



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, July 29, 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	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	Leon, Marion	Logistics Support (Travel Trailer Movement)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Logistics Support (Travel Trailer Movement)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	FLEX Training / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Citrus	ESF-8 Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	Leon	Response Coordinator Onboarding Orientation
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Collier	Radiological Emergency Preparedness Workshop
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FIFA AAR Meetings

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6, 9
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Flagler	Co Instructing G-205 Flagler
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Flagler	G-205 Training
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	F-ROC Tour
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Flagler	Instructing G-205
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Flagler	Team Meeting
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	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

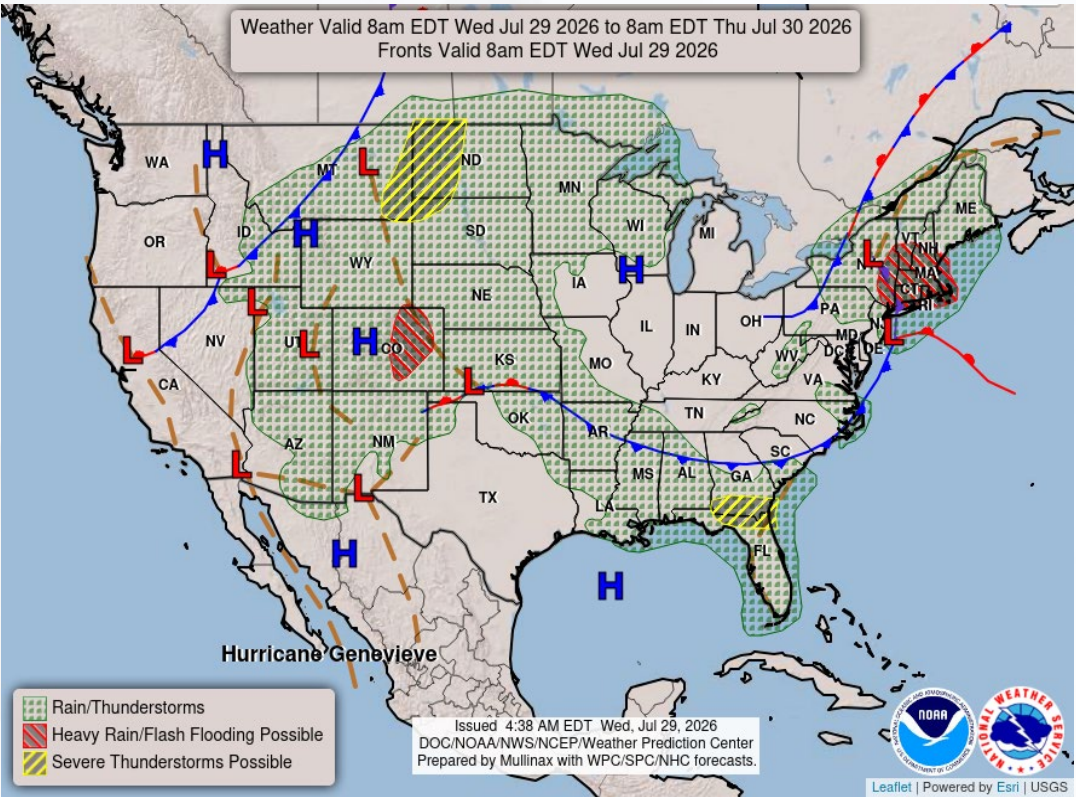
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

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

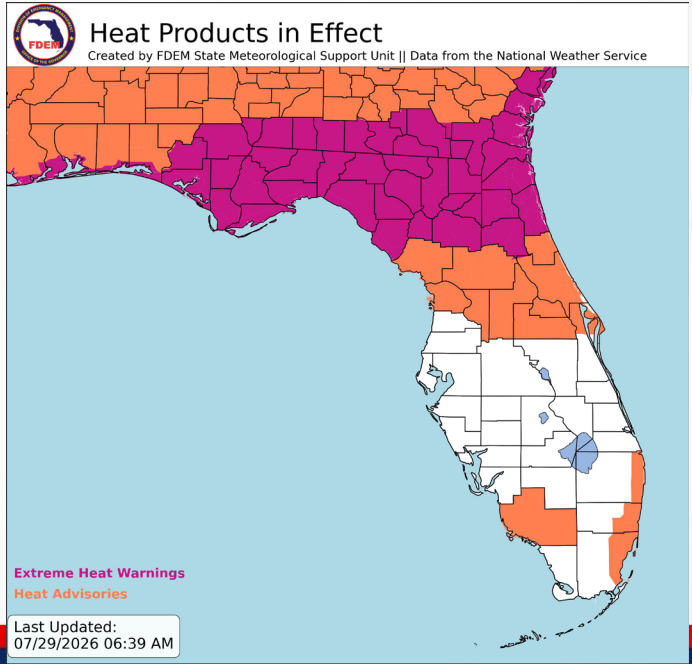
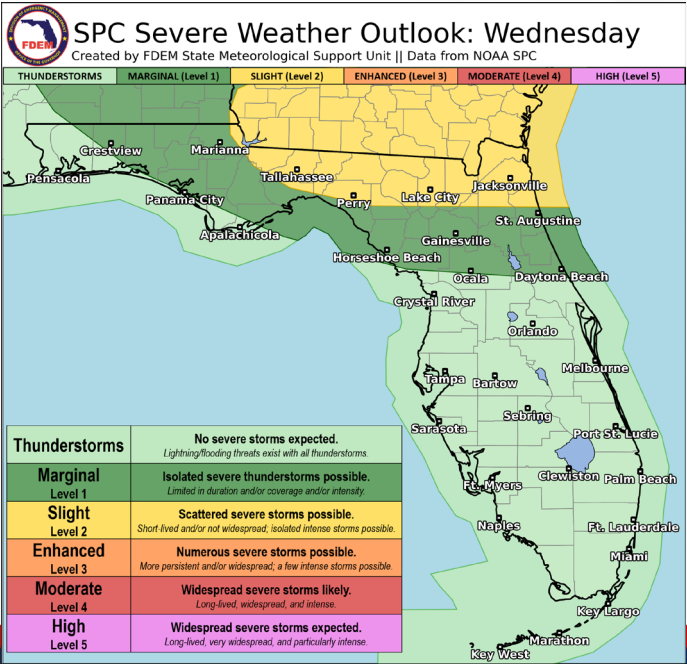


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	M	M	M	L					
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L	L					
Extreme Heat	H	H	H	H	M	M	L	L	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	M	H		M	H	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.83 ft. (2.90 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	383 (-4) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





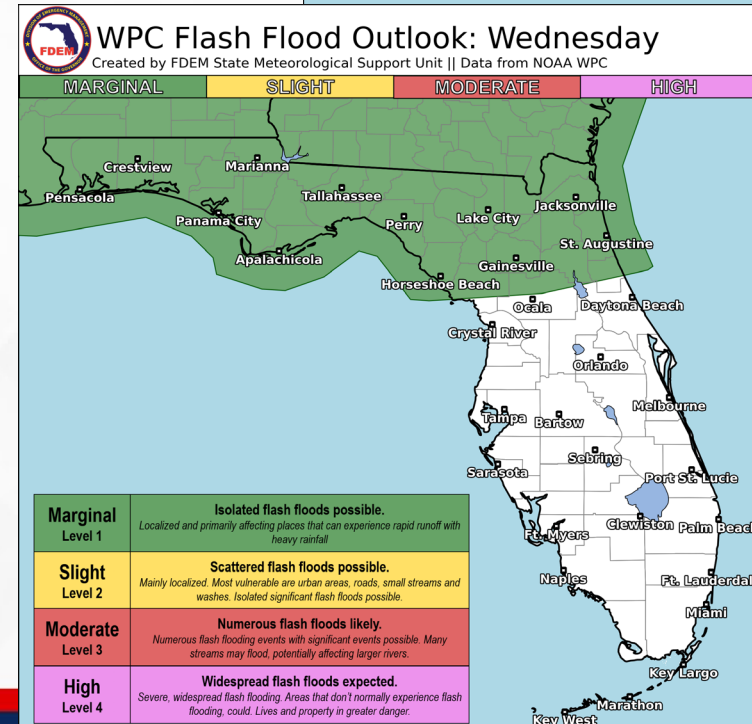
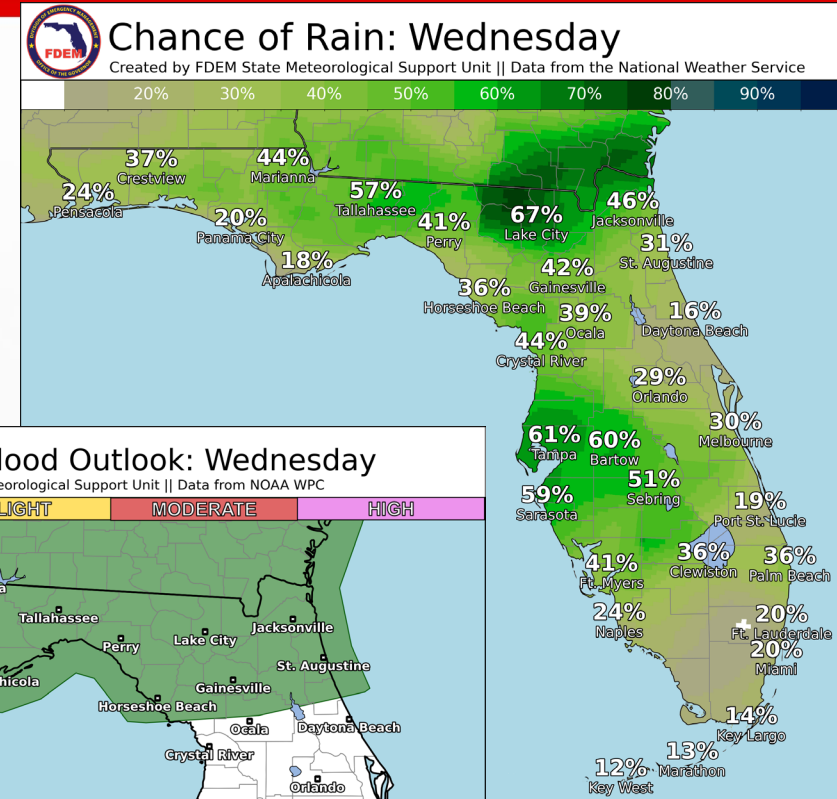
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A rather active and unsettled day is expected today throughout North Florida as a cold front begins to surge southward into the Deep South. Ahead of this front, ample tropical moisture combined with hot afternoon temperatures and increasing upper-level winds will prime the environment for a **few strong to severe thunderstorms** (40-65% chance of rain). Thunderstorm activity will likely begin to develop as individual cells around 3-5 PM EDT, just past peak heating hours of the day. Eventually, these thunderstorms will begin to merge into a larger cluster by the late evening and overnight hours before tracking southward through the northern Peninsula. A **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked throughout North Florida today, with the strongest activity expected to focus along the I-10 corridor of the northern Big Bend and northern Peninsula. The primary hazards with this activity will be **frequent lightning**, **locally damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. Multiple rounds of thunderstorms may also lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water** throughout North Florida where a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked. Throughout the Peninsula, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop along the inland advancing sea breezes across West-Central Florida this afternoon (50-60% chance of rain) with isolated activity throughout the remainder of the Peninsula (25-40% chance of rain). Drier air will limit the coverage of convective activity across South Florida today.

The hottest day of the year yet is expected throughout North and North-Central Florida today before thunderstorm activity develops. Highs will climb well into the **middle to upper 90s**, with **heat index values** soaring into the **upper 100s to middle 110s**. An **Extreme Heat Warning** is in effect for much of the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast Florida with **Heat Advisories** elsewhere. Portions of coastal Southwest and Southeast Florida may also reach feels-like temperatures in the **upper 100s** this afternoon where additional **Heat Advisories** have been issued. Heat indices will remain in the **lower to middle 100s** elsewhere across South-Central and interior South Florida. Any prolonged exposure to the heat without adequate cooling across the state could lead to **heat related illnesses**.

Tonight, showers and thunderstorms, some of which may remain **strong to severe**, will continue tracking southward across North and North-Central Florida, even after midnight (40-60% chance of rain). Activity will likely reach the Central Peninsula by the early morning hours on Thursday. Lows will fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide.

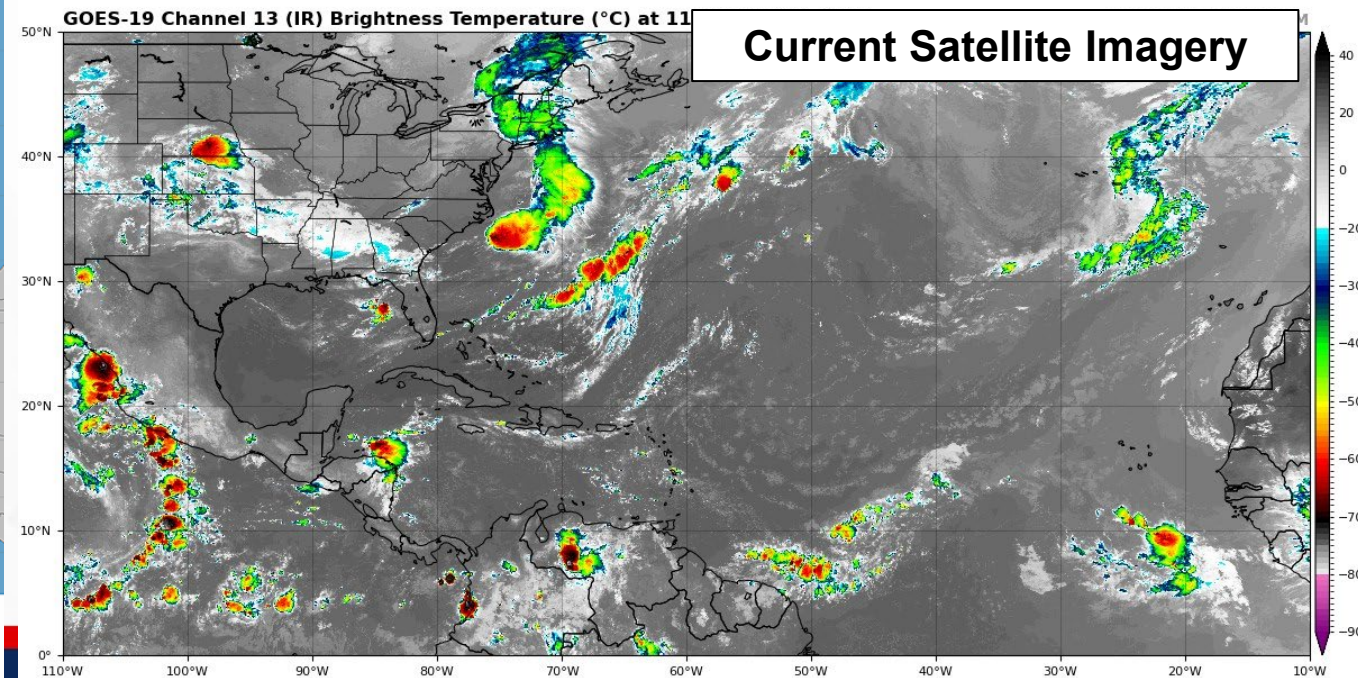
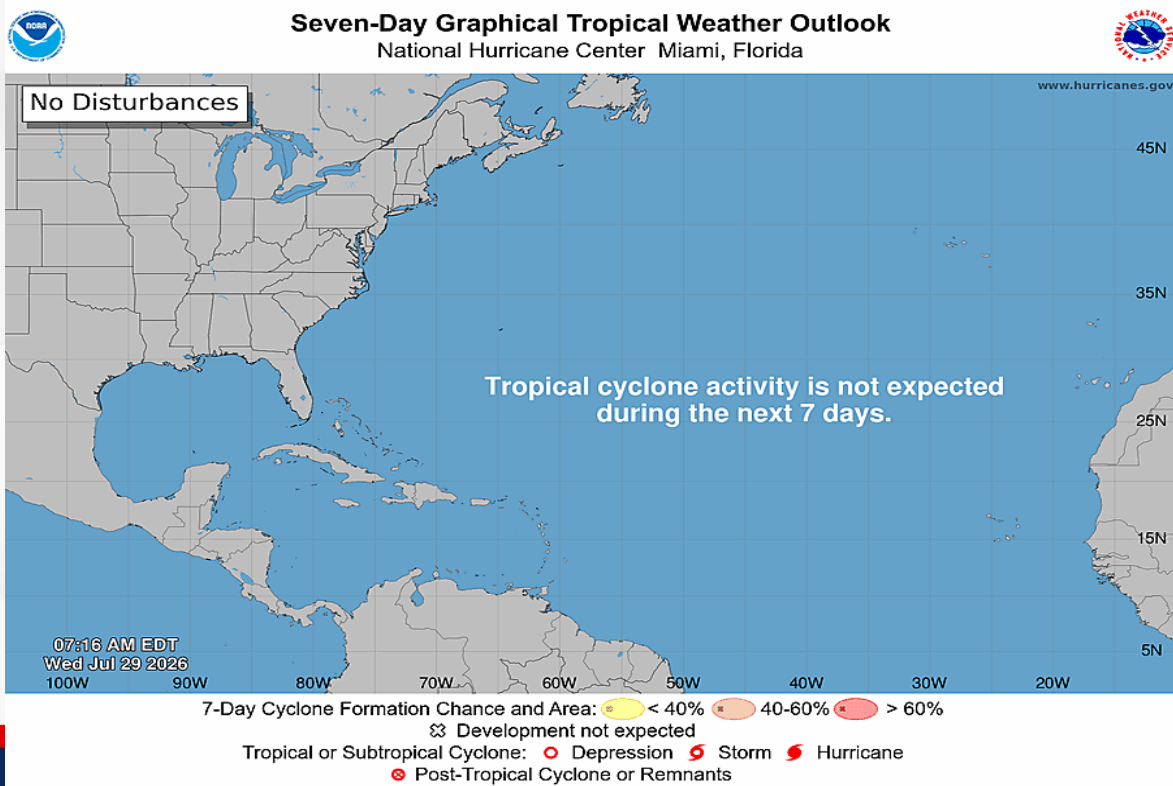




Tropical Weather

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

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate** to **high risk for rip currents** is expected at all Panhandle and West Coast beaches today as breezy west to southwesterly flow increases south of an approaching front. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is also outlooked for East-Central Florida beaches today with a low risk across Northeast and Southeast Florida. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will begin to increase to **2-4'** for all statewide beaches today. A few waves **upwards of 5'** cannot be ruled out across West Coast beaches in the surf zone.

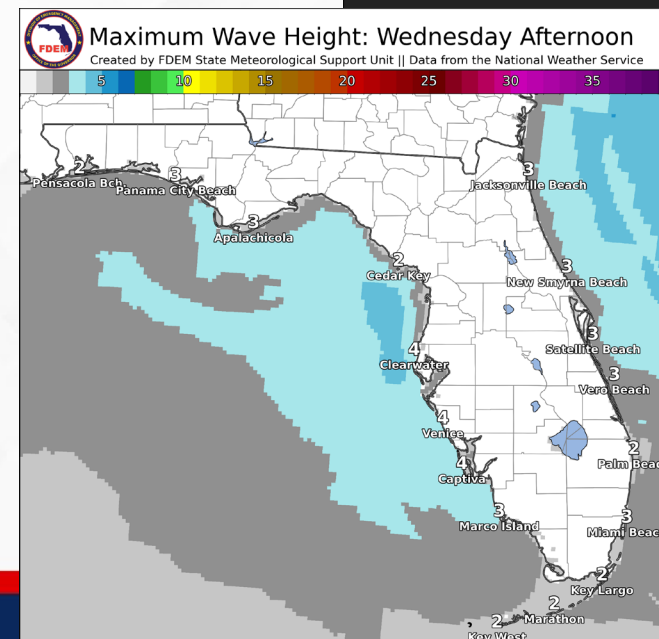
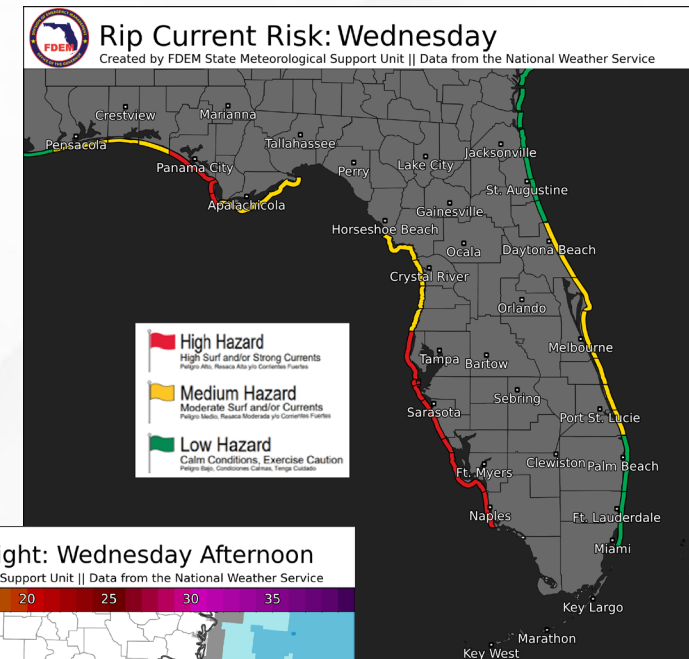
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from offshore Sarasota County (valid 7/24/26).

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 all North Florida today where a few rounds of **strong to severe thunderstorms** are expected later this afternoon and into tonight. A cold front approaching from the north will help to spark scattered showers and storms, eventually merging into a larger thunderstorm cluster by the late evening and overnight hours. Multiple rounds of **heavy showers and thunderstorms** could lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. This cluster of activity will be slow to move south, reaching the central Peninsula by daybreak on Thursday. Rainfall totals will generally remain around 1-2" in areas that do receive storms, however locally higher totals **upwards of 2-4" or more** cannot be ruled out. Additional showers and storms throughout the Peninsula will remain isolated to scattered in nature with totals remaining below 1", though locally higher totals cannot be ruled out. 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 10.83 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.90 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



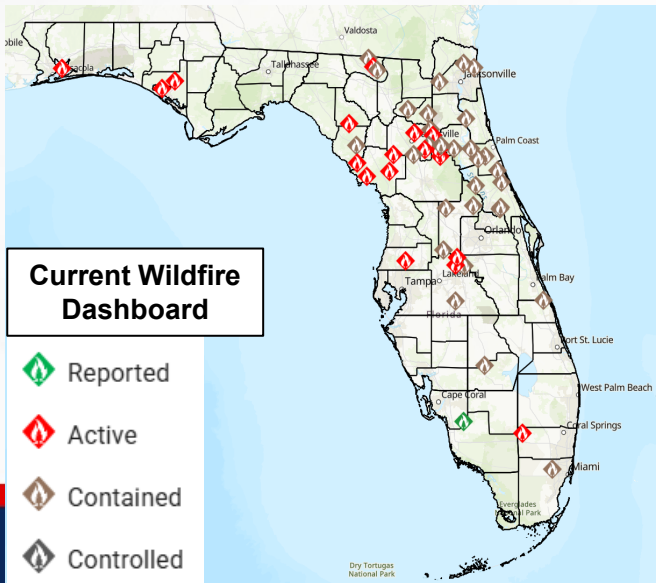
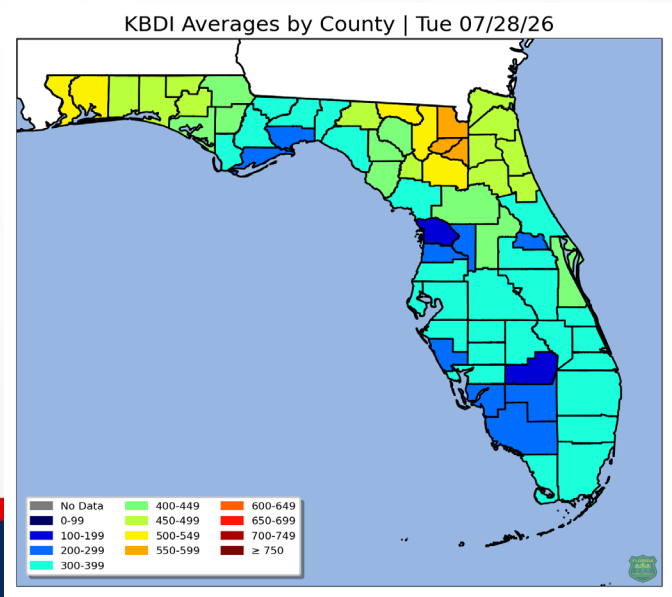
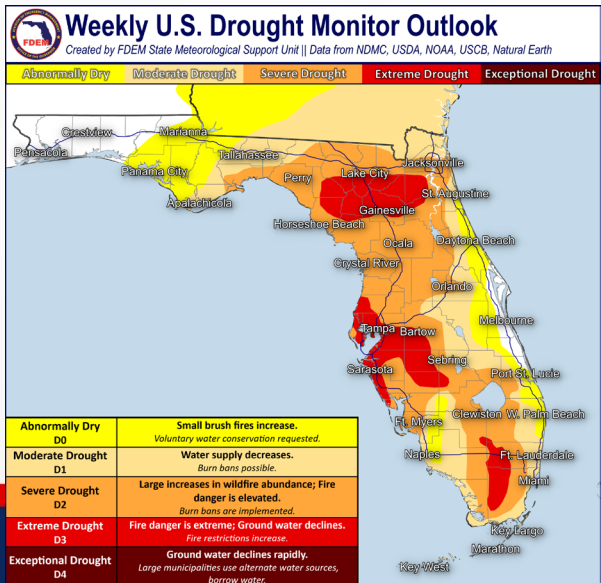


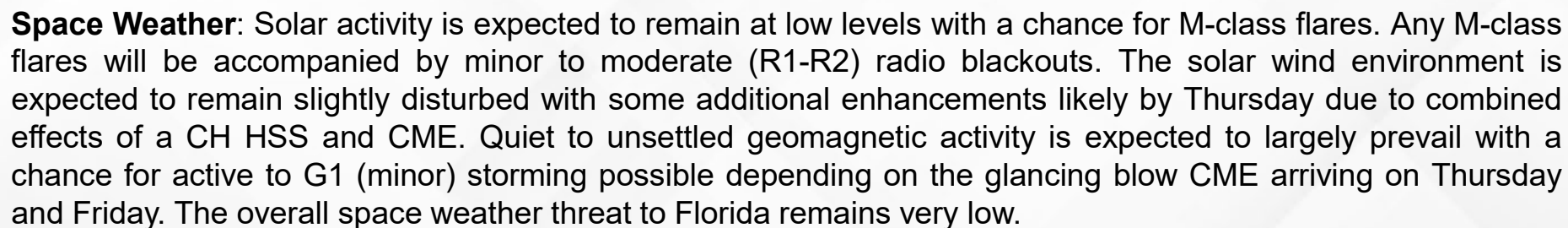
Drought & Fire Weather

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 across North Florida and the western Peninsula. Breezy winds will develop out of the west to southwest today across the Peninsula, gusting **upwards of 25 mph** at times. 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 49 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 11,057 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 **383 (-4)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **8 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).







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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