



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, July 23, 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	Lauren Warfield	(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	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	Henry AL, Walton	Farley NPP Quarterly Meeting / County EM Meeting / RC Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jackson	Active Assailant Exercise
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie	Outreach Presentation / Response Coordinator Meeting
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	NDEMU Advanced Academy
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lake	County EM Meeting / Response Coordinator Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Collier, Hillsborough	Travel to Region 6 / Response Coordinator Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Hendry, Glades	County EM Visits
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward, Miami-Dade	Exercise Final Plan Meeting / G20 Planning 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	Headland AL	Farley NPP Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Headland AL	Farley NPP Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Leon	HQ RV Transport
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	Professional Development

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

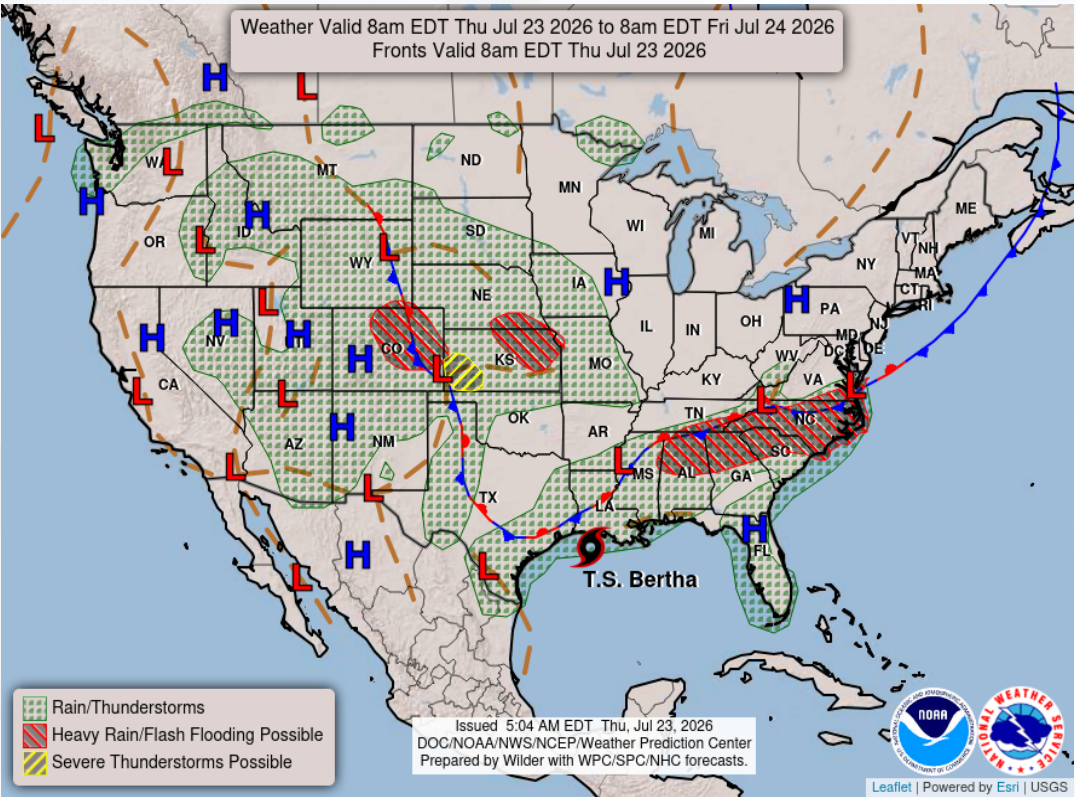
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

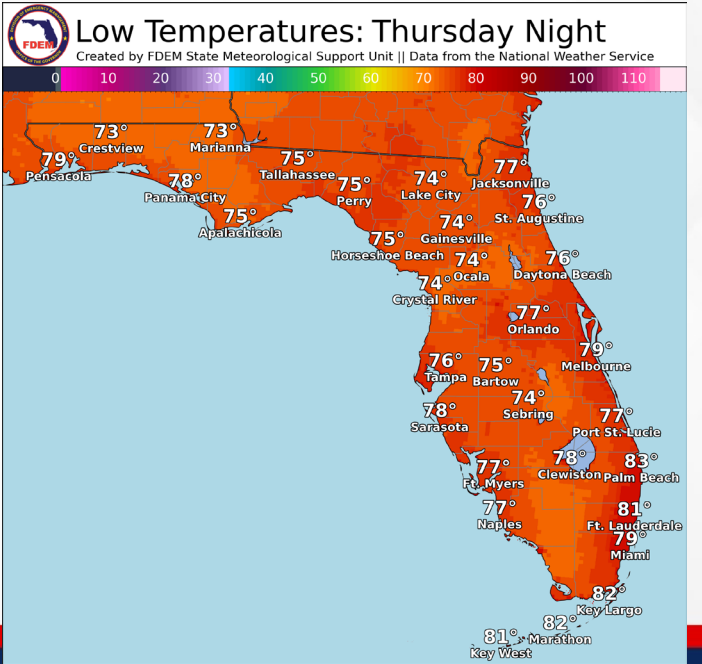
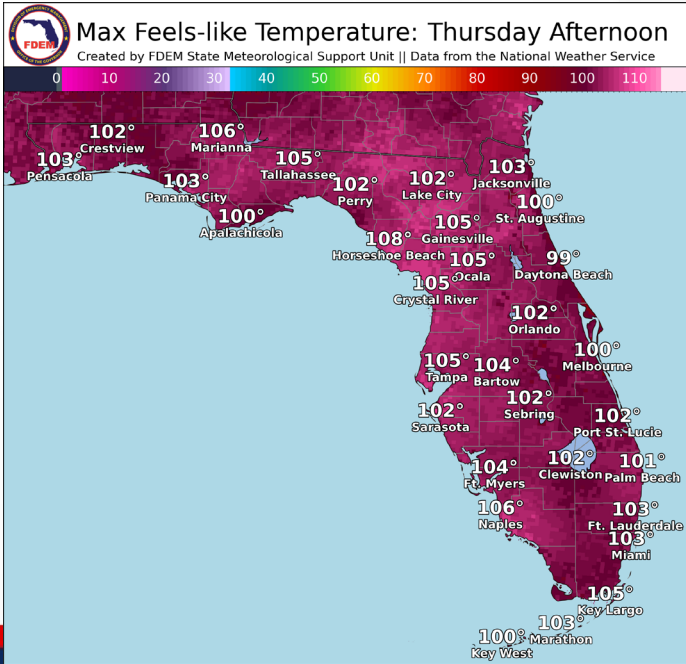


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

T threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	M	M	M	H		M	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.89 ft. (2.77 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	357 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





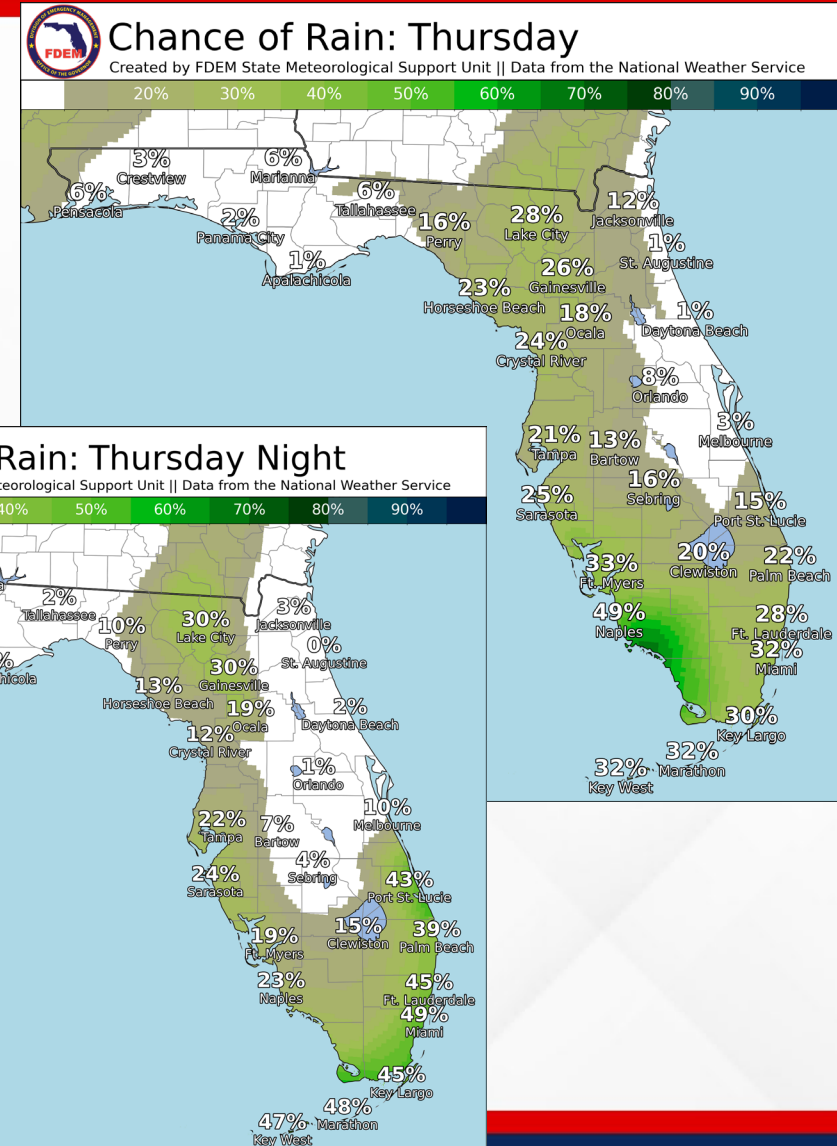
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

In the wake of Tropical Storm Bertha, high pressure will continue to build across the Sunshine State today lifting a bit further northward into North Florida. Pockets of dry air will filter into the state around this area of high pressure, helping to suppress shower and thunderstorm activity well below what is typical of a summertime day. Still, the Atlantic and Gulf sea breezes will both push inland across Northeast Florida today where a few isolated to widely scattered showers and storms may develop throughout the Suwannee River Valley (25-30% chance of rain). Additional isolated to widely scattered showers and storms will develop along the I-75 corridor down through the Peninsula and across South Florida (25-35% chance of rain). The Atlantic sea breeze will push further inland across South Florida today, meeting the Gulf sea breeze near the Southwest coast where locally higher chances of rain exist (40-50% chance of rain). Any thunderstorm activity could become **locally strong** and capable of producing **lightning**, **gusty winds (40-50 mph)**, and **heavy downpours**.

Hot and humid conditions will continue to prevail across the state today. Highs will climb into the **middle to upper 90s** throughout the state, with feels-like temperatures peaking in the **lower to middle 100s** for most. A few localized areas could see **upper 100s** at times this afternoon, however the drier air throughout the state should limit many areas from reaching Heat Advisory criteria.

Tonight, any lingering showers and storms along the I-75 corridor will largely dissipate or push offshore after sunset. Persistent onshore flow across Southeast Florida may bring a few occasional showers throughout the night (35-45% chance of rain). Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide.

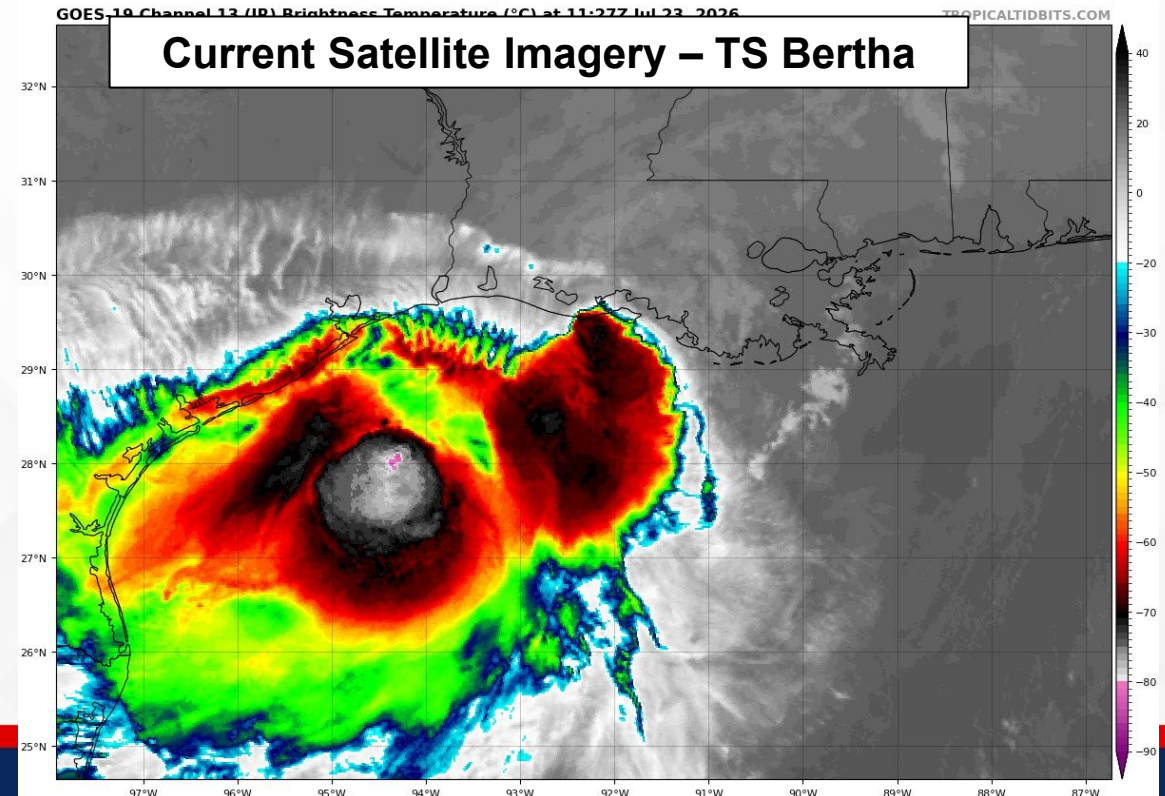
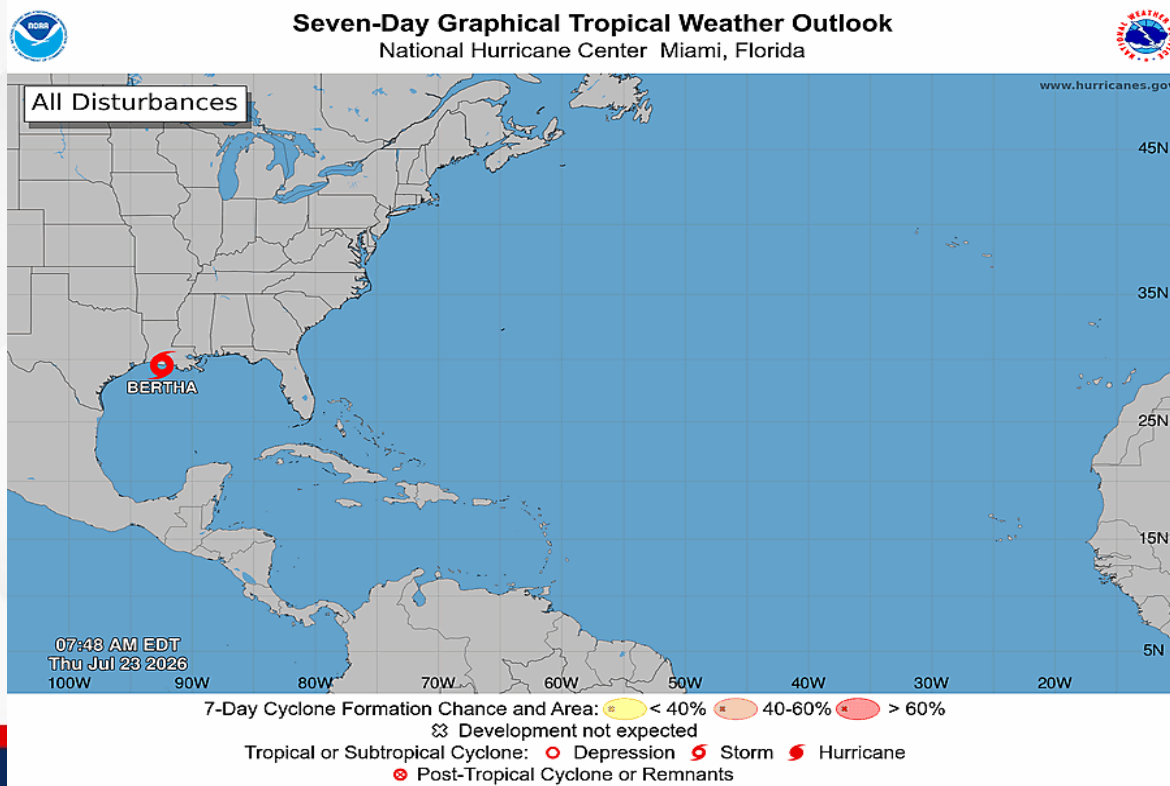




Tropical Weather

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

Tropical Storm Bertha: is located about 70 miles southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana, moving towards the west at 13 mph. A generally westward motion is expected through tonight, followed by a turn toward the west-southwest on Friday. On the forecast track, the center of Bertha will move near or along the Louisiana and upper Texas coasts through this afternoon, and then move farther inland over Texas this evening and tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 45 mph with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today, and Bertha is forecast to maintain tropical storm intensity until it reaches the upper Texas coast later today. Bertha is expected to dissipate inland over Texas by tonight or Friday. ***Bertha will continue to bring dangerous surf and life-threatening rip currents to the Florida Gulf Coast today.***





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

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

Marine Hazards: Dangerous high surf will linger into the afternoon hours for many Panhandle beaches today. A **High Surf Warning** remains in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties until 3 PM CDT where surf of **6-8'** will persist through the morning and early afternoon hours. A **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect for coastal Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties for surf near **3-7'** today. Surf will diminish to near **3-5'** for all Panhandle beaches tonight. Throughout the rest of the state, surf will remain near **3-5'** throughout the day today, with locally calmer surf across Southwest Florida.

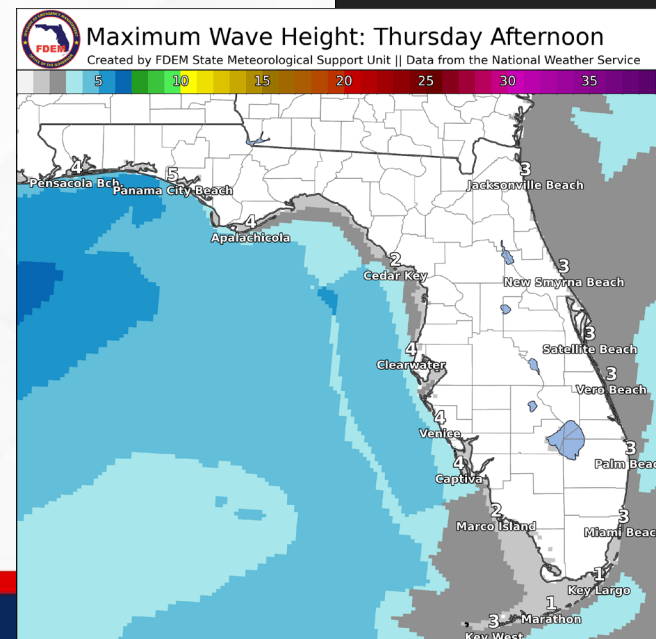
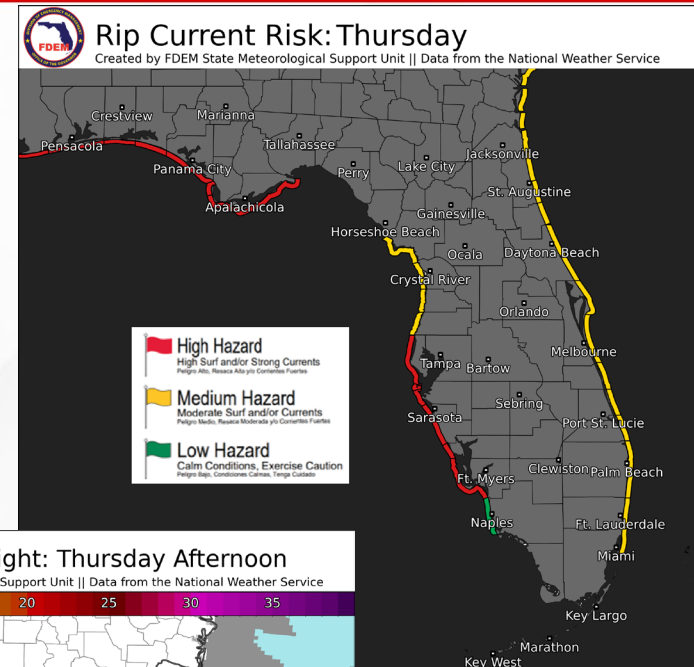
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from St. Johns County (valid 7/17/26).

Coastal Flooding: A **Coastal Flood Advisory** remains in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties until 10 AM CDT this morning. Instances of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** are possible during the high tide cycle this morning, with water levels reaching upwards of **1.5-2 feet above normally dry ground**.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding across the state today. A few isolated to widely scattered showers and storms will develop along and near the I-75 corridor today, some of which may be accompanied by **locally heavy downpours** which can produce a quick **1-2" of rain** in short time. 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 10.89 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.77 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



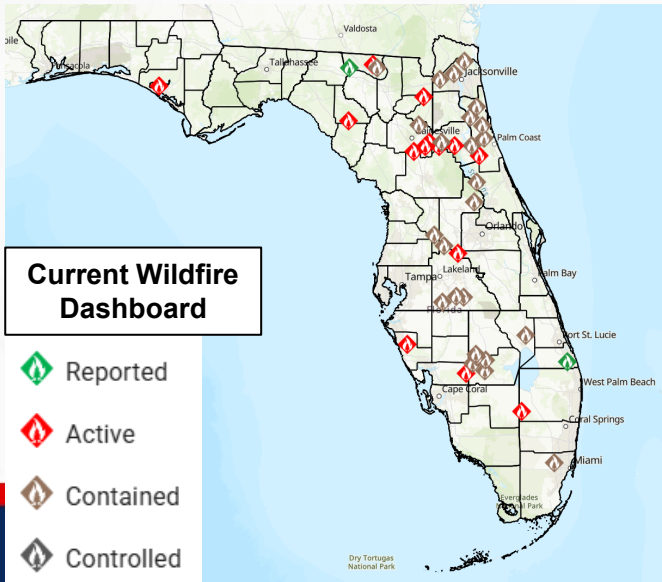
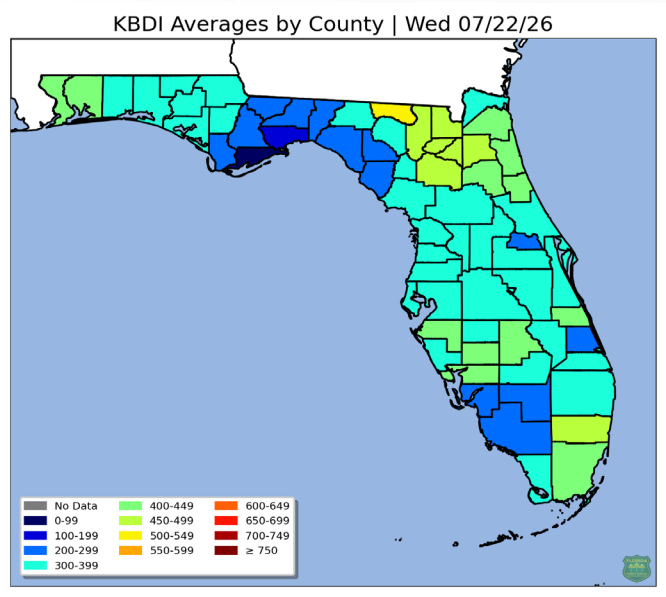
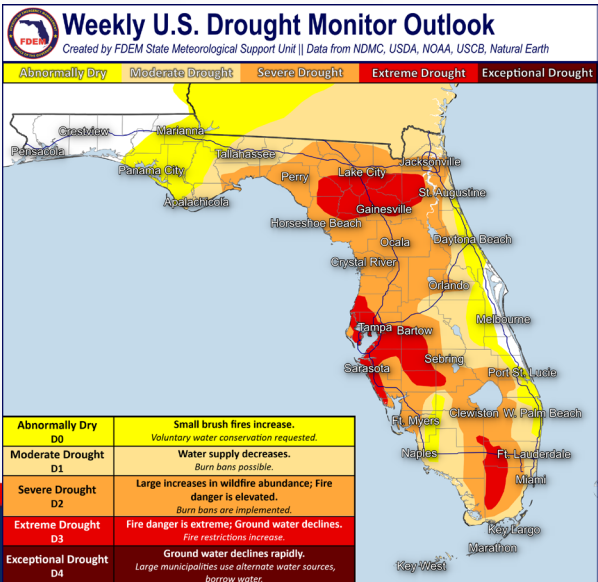


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. A few isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected across the Suwannee River Valley and along the I-75 corridor down through the Peninsula today. 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 41 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 25,417 acres.

Drought (7/21/26): Higher than normal rainfall from a nearby tropical disturbance (that would eventually become Tropical Storm Bertha) has led to drought improvements across the Panhandle, Big Bend, and localized areas along the West Coast. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** along much of the coastal Big Bend, in Franklin, Liberty, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Lafayette, Dixie, and Levy counties have been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. Similar reductions from **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** were observed in localized areas in Pinellas, Pasco, Duval, Clay, and Putnam counties. Further reductions were observed in the Western Panhandle, with portions of Gulf, Franklin, Liberty, Wakulla, and Leon counties previously in a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** were reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. The D0 (*abnormally dry*) areas were removed (indicating no drought conditions) for Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. Drier than normal conditions across much of the Peninsula this week has led to localized expansions (*worsening drought*) of the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** across West-Central and inland Southeast FL. 14% of the state remains in an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**, a ~2% reduction from last week. 10% of the state has no drought designation, a ~2.5% increase from last week. Looking ahead, drier air will help to suppress most shower and thunderstorm activity across the North Florida through the next 7 days. Isolated to widely scattered activity is expected along the sea breezes in Northeast and North-Central Florida, with higher coverage of storms in South-Central and South Florida, especially towards the end of this coming weekend and early next week. Some drought improvements are possible in areas that receive beneficial rainfall. Otherwise, hot temperatures will continue to cure and dry out sensitive vegetation in areas that fail to receive rainfall.

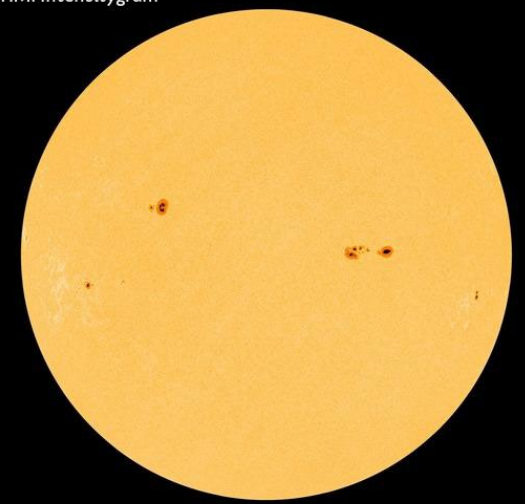
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **357 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **1 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather

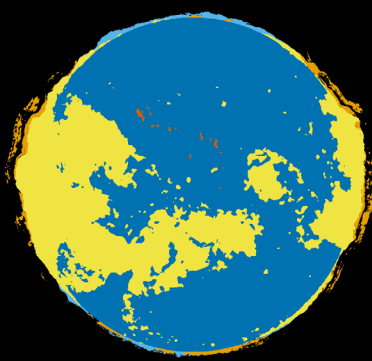
HMI Intensitygram



NASA SDO @ SpaceWeatherLive.com

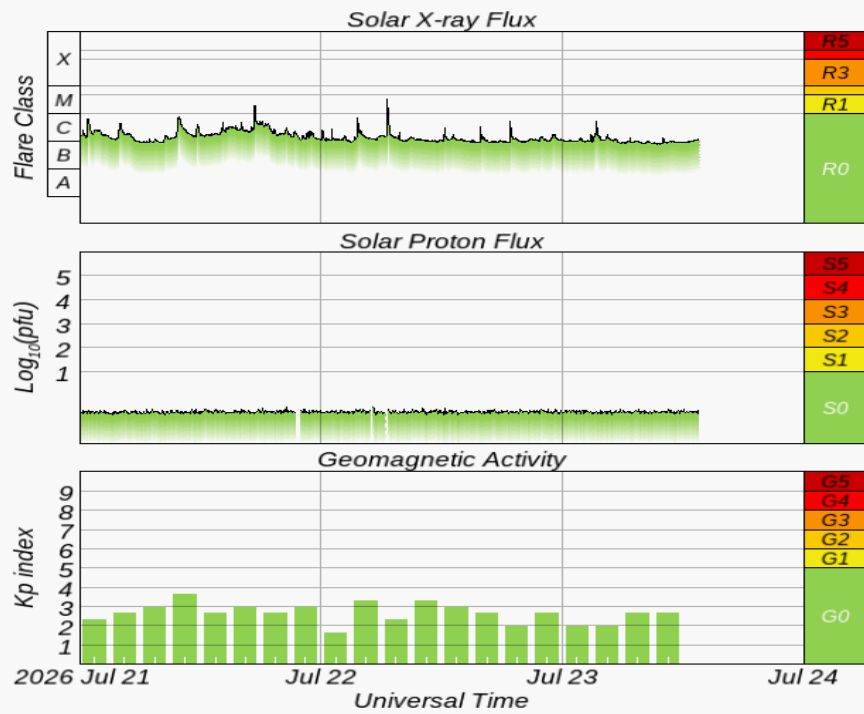
Current Sunspots

GOES-19 Sun-Data Dashboard: 2026-07-23 11:00Z



- Flare
- Limb
- Quiet Sun
- Coronal Hole
- Prominence
- Filament
- Bright Region
- Outer Space
- Unlabeled

GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-07-23 13:40:00



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/23	7/24
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 25% 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. Enhanced solar wind conditions are expected through Saturday due to the two CMEs that left the sun on Monday and Tuesday, as well as influences from a Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS). Quiet to active geomagnetic conditions are expected through Friday due to the aforementioned CMEs and CH HSS. Should the CMEs be more Earth-directed than modeled, periods of G2 (Moderate) storming or greater cannot be ruled out. Otherwise, G1 (Minor) storming is expected. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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