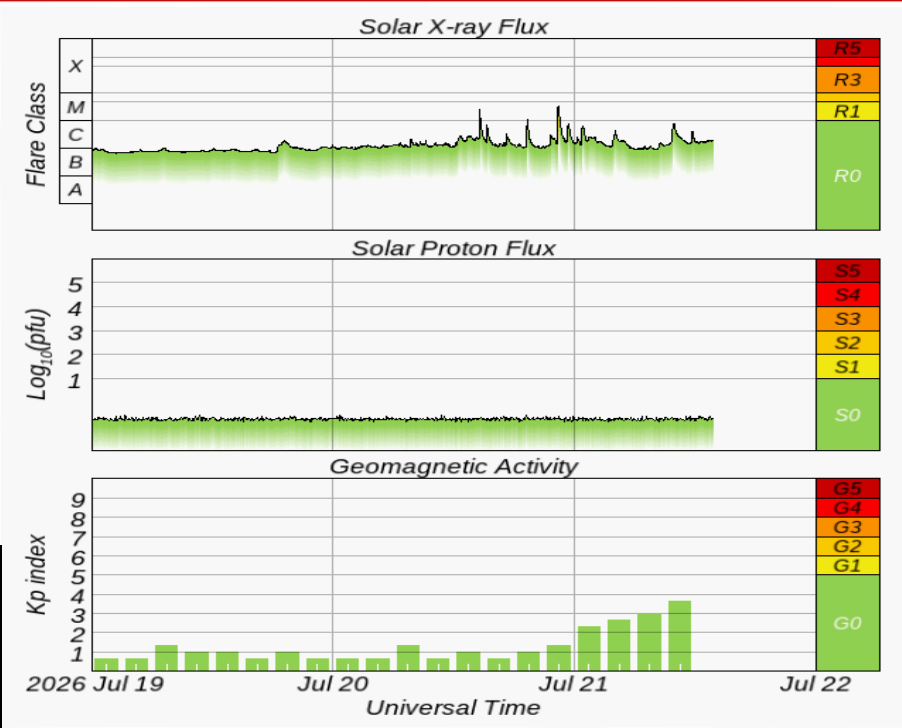
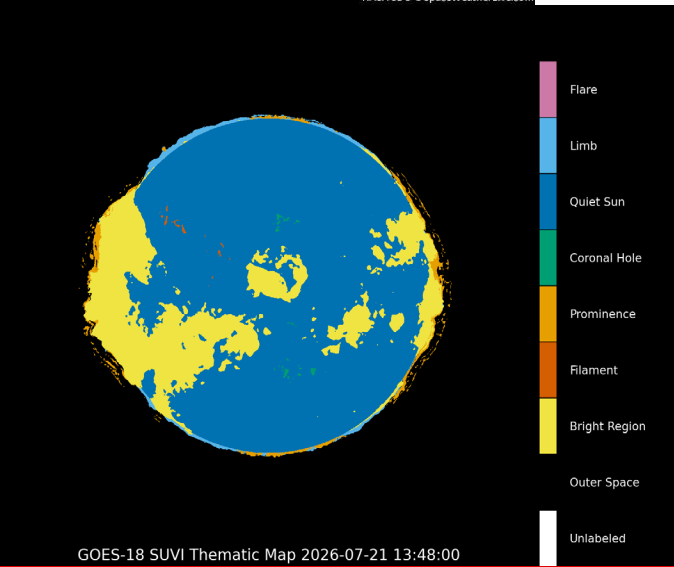




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M3 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/21	7/22
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low to moderate levels with a high chance for additional moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts from solar flare activity, primarily from sunspot region 4493. Late today, solar wind conditions will become enhanced under coronal hole influences, persisting through Thursday. Primarily quiet geomagnetic conditions are expected today before G1 (Minor) storming is expected on Wednesday due to the onset of a negative polarity Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS). Unsettled to active conditions are then expected on Thursday. 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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