



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, July 31, 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	Austin Johnson	(850) 296-5680	Austin.Johnson@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Cody Nowak	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Gadsden	End of Month Admin / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Jefferson	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton	EOC Open House
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	MCI Panning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	End of Month Admin
Region 7: Brian Carey	Leon, Polk	Response Coordinator Onboarding Orientation / Return to Region 7
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	End of Month Admin / Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Monroe	Ingestion Pathway Workshop

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6 & 9

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

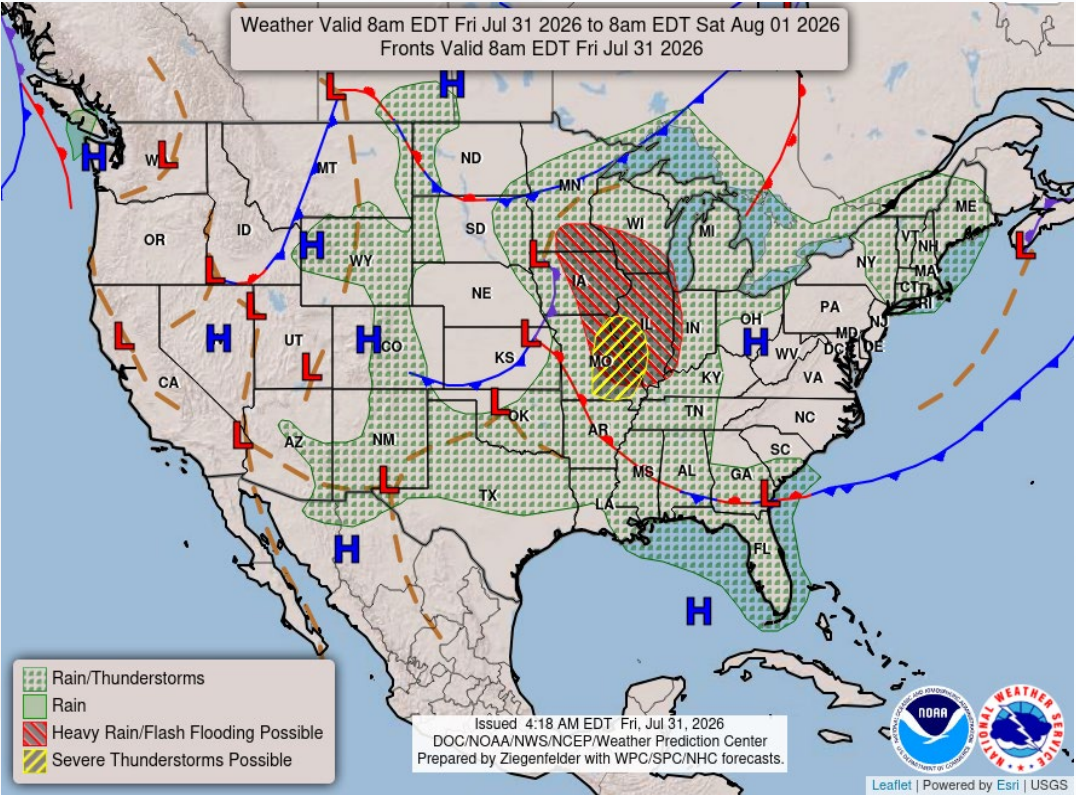
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	HERricane
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Flagler/Leon	Travel back to Region
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Hamilton	Stakeholder Event
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Osceola	Instructing FL-393
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 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5
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

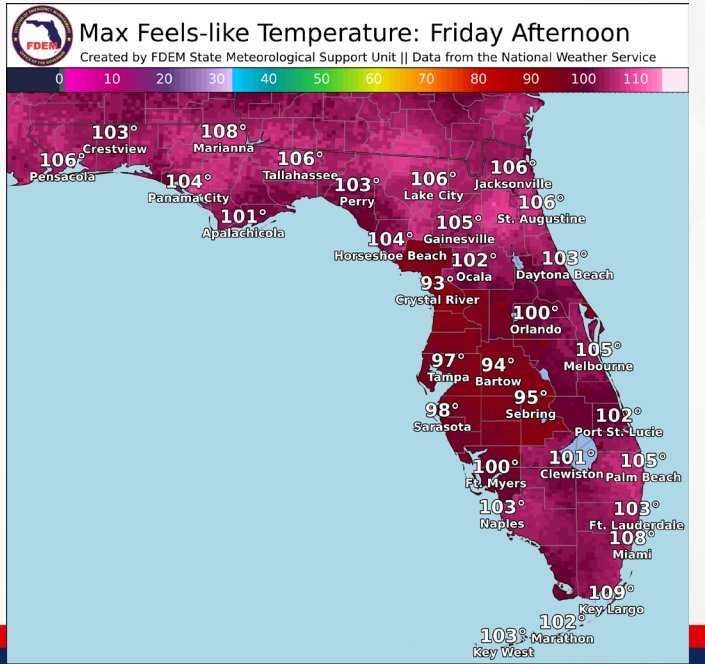
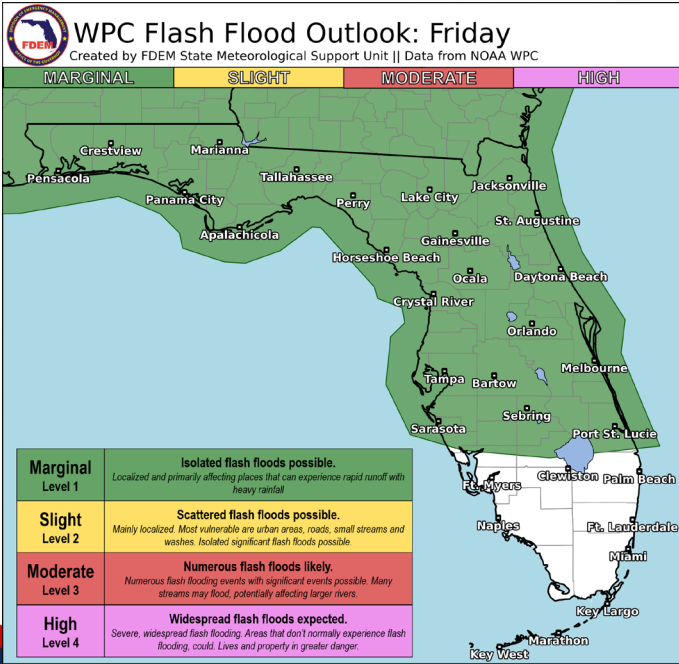


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

T hreat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
Extreme Heat	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	M	L	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	H		M	H	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.89 ft. (2.86 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	390 (-2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





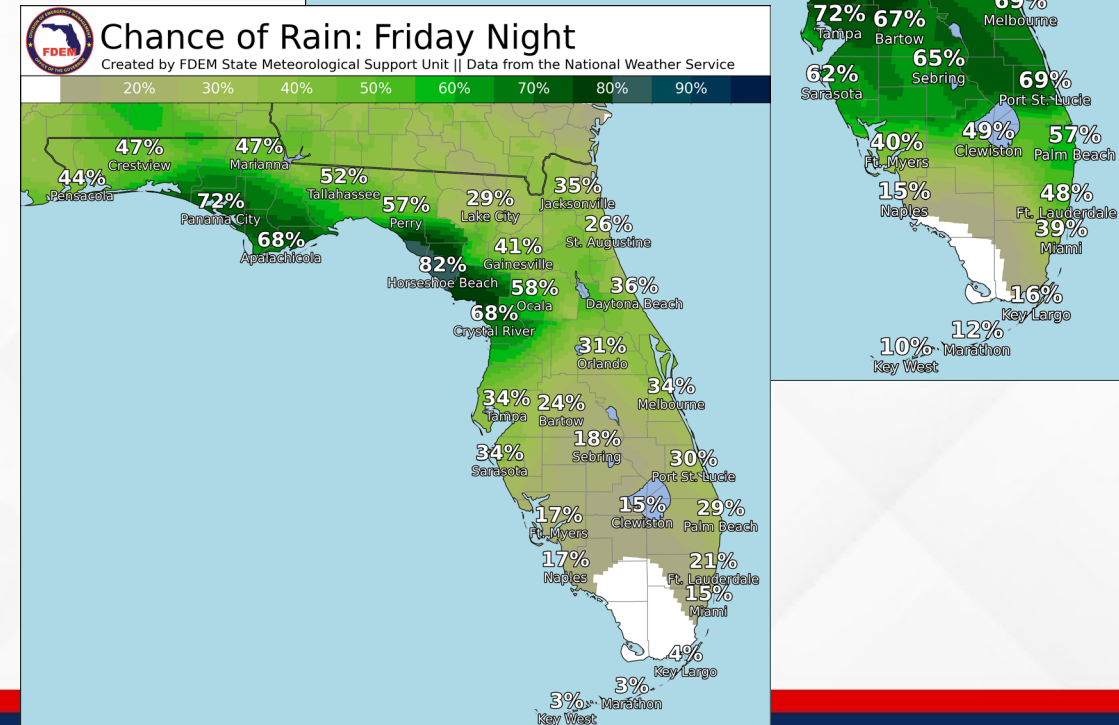
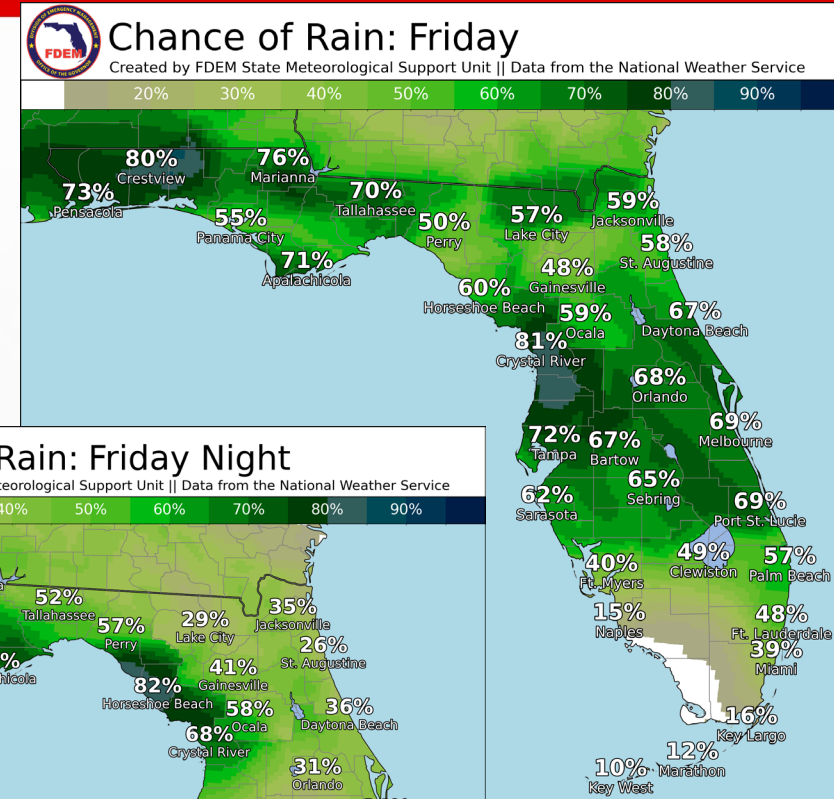
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Our stalled frontal boundary that has acted to focus numerous rounds of heavy showers and thunderstorms across the state this week remains draped across South Georgia today. Just south of this front, abundant tropical moisture continues to pool amidst richly moist west to southwesterly flow. A large area of showers with embedded thunderstorms tracking south and eastward has already developed this morning along the Panhandle coastline, stretching towards the Nature Coast. This large cluster of activity will continue to traverse across the Gulf Coast this morning, spreading onshore into Central Florida later this morning and afternoon with some enhancements possible as the sea breezes interact with outflow boundaries. Activity is expected to reach South-Central and Southeast Florida by the late afternoon and early evening hours where some additional sea breeze showers and storms may develop beforehand during peak heating hours this afternoon. Meanwhile, across North Florida, additional showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop around 2-4 PM EDT near or along the I-10 corridor before tracking southward into the evening hours. Any thunderstorm activity statewide today may be accompanied by **frequent lightning**, **gusty winds (30-50 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been outlooked throughout all North and Central Florida where multiple rounds of **heavy downpours** may lead to instances of **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. Any thunderstorm activity today could produce a quick **1-3" of rain**, with locally higher totals under any training storms.

Much of the state will remain below Heat Advisory criteria today, despite oppressive humidity sticking around, given much higher cloud coverage and rainfall chances. Highs will reach the lower to middle 90s throughout much of the state, except West-Central Florida where highs may struggle to get out of the middle to upper 80s. Feels-like temperatures here will likely remain in the 90s today while the rest of the state reaches the **lower to middle 100s**. A localized **Heat Advisory** has been issued for coastal Southeast Florida where urban areas may briefly touch the **upper 100s** this afternoon before thunderstorm activity develops.

Tonight, showers and thunderstorms will likely push offshore the East Coast before midnight with some lingering activity along the Panhandle and Nature Coasts through the overnight hours (50-70% chance of rain). Activity will begin to push back onshore shortly before sunrise Saturday. Lows will fall into middle 70s to lower 80s.

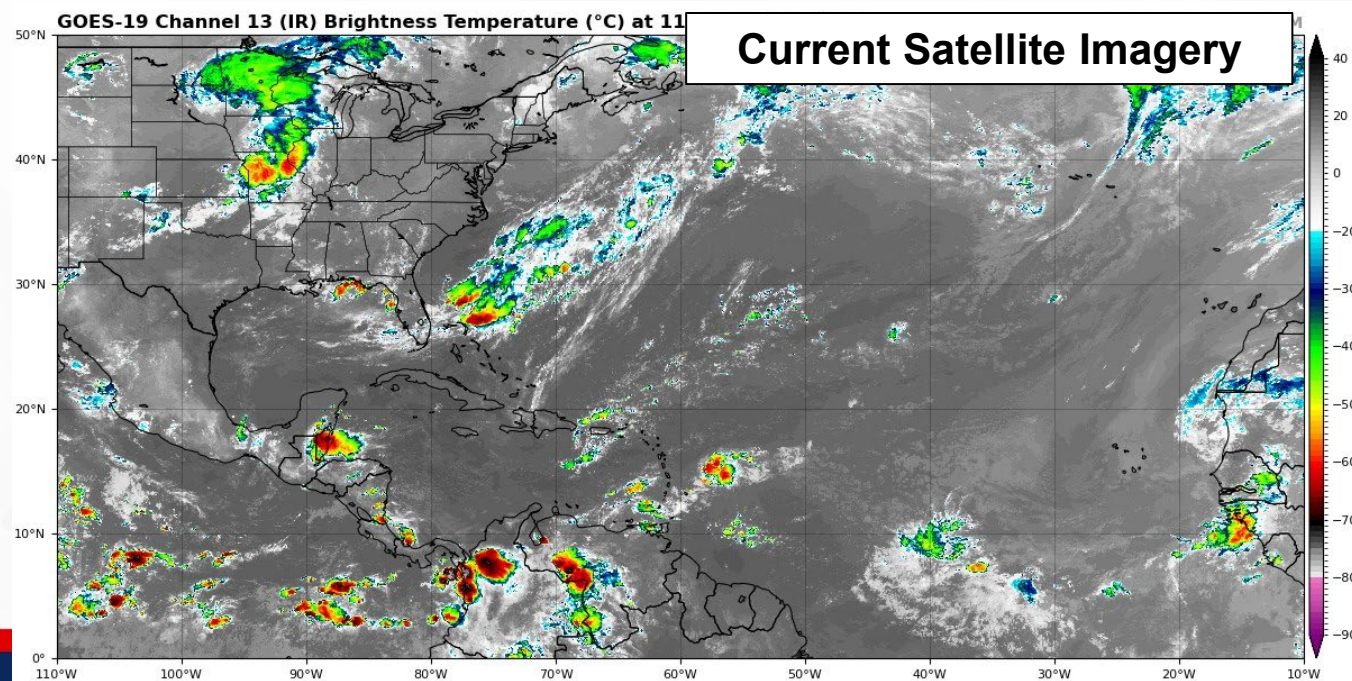
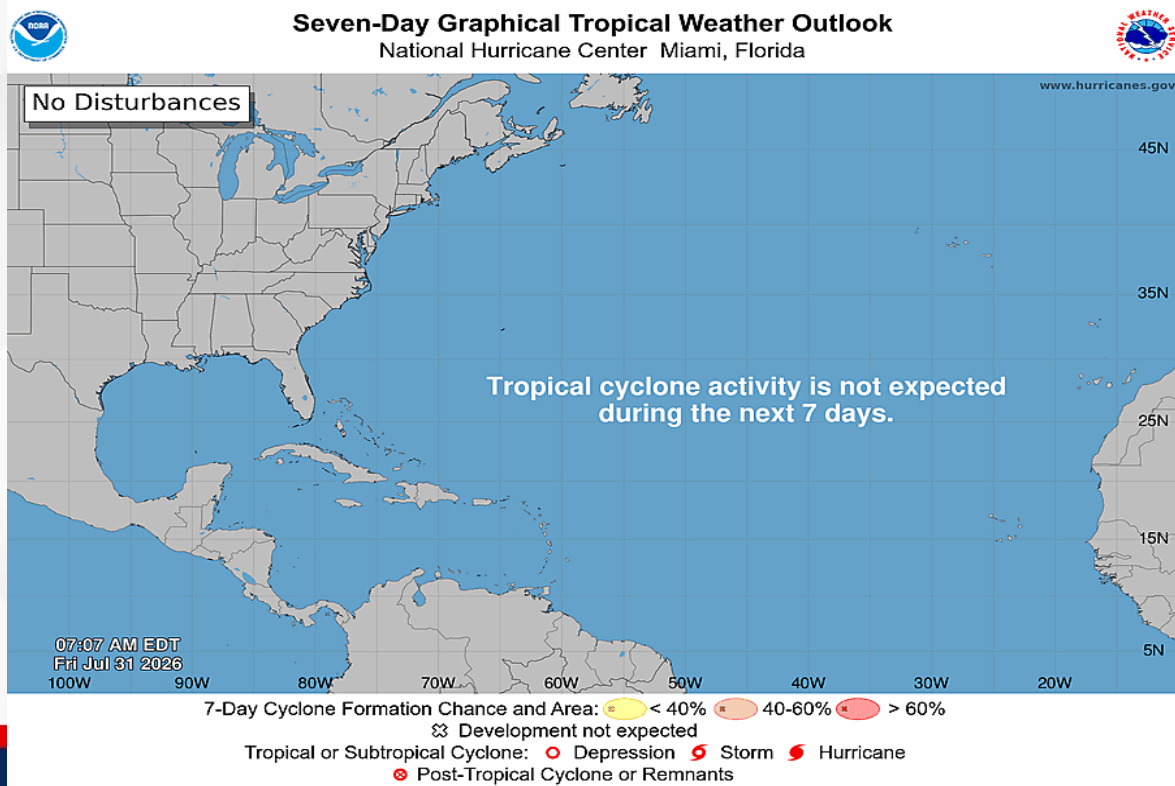




Tropical Weather

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-Central Florida beaches today as breezy west to southwesterly flow remains south of an approaching front. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is also outlooked for East-Central and Northeast Florida beaches today. A low risk is expected for Nature Coast, Collier County, and Southeast Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf will remain near **2-3'** for all statewide beaches today. Locally calmer surf near 1-2' is expected for the Florida Keys and Southeast Florida.

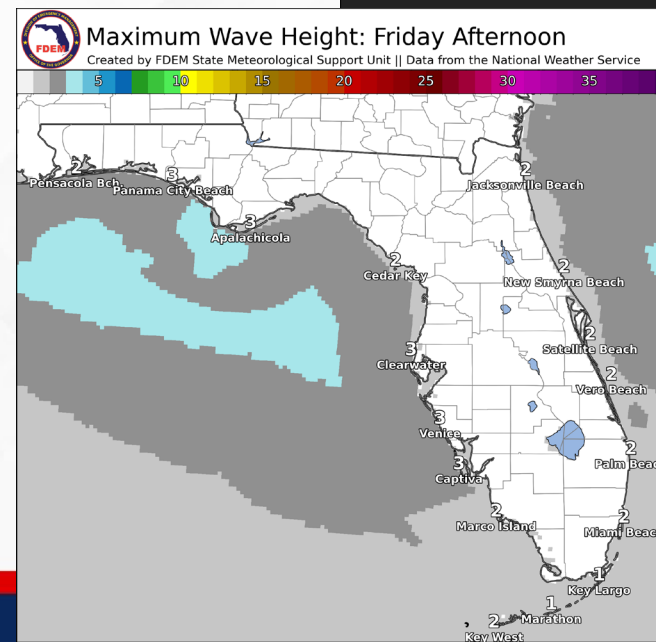
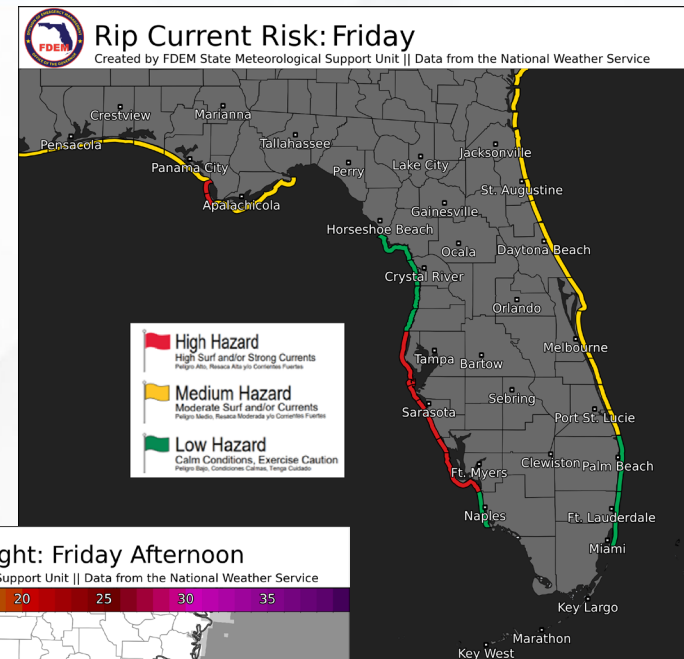
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations from offshore Sarasota County (valid 7/24/26).

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 all North and Central Florida today as a frontal boundary stalled across South Georgia and an upper-level disturbance both aid in scattered to widespread shower and thunderstorm development throughout the day. Thunderstorm activity has already developed along the Gulf Coast this morning and will track southeastward through the Peninsula this morning and afternoon. Additional showers and storms will develop along the I-10 corridor between 2-4 PM. Any areas that receive multiple rounds of **heavy downpours** may experience **flooding and ponding of water**, especially in urban and poor drainage locations. Isolated cases of **flash flooding** cannot be ruled out. Any storm will be capable of producing a quick **1-3" of rainfall**, with locally higher amounts under any training bands of storms. 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 2.86 feet below normal for this time of year.



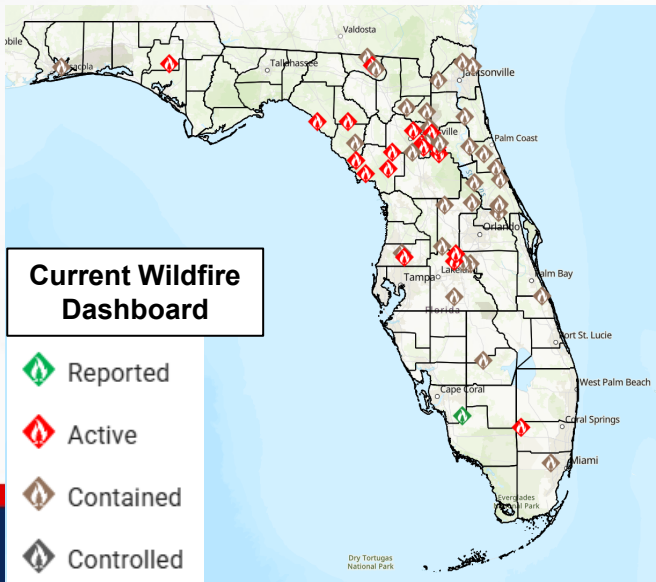
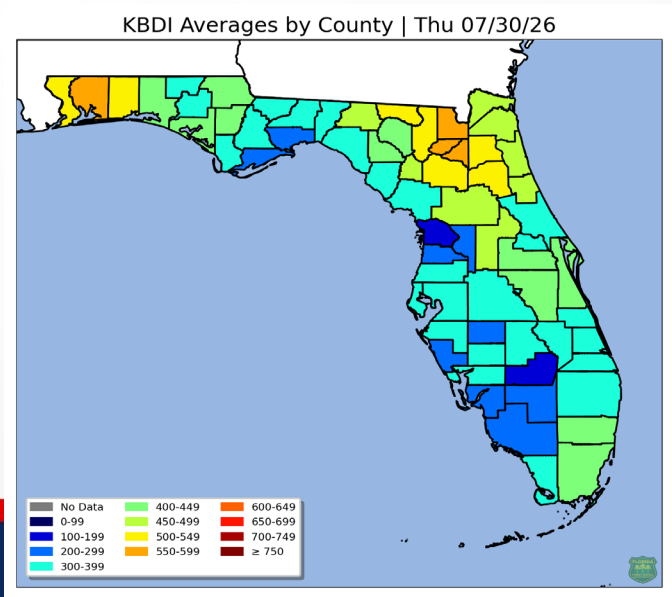
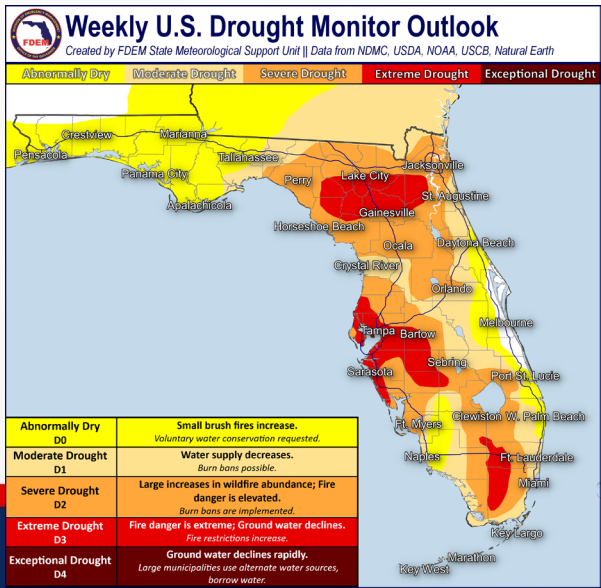


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Widespread showers and storms are expected throughout much of the state today, focused across North and Central Florida. 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 56 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 12,866 acres.

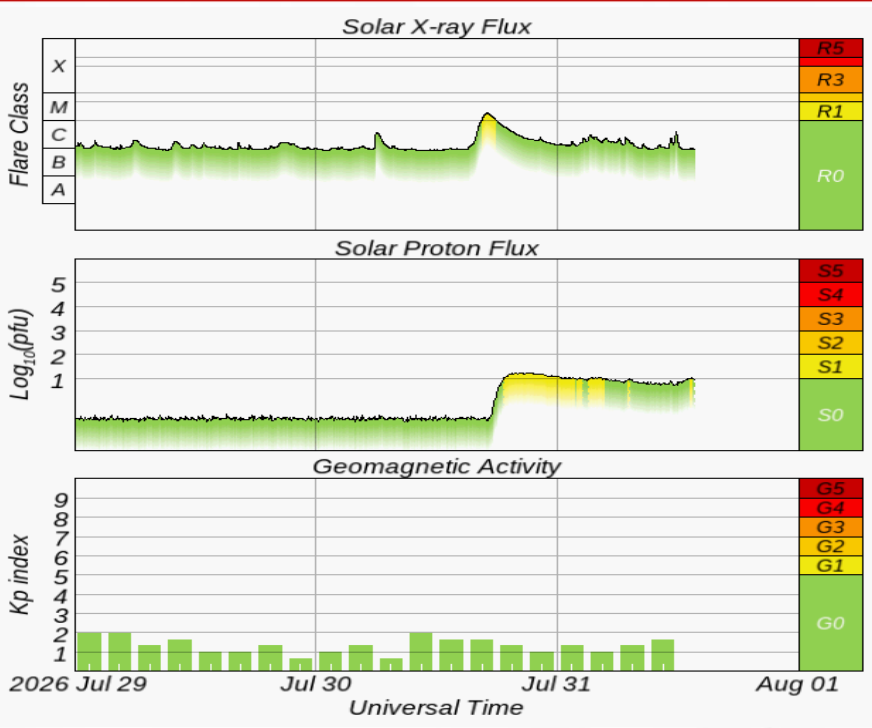
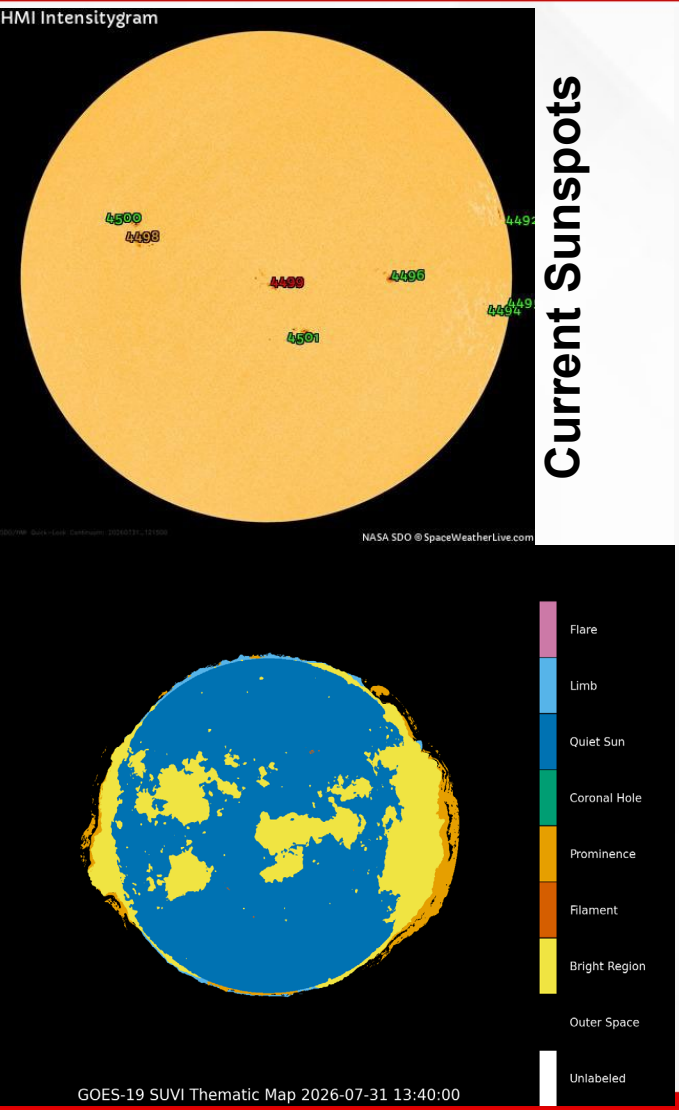
Drought (7/28/26): Some minor drought improvements have been noted across portions of the Big Bend this week, with areas of moderate to severe drought in Leon, Wakulla, and Franklin counties reduced one category to abnormally dry (*receding drought*) or **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. This area has seen a general 1-3" of rainfall over the past week, with additional rains in recent weeks courtesy of Tropical Storm Bertha and other sea breeze activity. Across the Panhandle, however, areas of abnormally dry conditions (*emerging drought*) have returned. 60-day rainfall departures along the Panhandle coast have now reached near 2-4" below normal, with above normal rainfall departures still evident across the northern Panhandle counties from June's Tropical Storm Arthur. Throughout the Peninsula, very few changes were observed this week. Rainfall departures over the past 2 months remain below to well below normal in many locations, including interior Northeast Florida, West-Central Florida, and interior South Florida where pockets of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remain with **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** generally surrounding that. Portions of northern Duval and southern Nassau counties have returned to a **severe drought (level 3 of 4)** with coastal St. Johns and Flagler counties upgraded to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Higher rainfall totals of 2-5" in the past week across Citrus and Sumter counties has led to severe drought being reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Some slight drought improvements were also observed across interior Collier, Hendry, and Glades counties. 14% of the state remains in an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** with only 3% of the state now under no drought designation, a ~7% decrease from last week. Looking ahead, a frontal boundary and a few upper-level impulses in the atmosphere will help to spark daily rounds of heavy showers and thunderstorms across much of North and Central Florida through this weekend. Some drought improvements are expected in areas that receive the heaviest rainfall. Moisture will also begin to make a return to South Florida by this weekend, encouraging scattered shower and thunderstorm activity. Any areas that fail to receive rainfall, however, may see drought conditions endure or even worsen, especially with hot summertime temperatures persisting.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **390 (-2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **11 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: 25%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
7/31	8/1
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% 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. Background solar wind conditions are expected today before some enhancements are possible this weekend ahead of a few Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) and the arrival of a Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) winds. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions, with isolated active periods, are possible today and persisting through Saturday. An increase in storm levels is possible on Sunday if a partial halo CME from Thursday has a favorable Earth impact. 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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