Florida Division of Emergency Management
State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, August 15, 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	Ahnaya Benjamin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Brian Carey	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 1
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 5

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable

Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	**In Region**	**Leave**
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	**In Region**	**On Call R2 Response**
Region 3: Kevin Blom	**In Region**	**Off & Monitoring**
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	**In Region**	**Off & Monitoring**
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	**In Region**	**Off & Monitoring**
Region 6: Rick Rogers	**In Region**	**Off & Monitoring**
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	**In Region**	**Off & Monitoring**

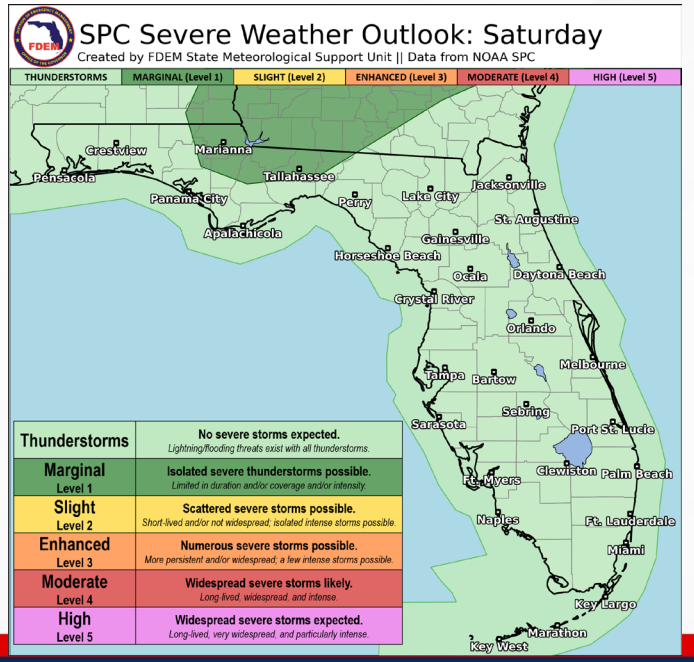
Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

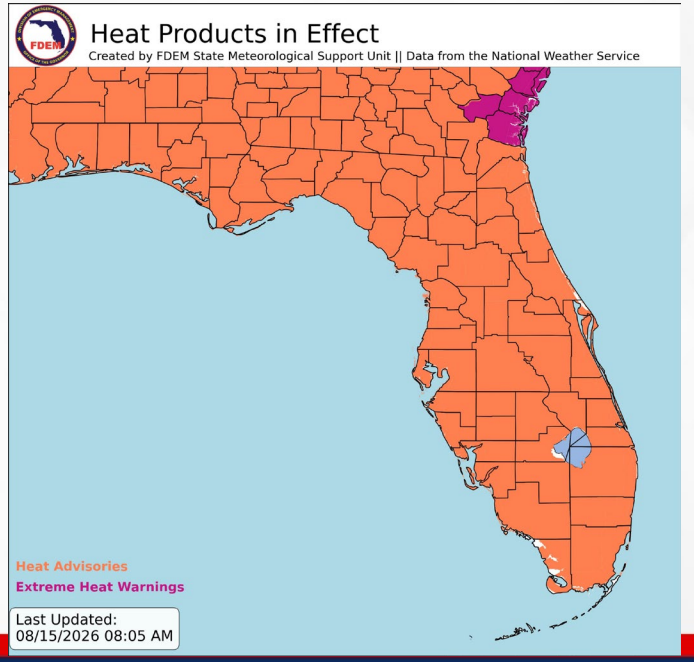
Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable

Meteorology Summary

Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	L	M	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	M	H	L	M	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.01 ft. (2.95 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	316 (+13) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





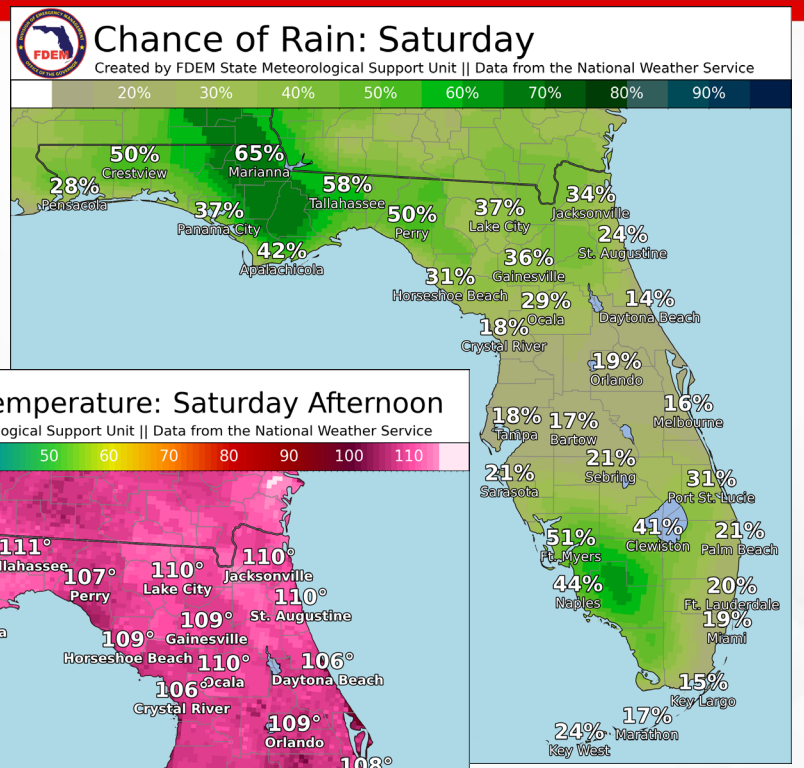
Meteorology Summary

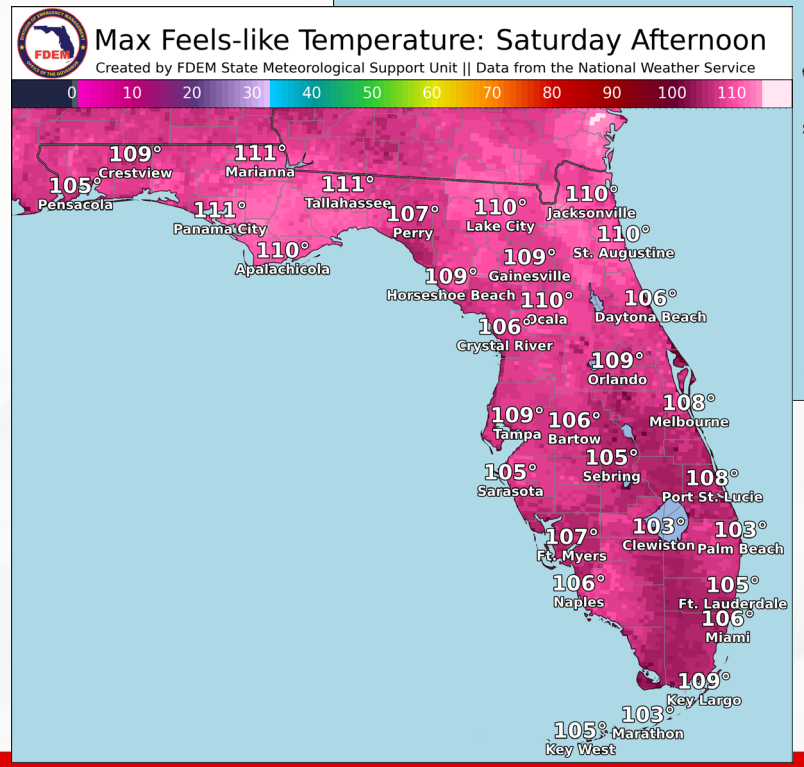
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

No relief is in sight from the prolonged and oppressive heat wave that has plagued the state since last week. Upper-level ridging currently centered over the Deep South amplifies further on Saturday, causing yet another day of well-above average temperatures to spread across the state. Plentiful low-level moisture will be in place today, allowing for maximum feels-like temperatures to skyrocket into the **upper 100s to lower 110s** across North Florida and into the **middle to upper 100s** across the Peninsula. **Heat Advisories (Heat Index >= 108F)** are once again in effect across the entire state to reflect the threat for **dangerous heat and humidity today**. Take care to limit time spent outdoors, stay hydrated, and to know the signs of **heat related illnesses** for yourself and for your loved ones.

Seasonably high column-total moisture will introduce a scattered to widespread chance (40-65%) of afternoon thunderstorms into the forecast, particularly across the Panhandle. An approaching plume of Saharan Air in the Peninsula will help keep rain chances comparatively lower (<30%). The only exception to this will be in Southwest Florida, where an area of focused convergence resulting from the collisions of prevailing easterly flow and the West Coast sea breeze may promote some scattered storm development (30-60% chance). A few locally **strong to severe storms** are possible today across portions of the Northern Panhandle as multiple sources of lift may promote explosive thunderstorm development, with storms capable of **frequent lightning** and **isolated damaging wind gusts (60mph+).** The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked a localized **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across northern portions of the Florida Panhandle to reflect this threat. Additionally, strong thunderstorm development expected today overtop soils that remain saturated from prior rainfalls may lead to an isolated instances of **flash flooding**, especially in urban or poor drainage areas. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across much of North Florida in response to this threat.

Overnight low temperatures will be seasonable, in the middle to upper 70s across the state. Some storms may linger across Northeast Florida (20-40% chance in the early evening hours, with nearly all activity dissipating or moving offshore by midnight.





Tropical Weather

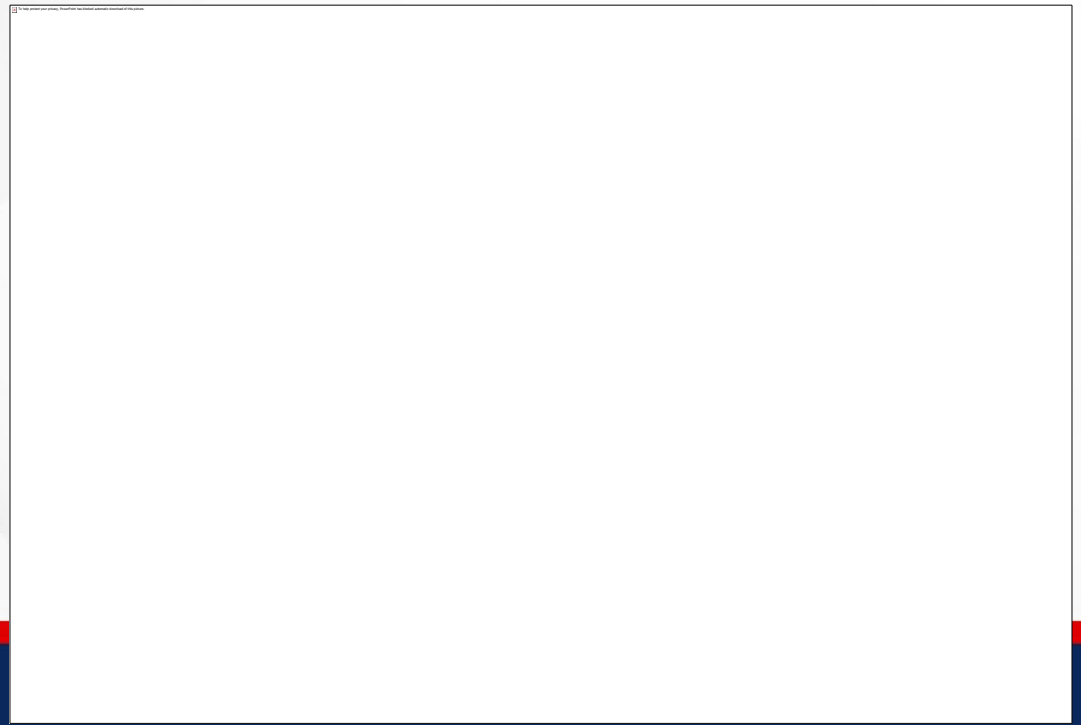
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Southern Caribbean Sea (Invest 92L): A tropical wave over the southeastern Caribbean Sea is producing gusty winds and an area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Development of this system is not expected due to strong upper-level winds and dry air.

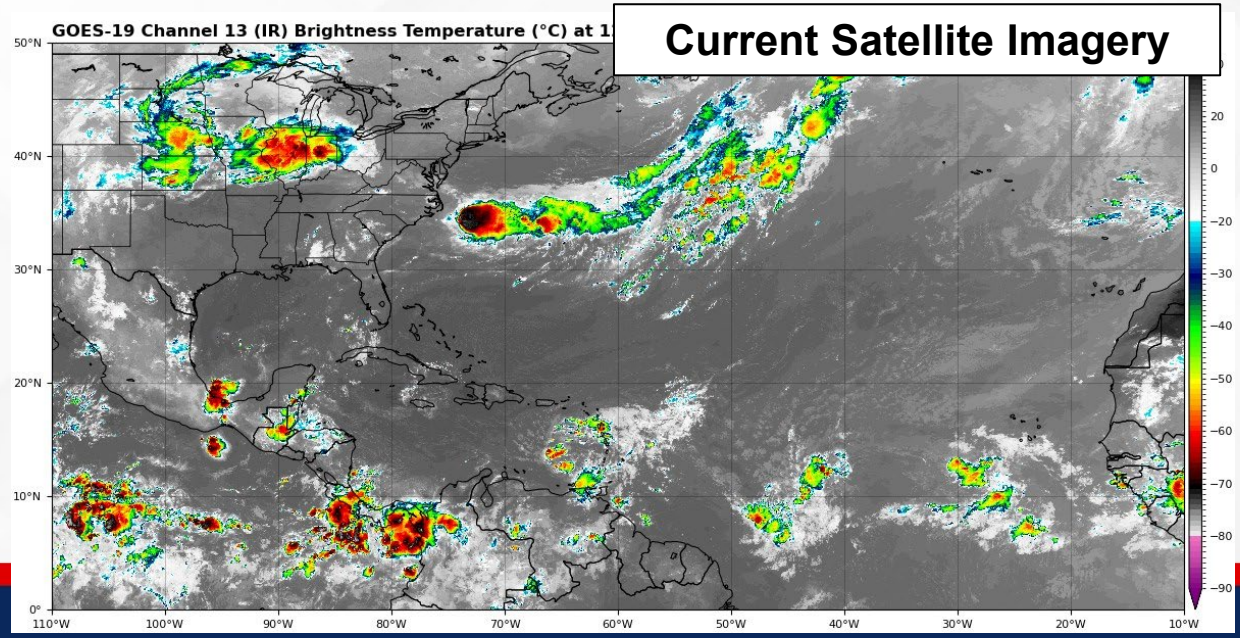
- Formation chances through 48 hours... **low... near 0%.**
- Formation chances through 7 days... **low... near 0%.**

Eastern Tropical Atlantic (Invest 94L): A tropical wave over the central tropical Atlantic about midway between the Cabo Verde Islands and the Lesser Antilles continues
to produce disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Limited development of this system is possible over the next day or two before the system encounters strong upper-level winds to the east of the Lesser Antilles.

- Formation chances through 48 hours... **low... 10%.**
- Formation chances through 7 days... **low... 10%.**



Current Satellite Imagery



Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A localized **high risk for rip currents** is expected in Gulf County. A **moderate risk for rip currents** is expected for eastern Panhandle, East-Central, and Southeast Florida beaches today with a low risk for all other statewide beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Surf near 1-3' is expected for all statewide beaches today.

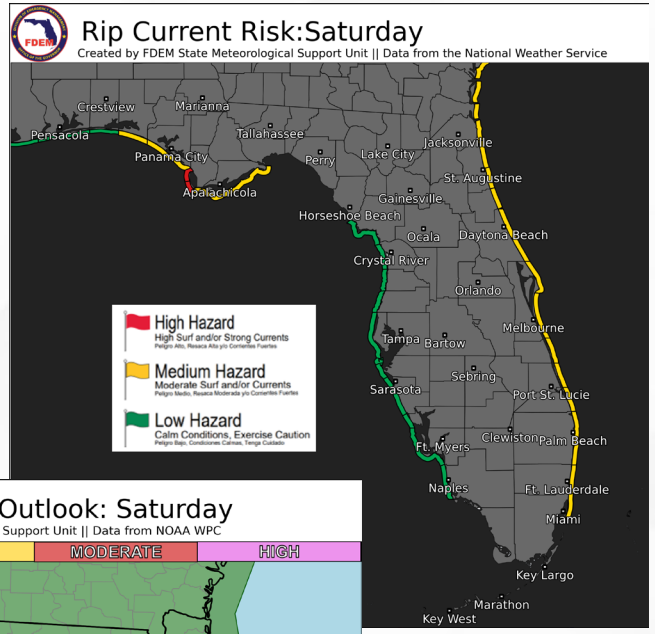
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations in Pasco county, in very low to low concentrations in Nassau county, very low to medium concentrations in Duval County, and very low concentrations in St. Johns County (valid 8/14/26).

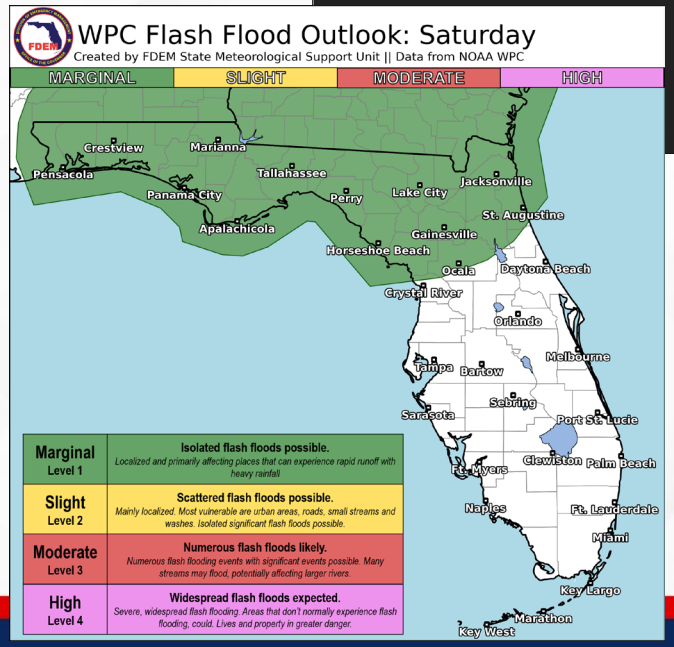
Coastal Flooding: There are no coastal flooding concerns across the state.

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is expected across much of North, North-Central, and Northeast Florida. Multiple sources of lift within an environment of extreme atmospheric instability will promote explosive thunderstorm development capable of producing very heavy rainfall rates. Isolated instances of **nuisance or flash flooding** may occur, particularly in urban/poor drainage areas or areas. Forecast rainfall amounts are generally between 0.5-1", however localized areas may reach upwards of **2-3".** For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Riverine Flooding: There are no riverine concerns across the state. For more information, visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.01 feet, which is within the operational band and is 2.95 feet below normal for this time of year.



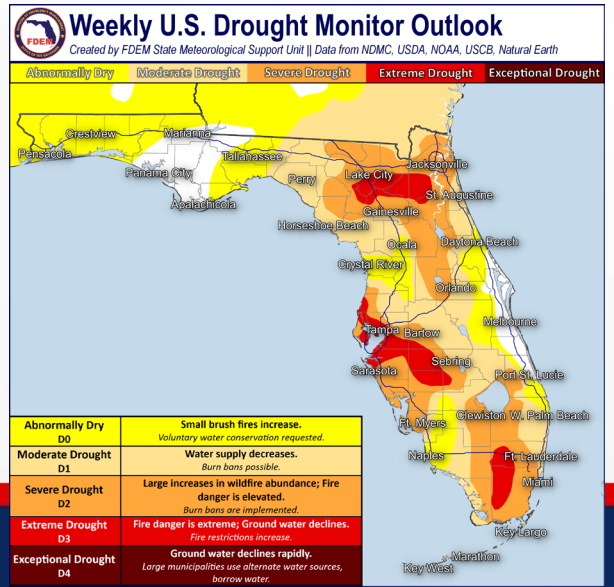


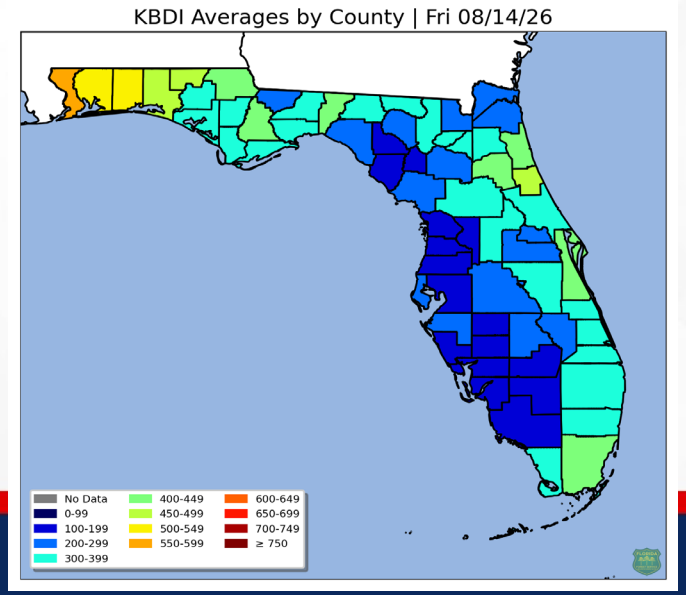
Drought & Fire Weather

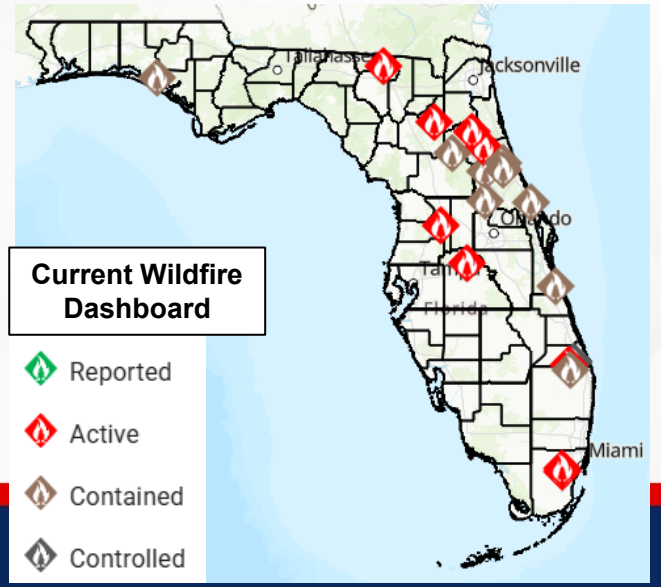
Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected throughout much of the state today. Any thunderstorm activity may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds, which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are 19 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1109 acres.

Drought (8/11/26): Only minor improvements were observed on this week's Drought Monitor update with daily scattered sea breeze showers and storms bringing largely near to below normal rainfall to much of the state. The biggest changes were observed across portions of Central Florida, with much of the severe drought (level 2 of 4) across northern Osceola County and central Orange County trimmed to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Portions of northwestern Hillsborough, central and eastern Pasco, southern Hernando, and western Lake counties also saw a one category improvement back down to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Abnormally dry (*receding drought*) conditions have also replaced the moderate drought across eastern portions of Volusia, Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties as well as interior Marion, Sumter, and Citrus counties. Across portions of Southeast Florida, the **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** has expanded back towards the coast to cover more of Palm Beach County, and the **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** has expanded to include coastal Miami-Dade county. No other significant changes were observed this week. Areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** are still found across portions of the lower Suwannee River Valley, West-Central Florida, and interior South Florida with **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** largely surrounding those areas. Portions of the Panhandle and Big Bend remain under abnormally dry to **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** conditions. Nearly 9% of the state remains in an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. 10% of the state remains under no drought designation. Looking ahead, the state will remain in a more typical summertime pattern of daily showers and thunderstorms, with most activity focused throughout the Peninsula. Drought improvements within this pattern will likely be minimal (if at all) and focused in areas that receive daily rounds of heavy thunderstorms. Localized areas will likely see gradual categorical drought degradations (*worsening drought)*, especially if they miss out on the scattered rainfall with hot summertime temperatures expected.

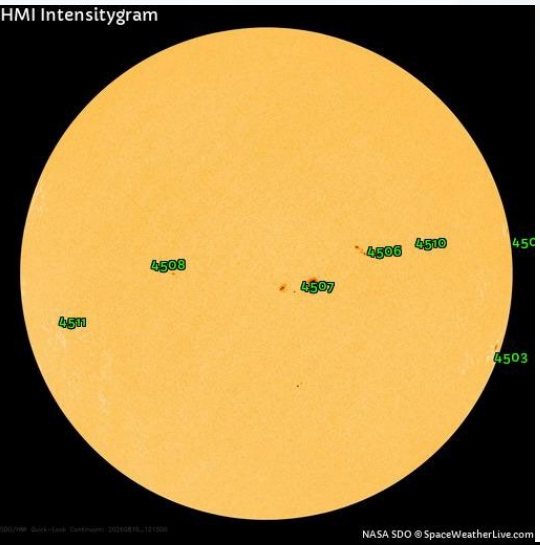
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **316 (+13)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **3 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



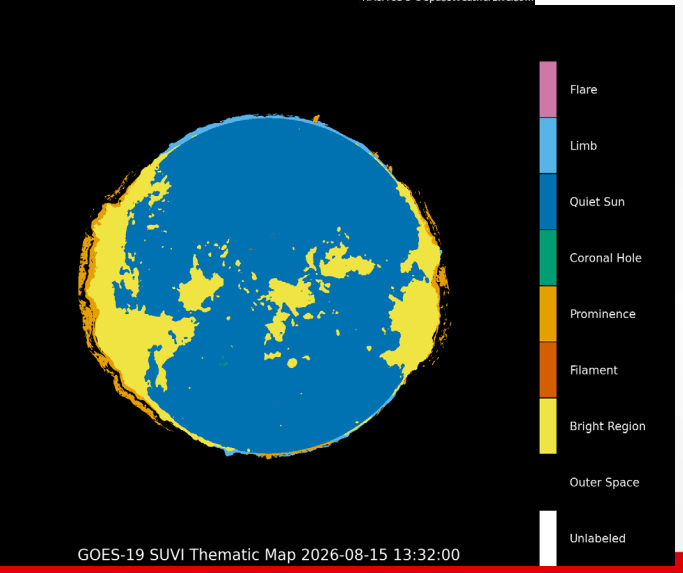


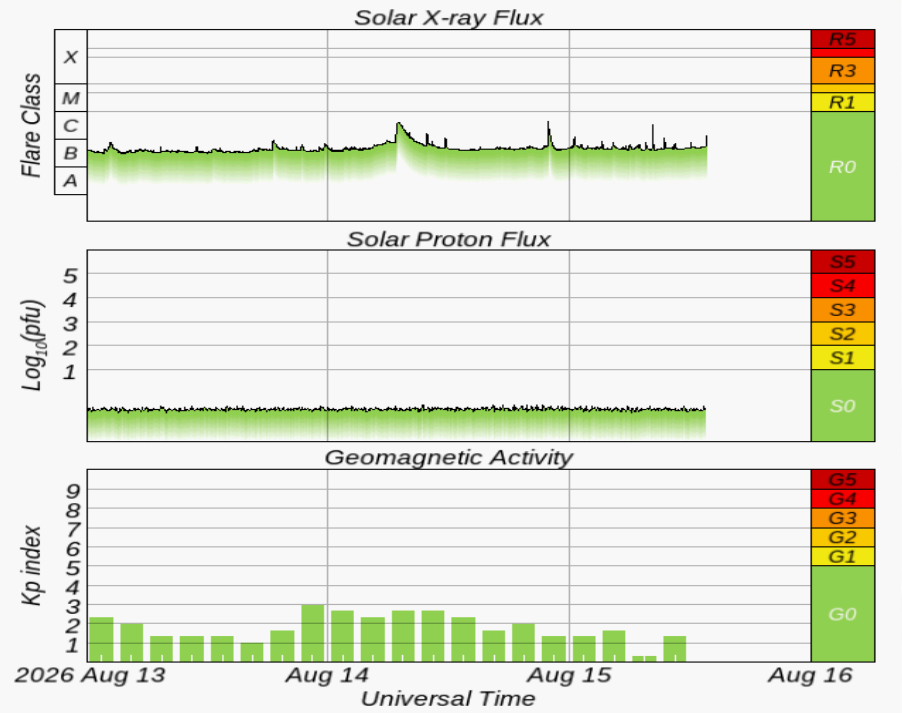


Space Weather



Current Sunspots





Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

8/15	8/16
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (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 isolated chances C-Class flares and a slight chance for M-Class flares. Influence from a Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) is expected to enhance the solar wind field through Sunday, with additional enhancements likely on Monday from a incoming Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). Geomagnetic field activity is expected to remain at unsettled to active levels today in response to +CH HSS influences, with a slight chance for G1 (minor) storming. Conditions return to quiet to unsettled levels on Sunday. 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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Austin Johnson

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