



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, July 22, 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	Connor Stolp	(850) 566-3044	Connor.Stolp@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@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	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	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	Okaloosa	G-300 Course Instruction
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	County EM Visits / Cyber Florida Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	CPR/CEVO Course Instruction Prep
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Collier	County Hurricane Exercise
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Collier	County Hurricane Exercise
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	EM Meetings / FDEM Meetings

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	Leon	Big Ben HCC Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Madison/Suwannee/Columbia	EM Meeting w/E.D.
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	Broward	BCHC General Body Monthly Meeting/FCABC Meeting

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

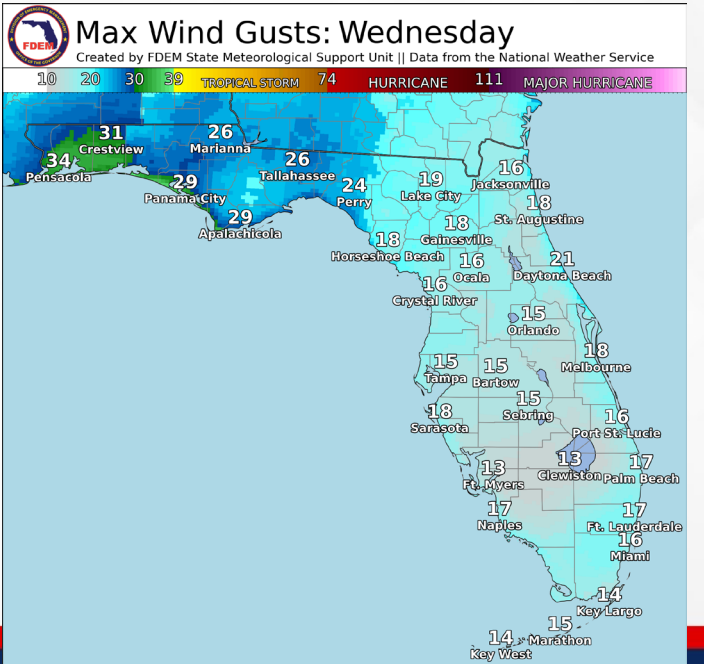
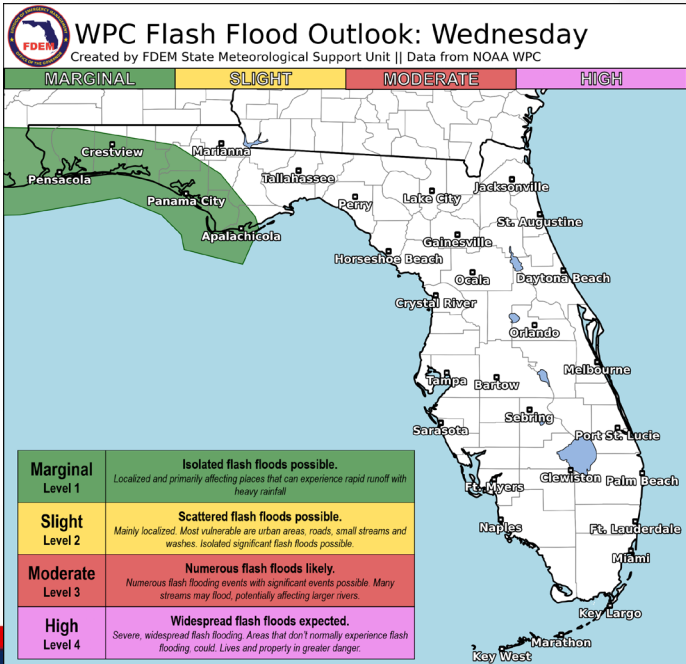
Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable



Meteorology Summary

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	L
Tornado	L	L								
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Extreme Heat		L	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	10.93 ft. (2.72 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	351 (-4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									

Today's Weather Map





Meteorology Summary

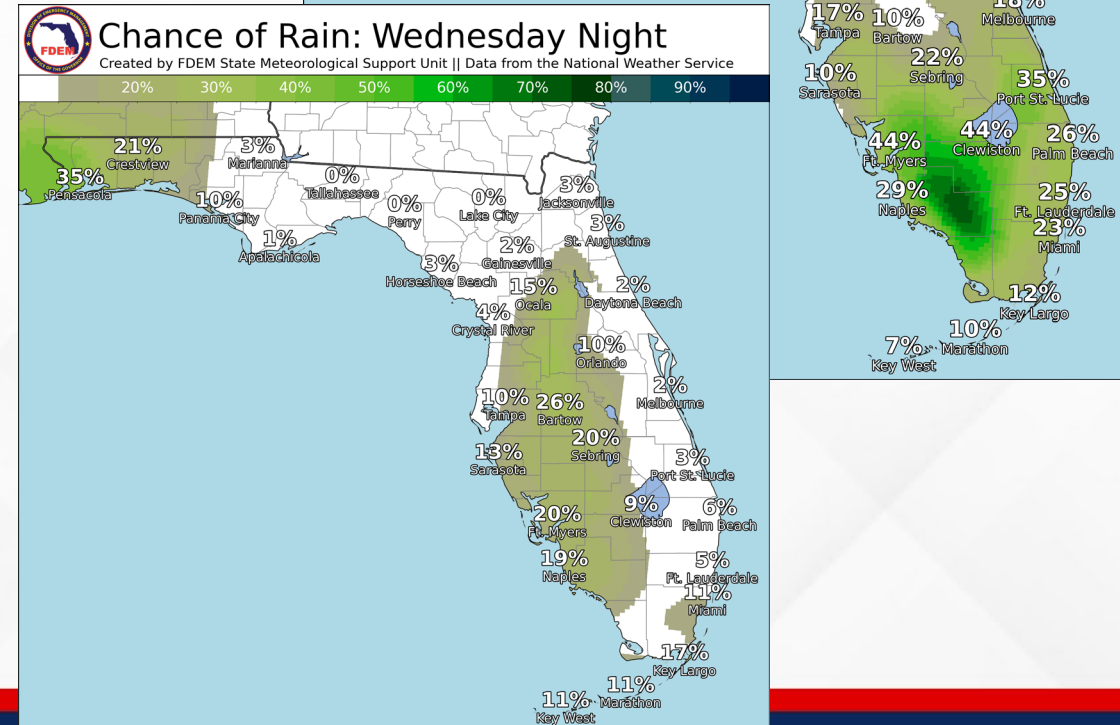
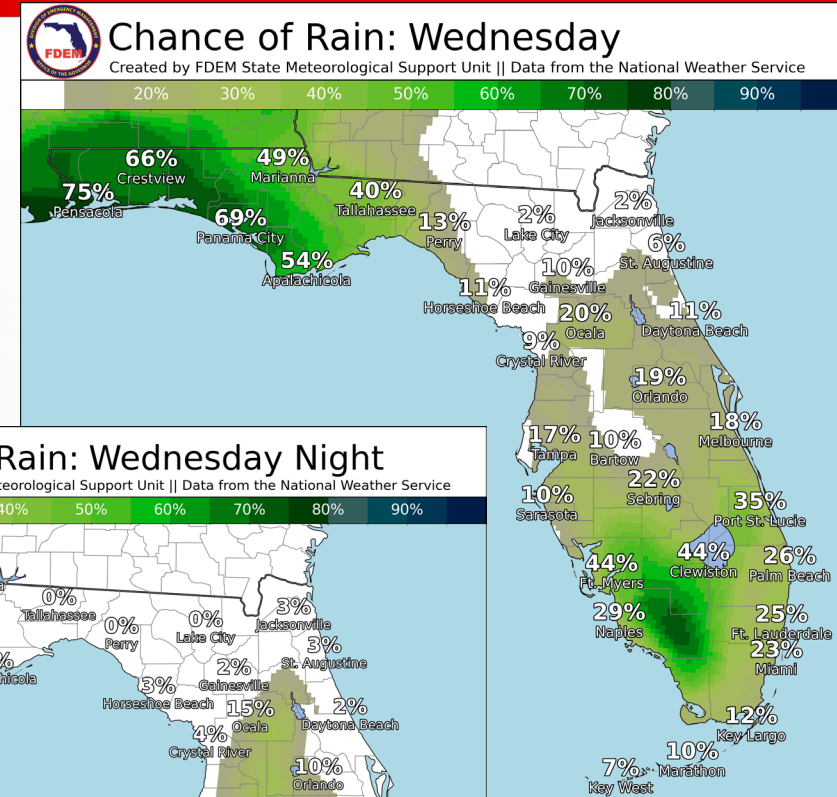
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A few light rain bands are rotating onshore across the Panhandle this morning around **Tropical Storm Bertha** where wind gusts **upwards of 30-40 mph** have been observed along the coast. A **Tropical Storm Warning** remains in effect for coastal regions of the far western Panhandle until further notice. As Bertha continues its slow trek westward along the northern Gulf Coast today, additional bands of showers and embedded thunderstorms will develop and spread onshore across the Panhandle and Big Bend (40-75% chance of rain). Any of these **locally strong** showers and storms could contain **lightning**, **gusty winds (40-50 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked for the coastal Panhandle region today where **locally heavy rainfall** could lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**. Breezy to gusty winds will also persist throughout the Panhandle and Big Bend, with winds gusting near **25-30 mph** along the I-10 corridor and **upwards of 40 mph** along the coast. A **Wind Advisory** remains in effect from coastal Wakulla County to Walton County to cover these gusty winds, while the **Tropical Storm Warning** covering Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties accounts for these winds.

Throughout the Peninsula, high pressure will begin to build in helping to suppress any shower or thunderstorm activity across Central and Northeast Florida. Here, mostly sunny skies and dry conditions will prevail. A few scattered showers and storms may develop across interior Southwest Florida this afternoon along the sea breezes, some of which could become **locally strong** (45-65% chance of rain).

Highs will reach the upper 80s to **middle 90s** statewide this afternoon. Feels-like temperatures will peak in the **lower to middle 100s** for most, with localized **upper 100s** possible in urban locations.

Tonight, only a few light showers may persist across the far western Panhandle associated with Bertha (25-35% chance of rain). Any activity throughout the Peninsula will dissipate and push offshore after sunset. Lows will only fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s tonight.

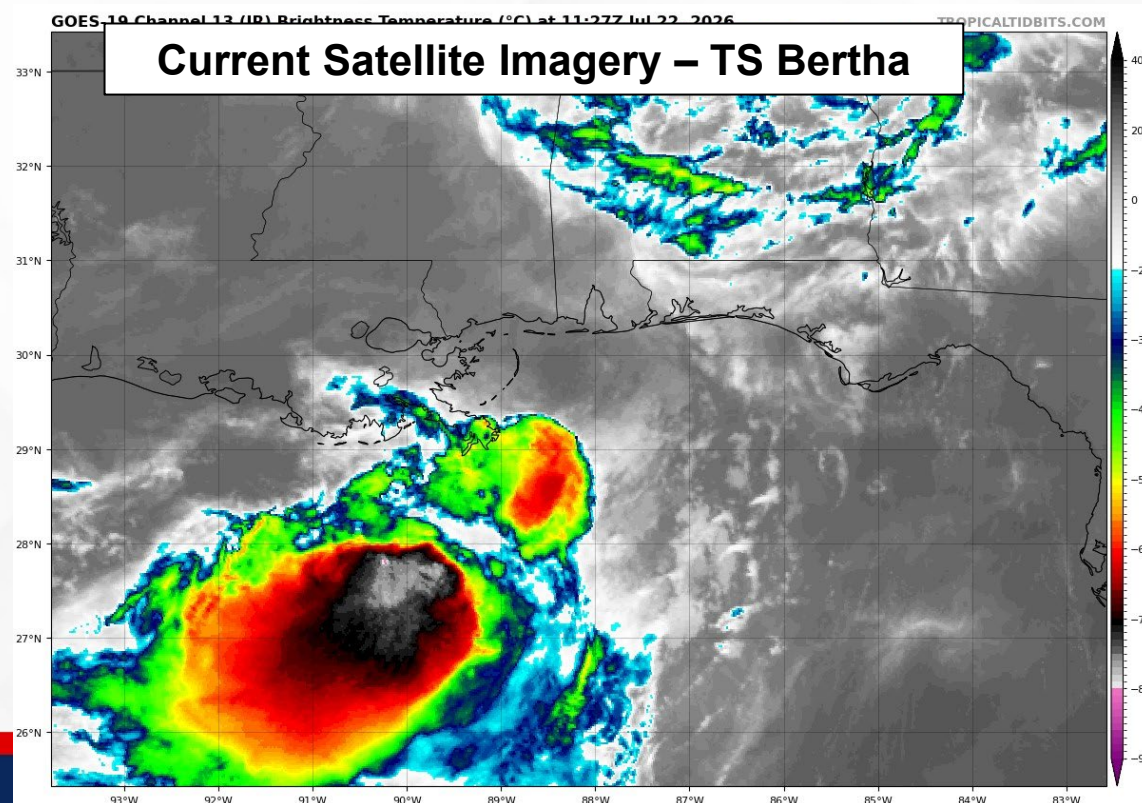
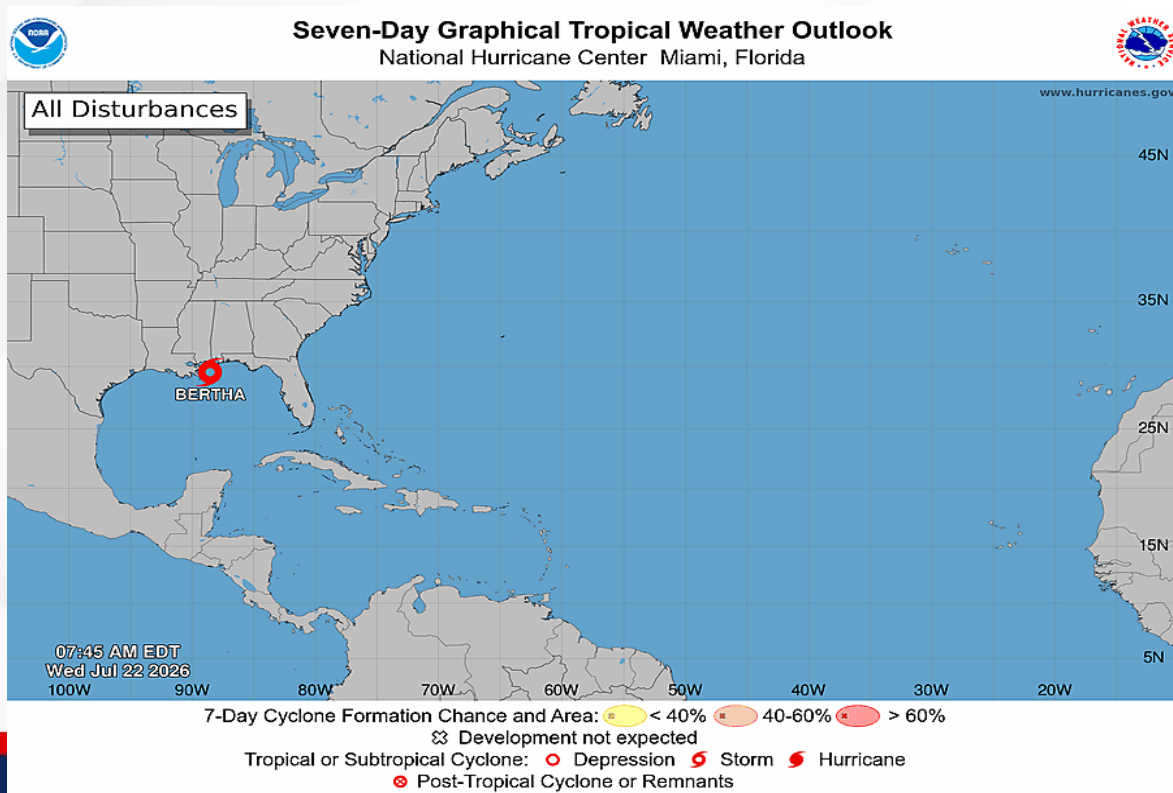




Tropical Weather

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

Tropical Storm Bertha: is located about 45 miles northeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River, moving towards the west at 5 mph. A general motion westward is expected to continue through Friday with a little acceleration. 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. Gradual weakening is expected over the next several days. ***Bertha will continue to bring periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, dangerous surf, and life-threatening rip currents to the Florida Gulf Coast 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 will continue along the Panhandle today associated with Tropical Storm Bertha. A **High Surf Warning** remains in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties where waves of **8-12'** are expected through today. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect for coastal Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties for surf **4-9'**, with locally higher waves **upwards of 11'** possible in the surf zone. Areas of **minor beach erosion** cannot be ruled out along the most susceptible Panhandle beaches. Surf will begin to slowly diminish for Big Bend and West Coast beaches today, falling back down to **3-5'** for most beaches. A few waves near **6'** are possible within the Apalachicola Bay. Along the East Coast, surf near **3-4'** is expected.

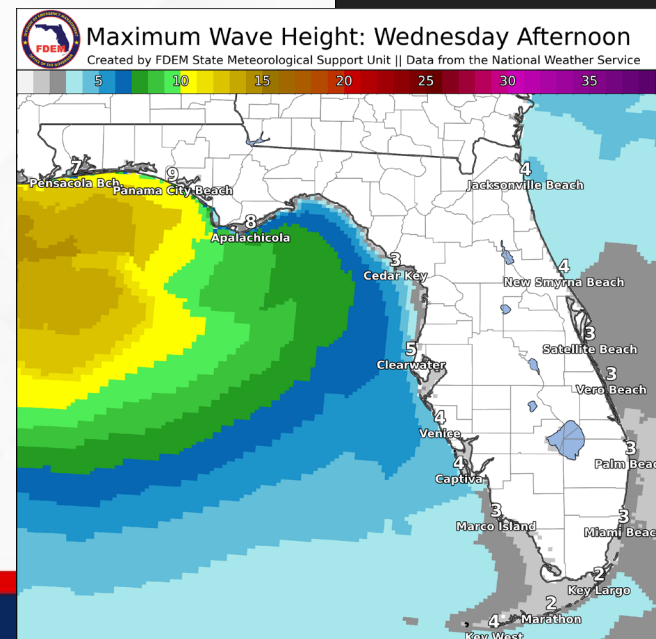
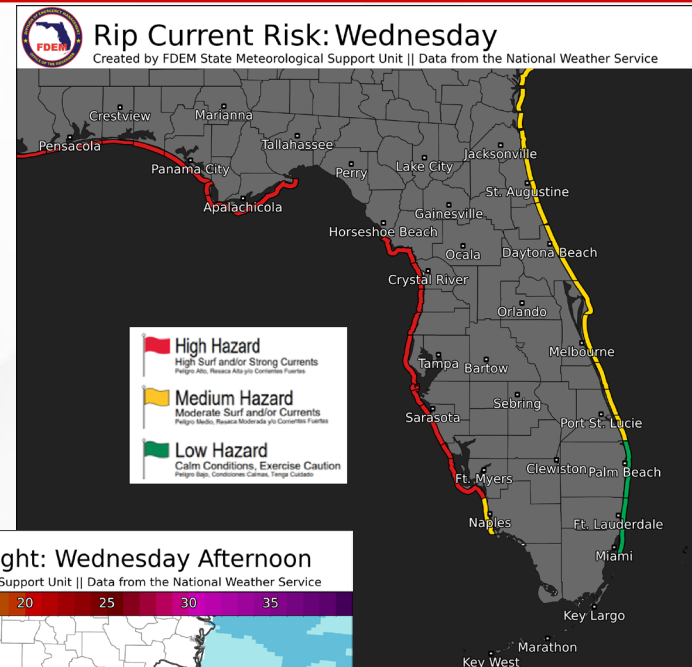
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from St. Johns County (valid 7/17/26).

Coastal Flooding: A **Coastal Flood Advisory** remains in effect for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coast today, extending from Jefferson County to the FL/AL border. Instances of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** are possible near and during times of high tide, with water levels reaching upwards of **1.5-2.5 feet above normally dry ground**.

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked across the Panhandle today where heavy rain bands associated with 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 have seen heavy rains in previous days. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" for most locations, however localized amounts **upwards of 2"** cannot be ruled out should areas receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours**. Scattered storms in Southwest Florida today may also produce a quick **1-2" of rain** in localized spots. 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 2.72 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



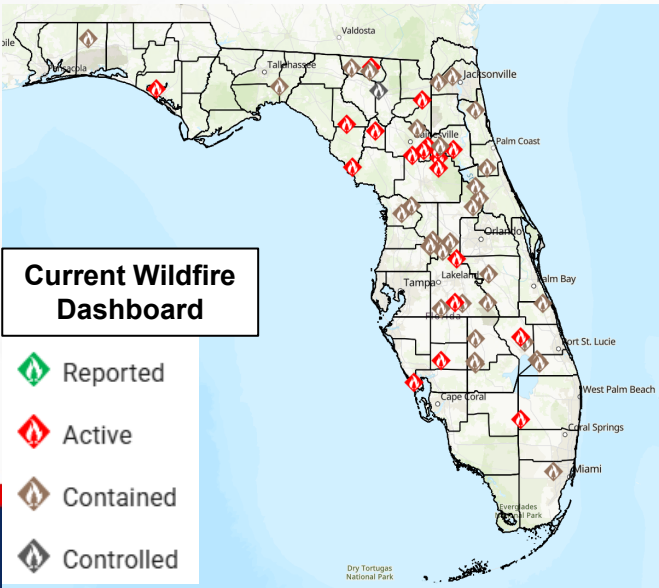
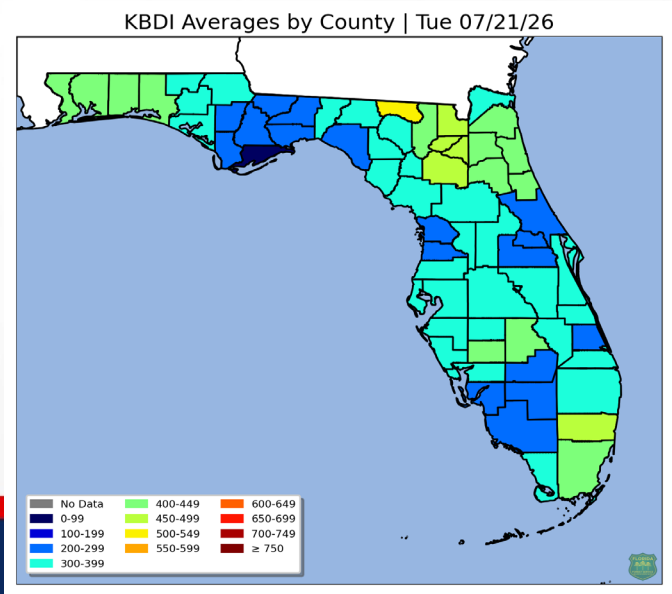
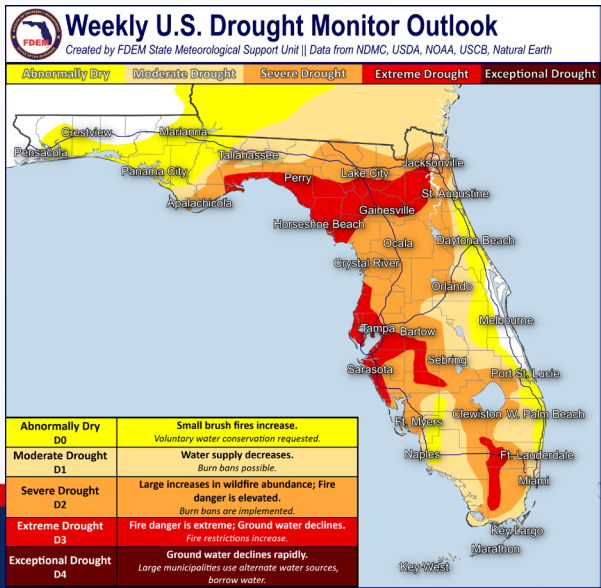


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds. The outer rain bands of offshore Tropical Storm Bertha will continue to soak much of the Panhandle and Big Bend today where winds will gust **upwards of 25-40 mph** at times. Weaker winds are expected throughout the Peninsula, though high pressure building in will keep rainfall chances minimal outside of interior Southwest Florida where a few scattered thunderstorms may develop this afternoon. Any thunderstorm activity across the state 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 52 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 22,509 acres.

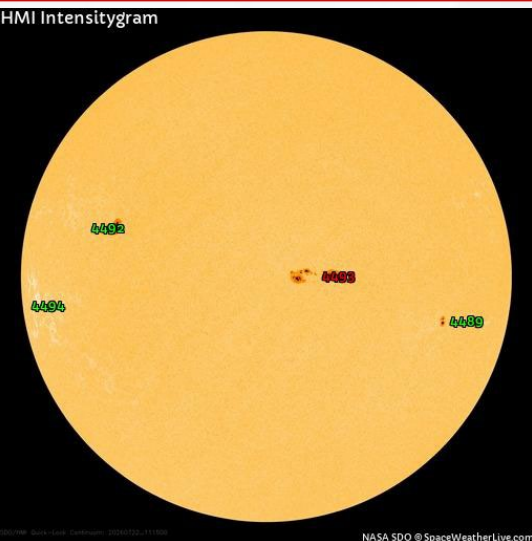
Drought (7/14/26): Another week of fairly seasonal rainfall brought very few changes to the larger drought picture across the Sunshine State. A general 0.5-2" of rainfall was observed across the state with locally higher totals upwards of 3-5" in pockets. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** 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 **351 (-4)** 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).

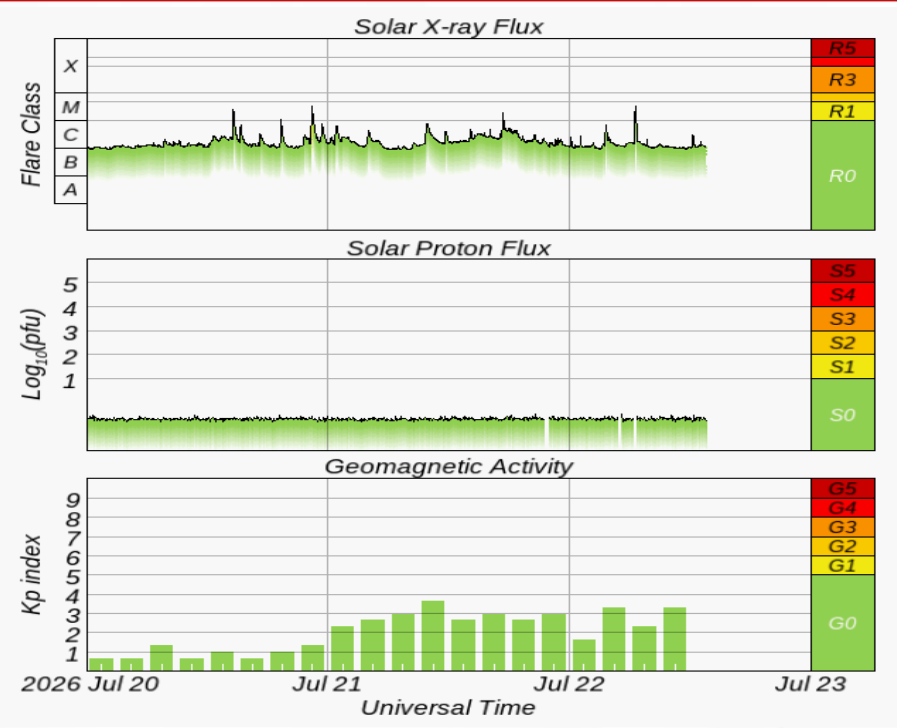
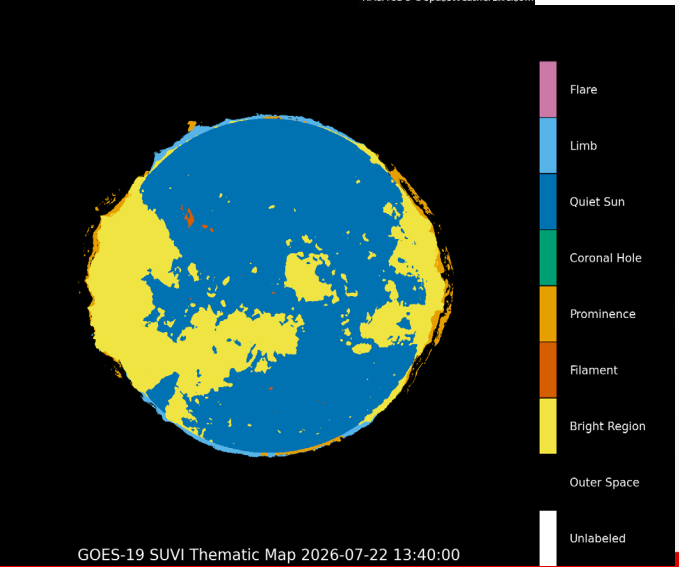




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/22	7/23
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

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. Enhanced solar wind conditions are expected through Thursday before gradually diminishing on Friday. There is a chance for additional enhancements due to a glancing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun on Monday. Periods of G1 (Minor) storming are expected today due to ongoing coronal hole influences. A chance for G1 (Minor) storming will persist through Friday should the aforementioned CMEs from Monday impact Earth. Otherwise, quiet to unsettled conditions will prevail. 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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