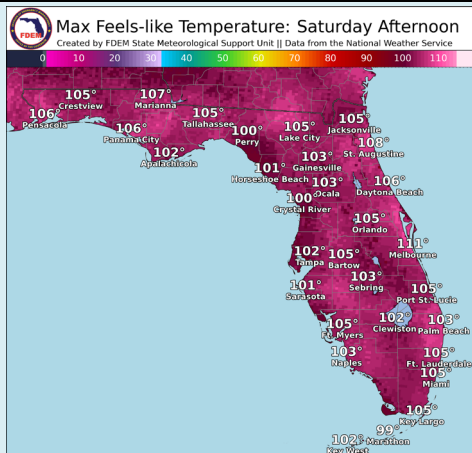
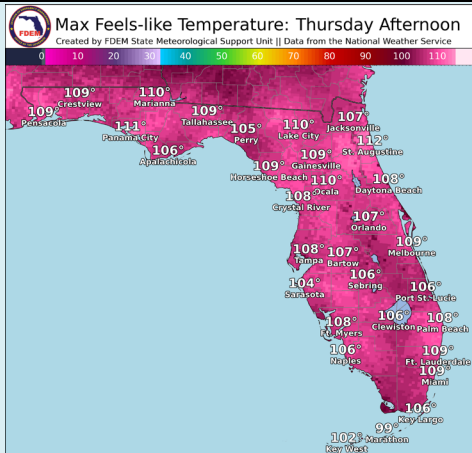
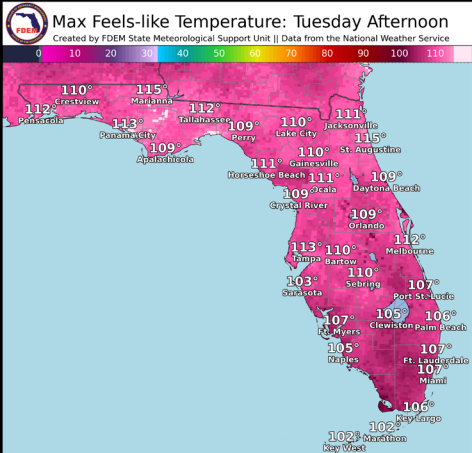
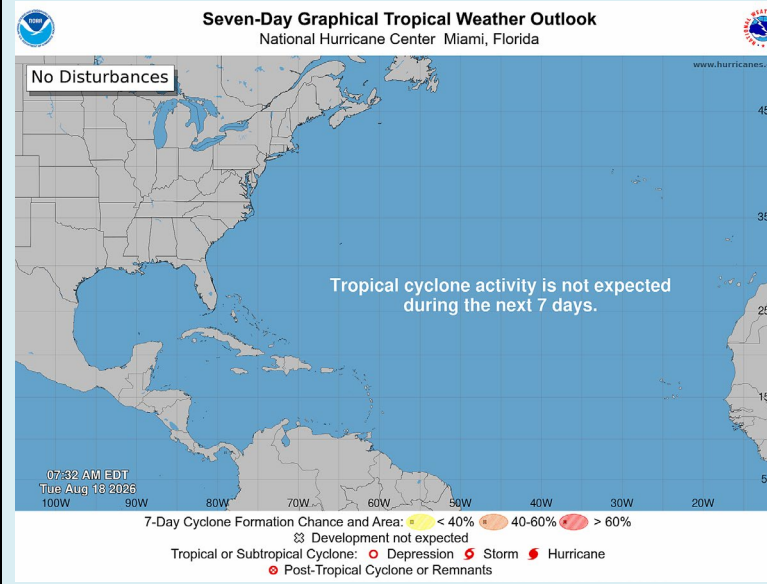


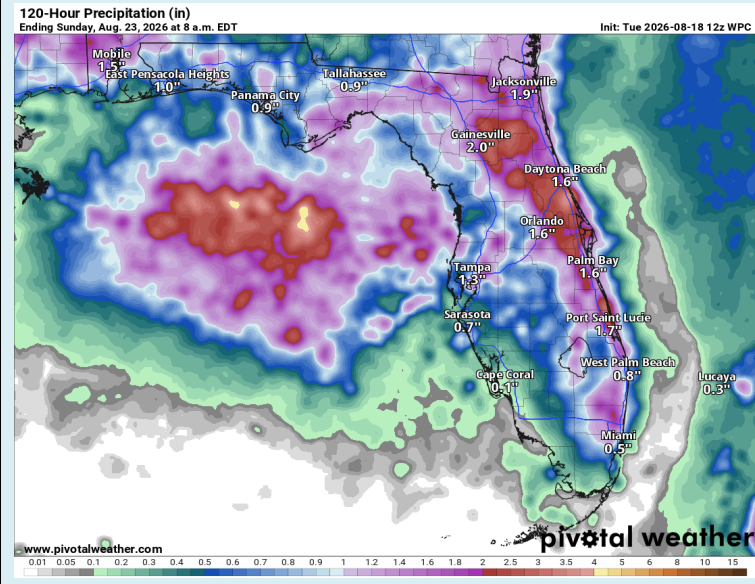
Tuesday, August 18, 2026					5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook			
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Tornado	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue	Northeast FL, Panhandle, East Coast Rest of State	North FL			North FL Rest of State			Bay, Gulf County Panhandle, Locally West Coast East Coast, Locally West Coast
Wed	Iso. Central FL Rest of State Southwest FL				North FL Rest of State			Panhandle & Central/Northern East Coast West & Southeast Coast
Thu	Statewide Iso. Panhandle & South FL				Iso. North FL Rest of State			Panhandle & Northeast FL Rest of State
Fri	Statewide				Iso. North FL Rest of State Iso. South FL			Panhandle & Northeast FL Rest of State
Sat	Statewide Western Panhandle & Southwest FL				Statewide Locally			Panhandle & Northeast FL Rest of State



Forecast Afternoon Feels-Like Temperatures: *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday*



7-Day Tropical Weather Outlook

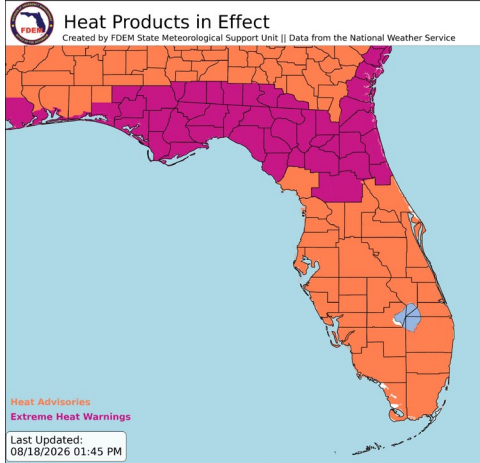


WPC 5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals



...Dangerous Heat and Humidity to Continue Through the Work Week... Extreme Heat Warnings in Effect Today Across the North Florida; Heat Advisories in Effect in all Other FL Counties... Additional Heat Advisories or Extreme Heat Warnings Expected Over Next Few Days... Ridge Supplying Heat Wave Exits this Week; Temperatures Begin to “Cool” Back to Near-Normal by the Weekend... Scattered Showers and Storms to Return to the Forecast for Most this Week as Ridge Moves Out and an Upper-Level Disturbance Approaches... No Tropical Development Expected Over the Next 7-Days...

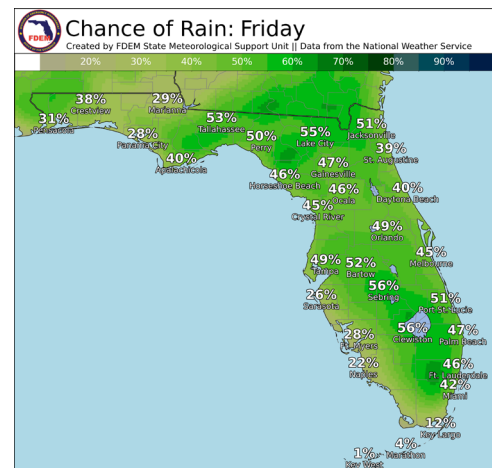
Tuesday – Saturday:



The relentless heat wave that has plagued much of the Southern United States finally begins to wane this week and into the weekend. The ridge of high pressure that has been supplying the dangerous heat and that was previously anchored over the Deep South has begun to break down and shift to the west. Despite this, a couple more days of very hot temperatures is expected as the process of returning afternoon high temperatures to near-normal values will be slow in the absence of any airmass change. In fact, today (Tuesday), may end up being the hottest day of this heat wave, particularly across North Florida. High temperatures this afternoon are expected to be in the **middle to upper 90s** across the state on Tuesday. Dry Saharan Air will limit afternoon feels-like temperatures across much of the Central and Southern Peninsula today to “only” the **middle to upper 100s**. Seasonably high moisture elsewhere across the rest of the state will allow feels-like

temperatures to soar into the **lower to middle 110s**. **Extreme Heat Warnings (heat index $\geq 113\text{F}$)** are in effect across much of North Florida today, with **Heat Advisories (heat index $\geq 108\text{F}$)** in effect for all other FL counties. Later afternoon scattered showers and storms are expected on Tuesday, particularly across Northeast Florida and the Western Panhandle – the areas with the greatest available moisture for storm development. A highly unstable atmosphere courtesy of our extremely hot surface temperatures makes today’s storms especially prone to producing **damaging winds (60mph+)**. The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across North Florida this afternoon to highlight this threat.

An upper-level disturbance slowly digs into the Eastern Seaboard this week, helping to gradually lower temperatures and introduce increasingly unsettled weather. This transition will be subtle and slow to happen – particularly for our surface temperatures. The upper-level disturbance is both not particularly strong and is not expected to bring a cooler airmass with it. Thus, with how prolonged this past heat wave has been, it will take multiple days to lower column temperatures to near-normal values. Current forecasts indicate we may have to wait until this weekend to see maximum feels-like temperatures “cool” down to more reasonable values of the **lower 100s**. Until then, maximum feels-like temperatures will remain in the **upper 100s to lower 110s** across the state. Additional **Heat Advisories** and/or **Extreme Heat Warnings** will almost certainly be needed during the upcoming work week. Of course, daily maximum temperatures are strongly connected to the day’s shower and thunderstorm activity. Areas that are impacted by strong thunderstorms (especially earlier forming ones) are likely to undershoot temperature forecasts whereas areas that “miss out” on daily storm activity may become local hotspots. With a developing upper-level disturbance, scattered to widespread daily thunderstorm activity (30-60%) is expected to settle in across much of the state, and may help modulate afternoon high temperatures for many locations. Areas within South Florida will likely remain intermittently drier than the rest of the state during the upcoming forecast period as plumes of



Saharan Air continue to push through. While there is no organized risk of severe weather or flash flooding for the rest of this week's activity, a few storms may become **locally strong to severe** capable of producing **frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60mph)**, and **heavy rainfall**. Forecasts will be monitored for the low-end potential of a southward-moving organized cluster of thunderstorms pushing through the state, as this is sometimes typical in unsettled patterns immediately following a major heat wave.

Tropical Weather:

Tropical cyclone development is **not expected** over the next 7 days. For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Hydrology & Flooding:

High pressure and large-scale subsidence that had previously been limiting thunderstorm development exits this week. A more typical pattern of scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms is expected to establish across the state this week. Much of this week's activity will be focused along the East Coast with a predominantly west/southwesterly flow regime. Plumes of dry Saharan Air may intermittently work through the state this week, limiting rain chances for some across the Peninsula. In all, 5-day rainfall forecasts generally range from **2-4"** along the East Coast, **1-2"** across North, Central FL, and West-Central Florida locations, and less than 0.5" elsewhere, across Southwest Florida. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the WPC [website](#).

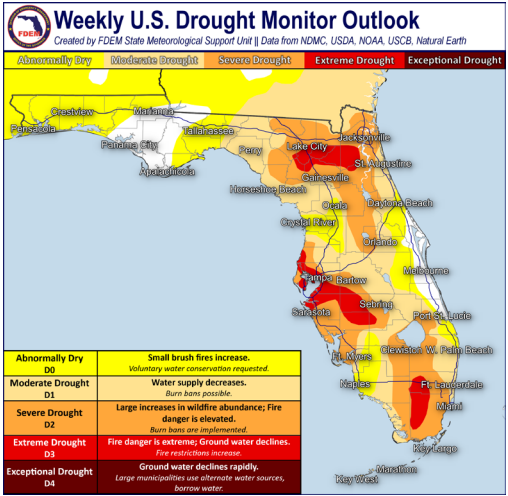
No riverine concerns exist across the state. Many waterways continue to run below normal with ongoing drought throughout much of the Peninsula. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 10.97 feet, which is within the operational band and 3.05 feet **below** normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Only minor improvements were observed on last 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.

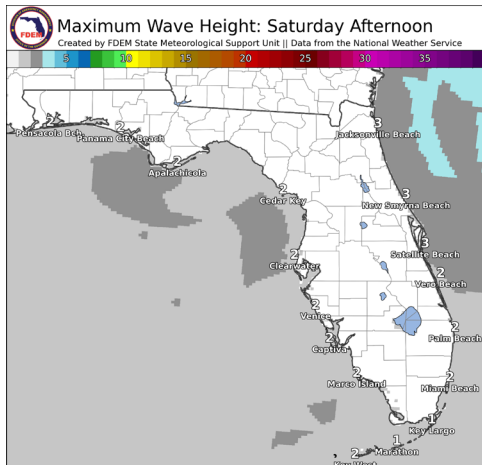
Predominantly dry conditions of the past week (noted by increasing statewide KBDI values) will likely lead to minimal (if any) categorical drought improvements, with some locations likely seeing localized categorical drought degradations (*worsening drought*). This effect has likely been exasperated by the extremely hot conditions within this heat wave, which may have led to more rapid drought progression. Looking ahead, a return to more routine scattered showers and thunderstorms is expected for many across



the state. The scattered nature of this activity is unlikely to lead to significant and widespread categorical drought improvements.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **339** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **4** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

The overall fire weather threat will remain low as relative humidities remain above critical thresholds and winds remain light. Scattered showers and storms are expected on most days this week, and any thunderstorm activity could be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. Very hot and dry conditions of the past week has likely led to heightened vegetation stress and soil moisture decline that may make areas more susceptible to wildfire activity. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 24 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5,726 acres (as of 2:00 PM EDT).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A gradually decreasing rip current threat is expected this week. The Panhandle will carry a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** to start off the week, with the localized **high risk** declining to a **moderate risk** by Wednesday. By Thursday, only the Panhandle and Northeast Florida will have a **moderate risk** outlooked – all other Florida beach will see a low risk.

Surf heights across the state will remain near 1-3' for all beaches through the forecast period.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 143 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed in Lake Formosa, the C54 Canal, and the St. Johns River. **Moderate levels** have been observed in Georges Lake, the St Johns River, Lake George, Crescent Lake, Blue Cypress Lake, and Stick Marsh.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

[Pensacola](#) [Panama City](#) [Tallahassee](#) [Gainesville](#) [Jacksonville](#) [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful week and stay cool!

Ian Mutschler, Deputy State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

