



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, July 28, 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	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(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	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	Leon, Marion	Logistics Support (Travel Trailer Movement)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Logistics Support (Travel Trailer Movement)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Putnam	Active Assailant TTX
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	Disney FSE
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas	County EM Response Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	Leon	Response Coordinator Onboarding Orientation
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Broward	OVS Meeting / FIFA Intel AAR / FFCA Presentation

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	Walton / Flagler	Travel to Flagler
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon / Flagler	Travel to Flagler
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Suwannee	F-ROC Tour
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam	Active Assailant Exercise
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	FEPA
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	Florida Fire Chiefs Association's Emergency Service Leadership Institute

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

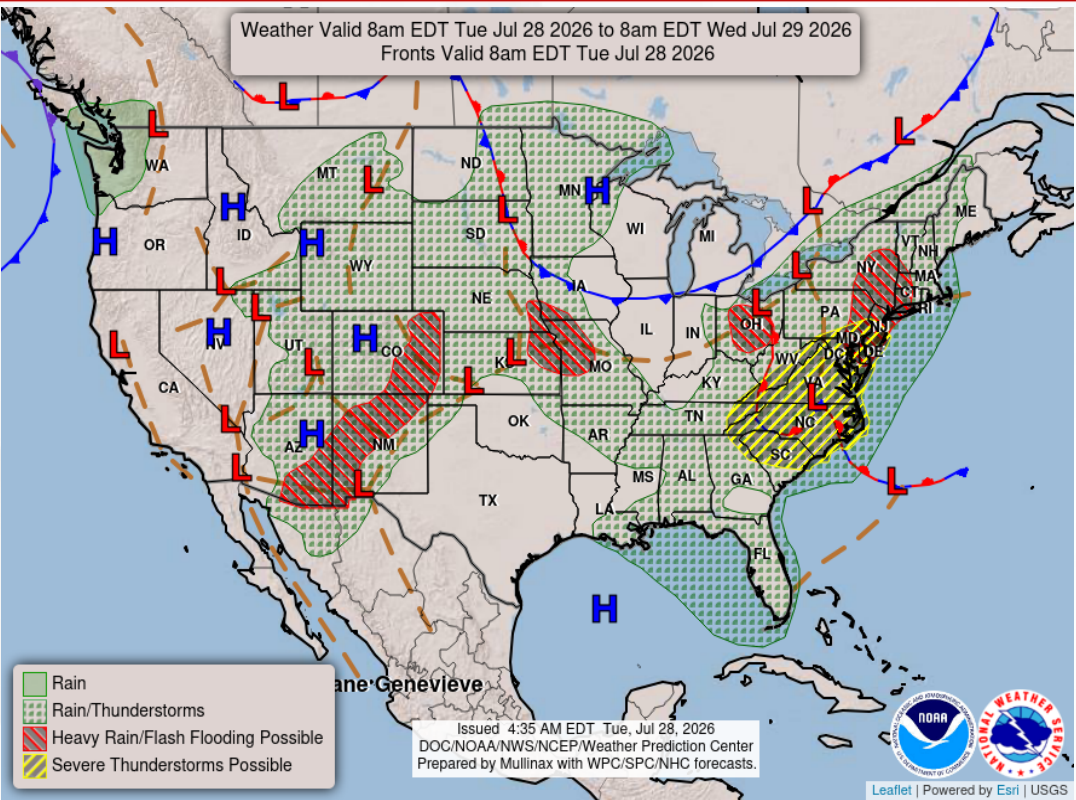
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

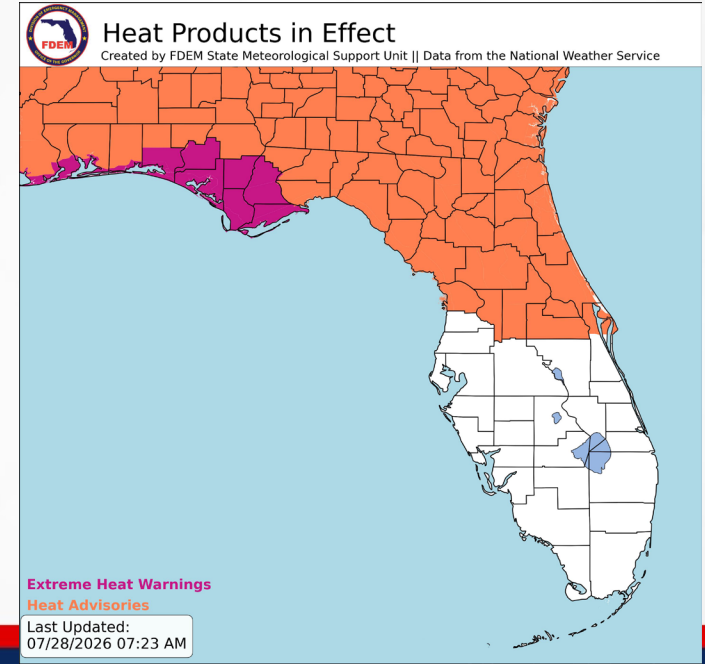
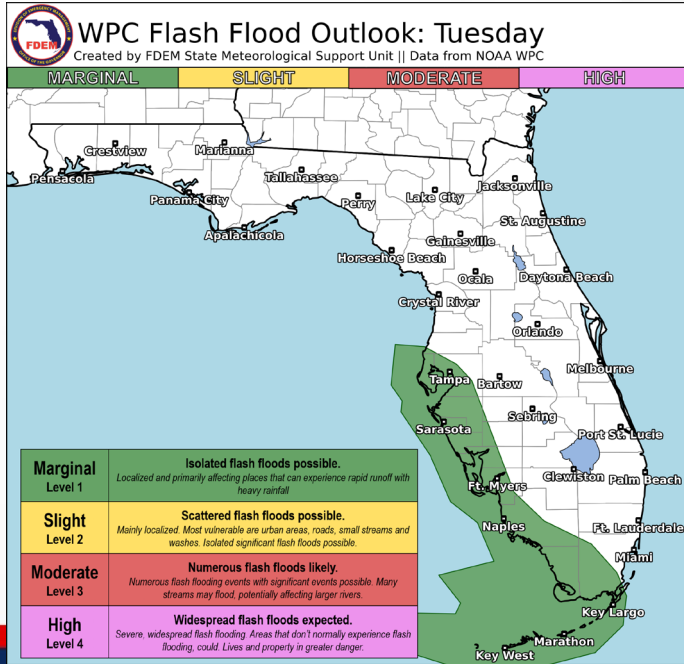


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding						L			L	L
Extreme Heat	H	H	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	M		M	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.84 ft. (2.88 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	387 (-10) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





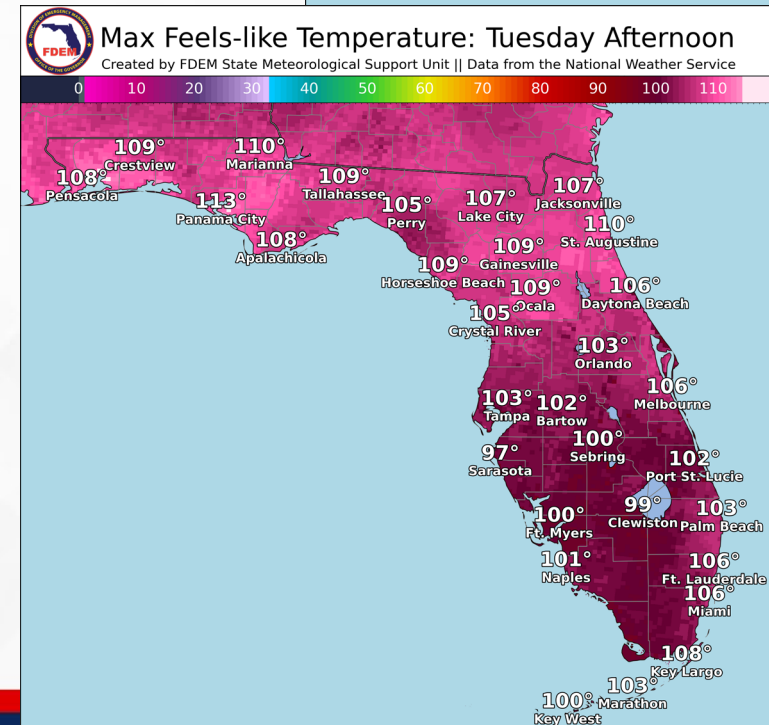
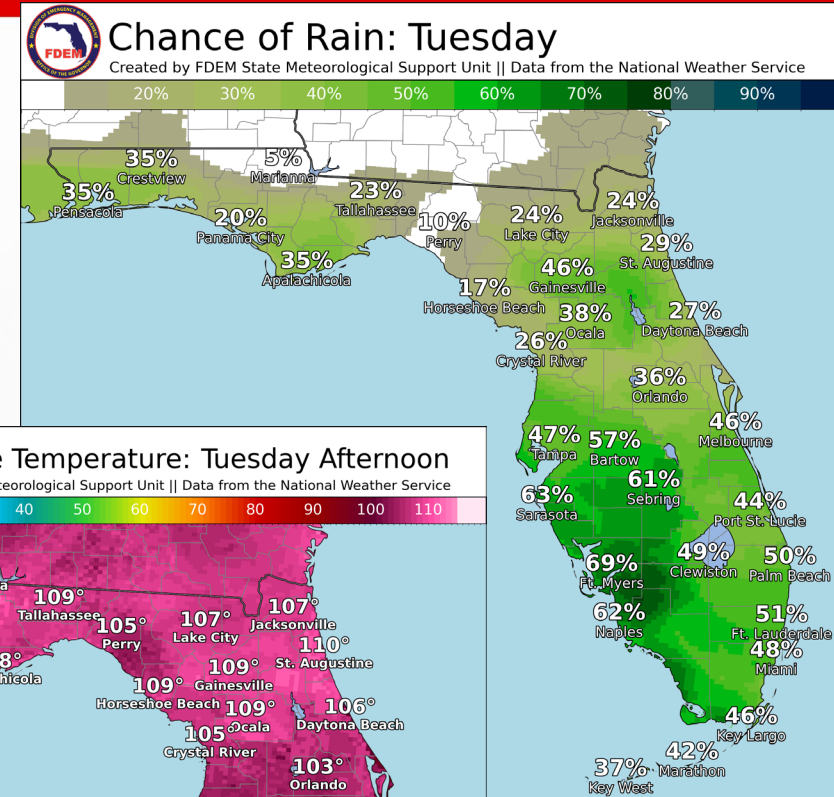
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Another typical summerlike day is expected across the Sunshine State as high pressure largely dominates the local pattern. Ample tropical moisture will remain pooled across much of the Peninsula today where another day of scattered to locally numerous showers and thunderstorms are expected. A cluster of showers with embedded storms is ongoing along the Nature Coast this morning and is expected to slowly drop southward along the coast before diminishing by the late morning hours. Additional activity is then expected to develop this afternoon between 12-2 PM EDT across the Peninsula as the sea breezes advance inland (45-65% chance of rain). The highest focus of activity is expected across West-Central and Southwest Florida where a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked. Multiple rounds of **heavy downpours** here may lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and low-lying areas. Localized **urban flooding** cannot be ruled out across portions of the Southeast Florida metro either. Throughout North Florida, only isolated to widely scattered showers and storms are expected today given slightly less moisture around (25-40% chance of rain). Still, any thunderstorm here or throughout the Peninsula may become **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing **frequent lightning**, **gusty winds (40-55 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**.

Given less cloud coverage across North Florida, high temperatures will climb well into the **upper 90s** or even reach **near 100-degrees** in spots. Combined with the oppressive humidity, afternoon feels-like temperatures will peak in the **upper 100s to middle 110s**. A **Heat Advisory** is in effect for much of North and North-Central Florida today, with **Extreme Heat Warnings** in effect for portions of the eastern Panhandle and western Big Bend where the hottest temperatures are expected. Higher cloud coverage and chances of rain will limit the extent of warming in South-Central and South Florida today, though heat index values will still reach the **lower to middle 100s**. Any prolonged exposure to the heat without adequate cooling across the state could lead to **heat related illnesses**.

Tonight, any shower or thunderstorm activity throughout the Peninsula will generally dissipate or push offshore before midnight. A few storms may re-develop along the West Coast towards daybreak Wednesday and push onshore by sunrise. Lows will only dip into the upper 70s to lower 80s, bringing little relief from the daytime heat.

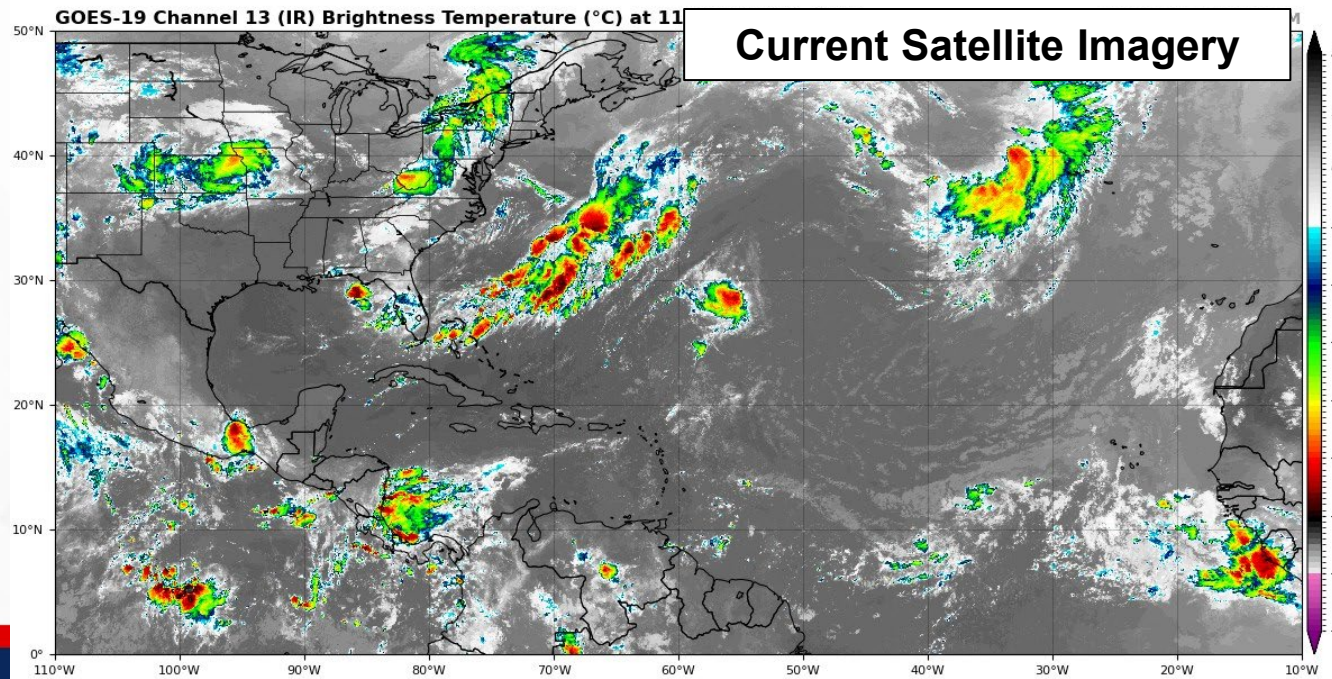
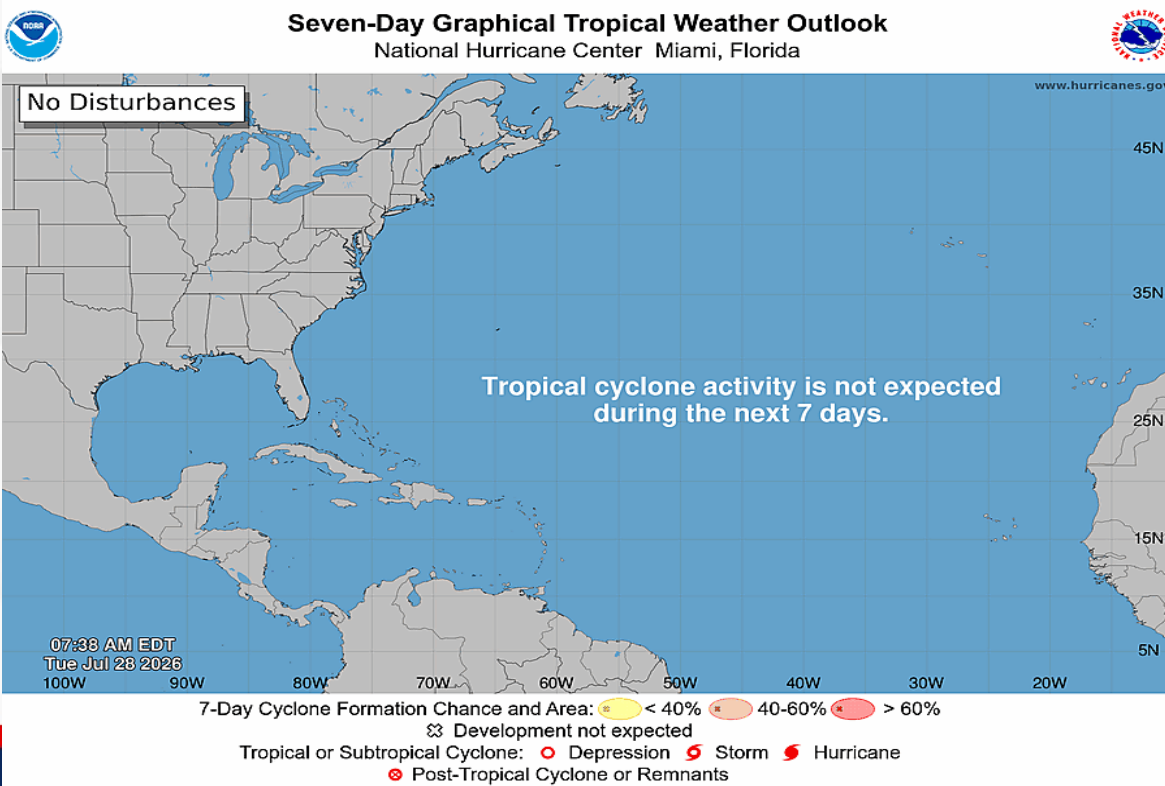




Tropical Weather

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

*Tropical cyclone activity is **not expected** during the next 7 days in the Atlantic.*





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected at all Panhandle, West-Central, Southwest, and East Coast beaches today. A local **high risk** is forecast for Gulf County beaches, and a low risk is still expected for Nature Coast and Southeast Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will remain calm today for many statewide beaches, remaining near **2-4'**. Waves near 1-2' are expected across the Florida Keys and Southeast Florida.

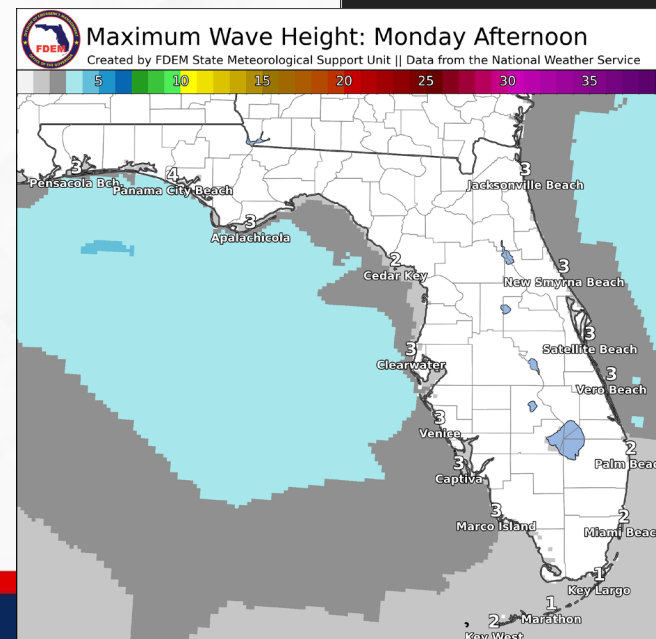
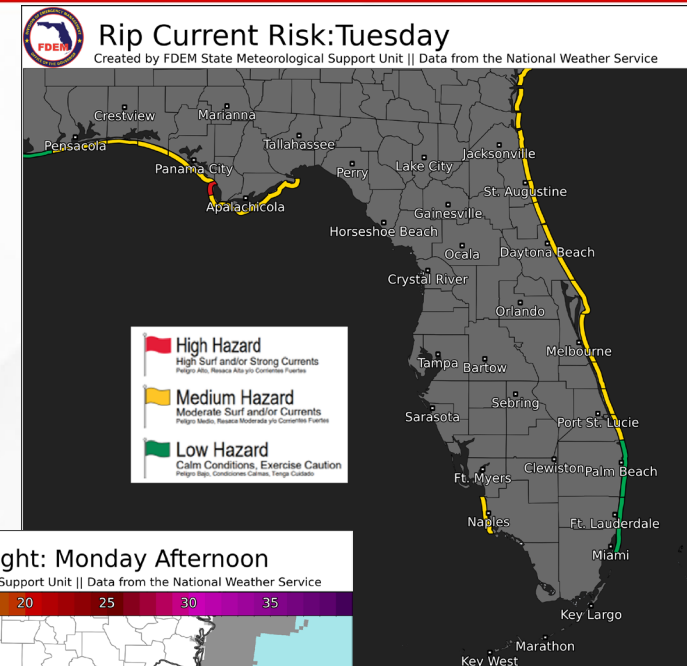
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from offshore Sarasota County (valid 7/24/26).

Coastal Flooding: There are no coastal flooding concerns across Florida.

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked for West-Central and Southwest Florida today where multiple rounds of **heavy downpours** may lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. The first round of activity is already ongoing along the Nature Coast this morning, and additional activity will develop along the sea breezes as they advance inland this afternoon. Rainfall totals throughout the Peninsula will generally remain around 1" in areas that do receive rainfall. Locally higher amounts focused across West-Central and Southwest Florida may reach **upwards of 2-4" or more**. 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 10.84 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.88 feet below normal for this time of year.



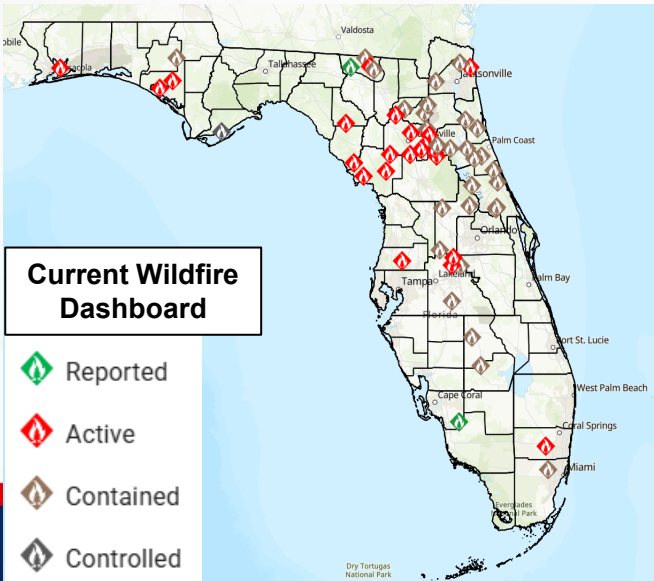
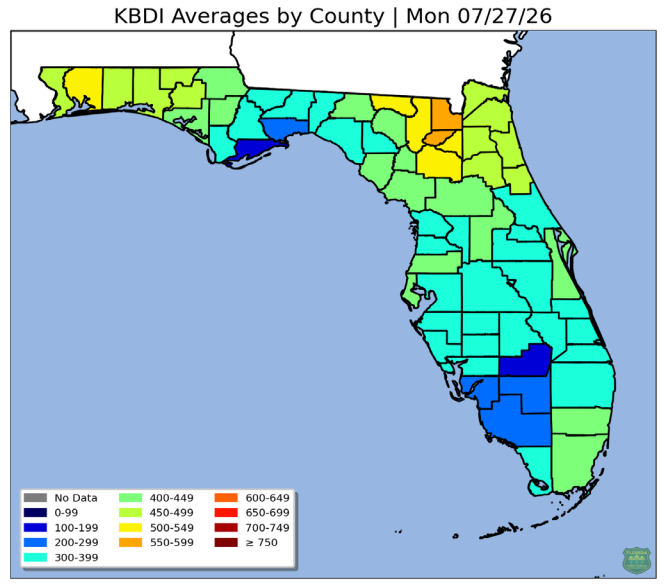
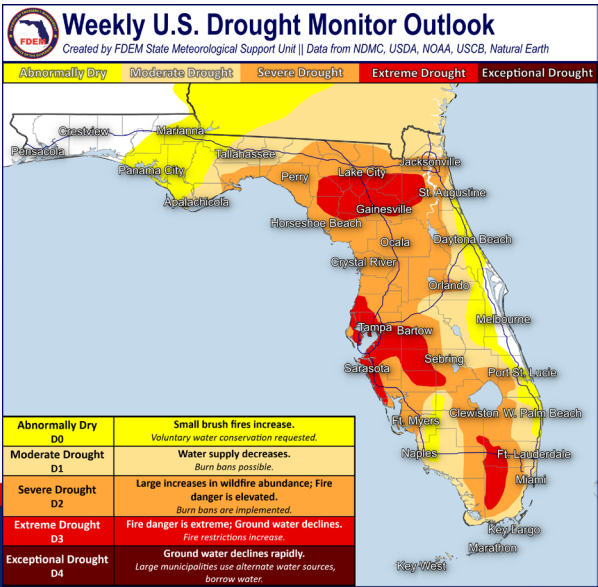


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Widespread showers and storms are expected throughout much of the state today, focused throughout the Central and Southern Peninsula. Any thunderstorm 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 54 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 7,447 acres.

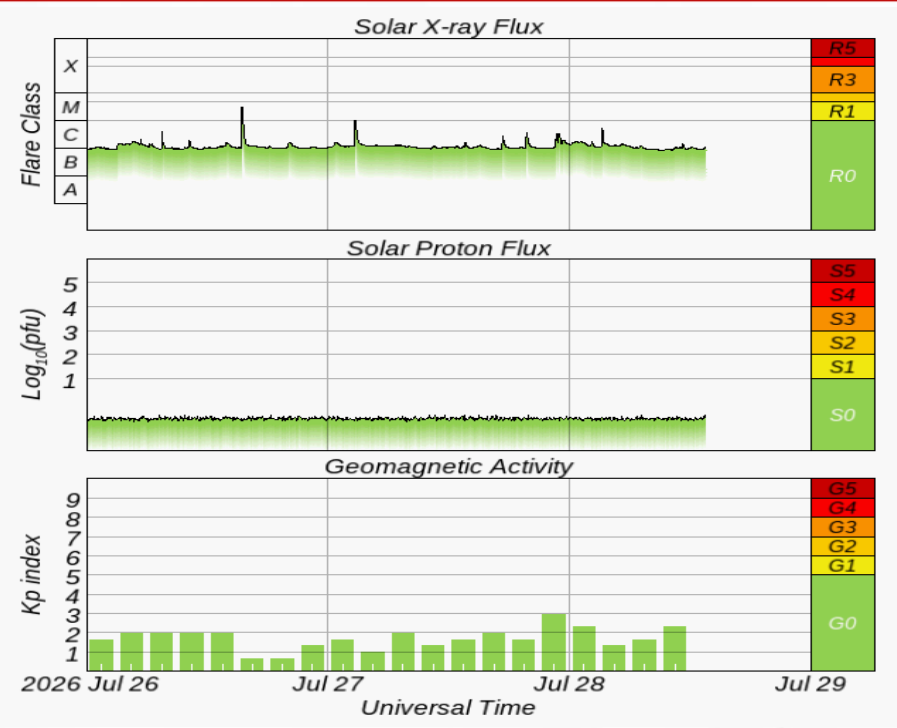
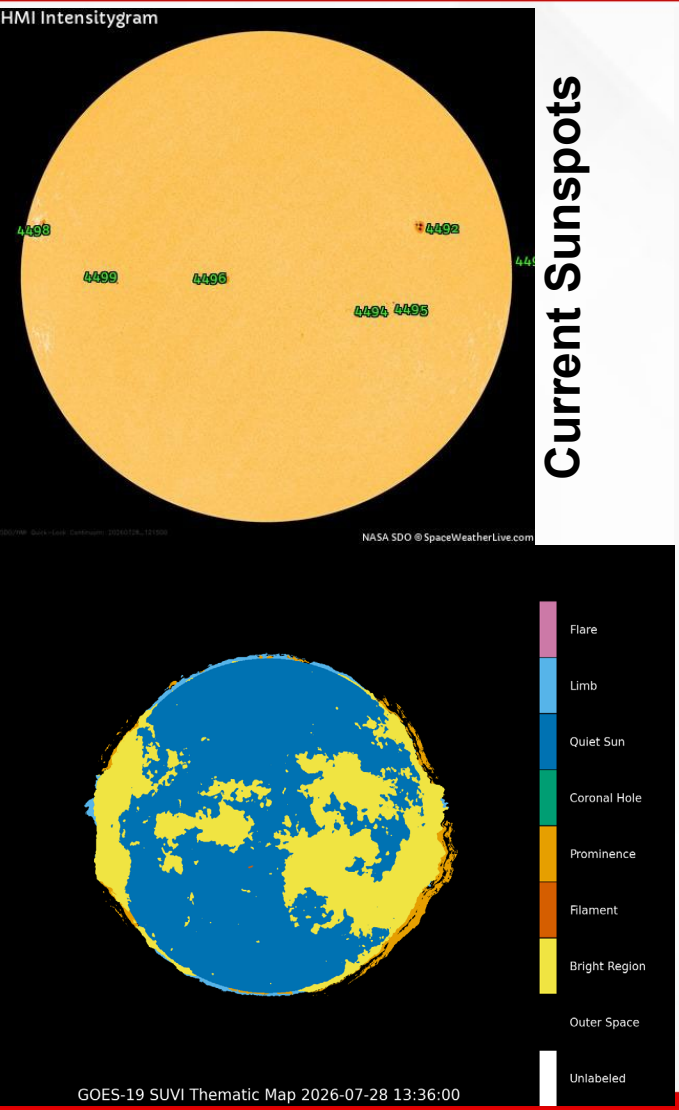
Drought (7/21/26): Higher than normal rainfall from a nearby tropical disturbance (that would eventually become Tropical Storm Bertha) has led to drought improvements across the Panhandle, Big Bend, and localized areas along the West Coast. Pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** along much of 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 **387 (-10)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **7 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: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/28	7/29
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels with a chance for M-class flares. Any M-class flares will be accompanied by minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. The solar wind environment is expected to remain slightly disturbed today before waning on Wednesday and Thursday as CME effects subside. Unsettled to active geomagnetic activity conditions are expected today before returning to quiet to unsettled conditions by Wednesday. 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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