



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, August 21, 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	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(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	Hunter Stafford	(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, Polk	Logitics Support (Trailer Movement)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	CAP Exercise
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Taylor	County EM Visits
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Regional Exercise Prep
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Brian Carey	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Region 10 Integrated Preparedness Planning Worksho[(IPPW)

Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 3

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 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	Not Available	Leave
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	CAP Exercise
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Hamilton	Recovery Metting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Bradford	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hernando	LMS Group Meeting/Covering R6 Response
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	Miami-Dade	IPPW Meeting Region 10

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

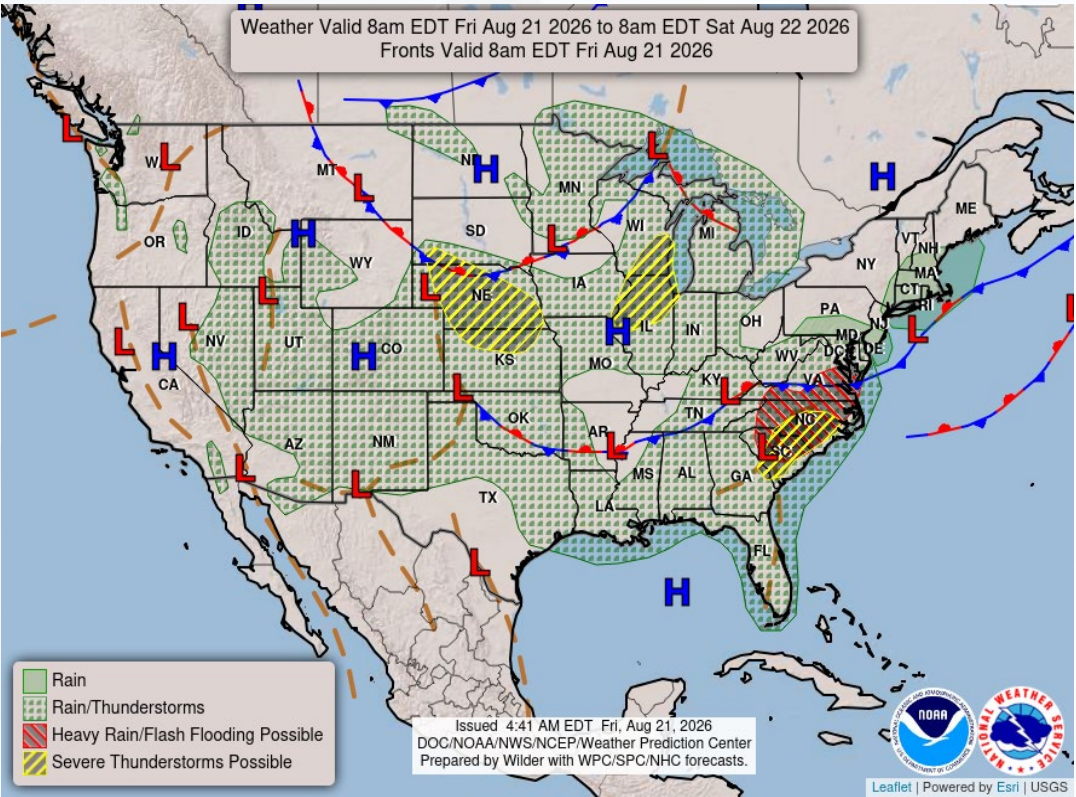
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

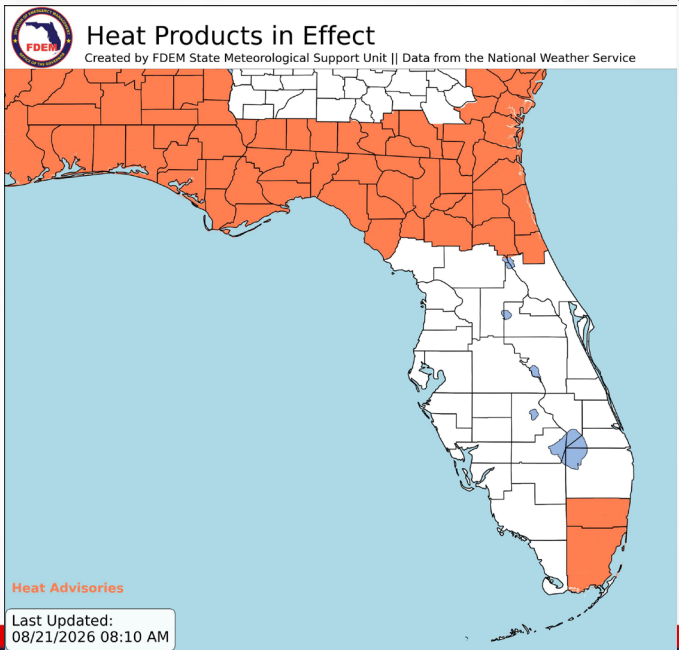
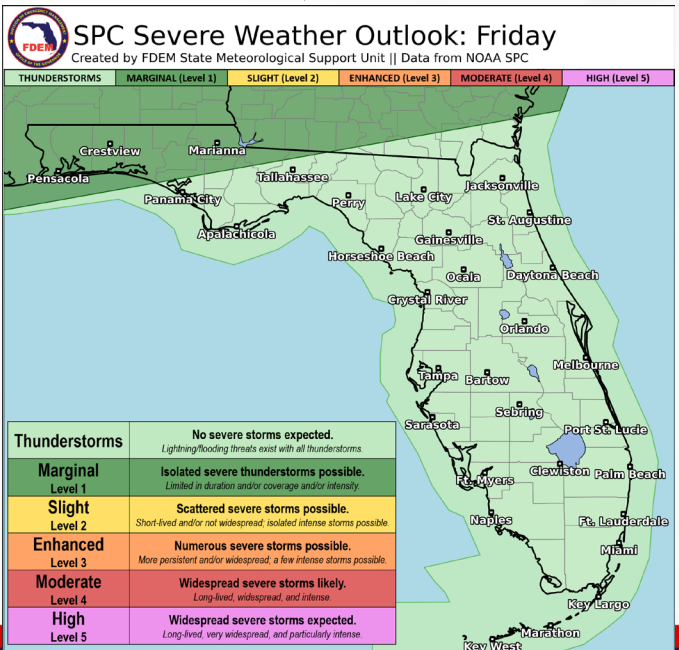


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M	M	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L							
Extreme Heat	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	L	L		L	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.89 ft. (3.16 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	347 (-11) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

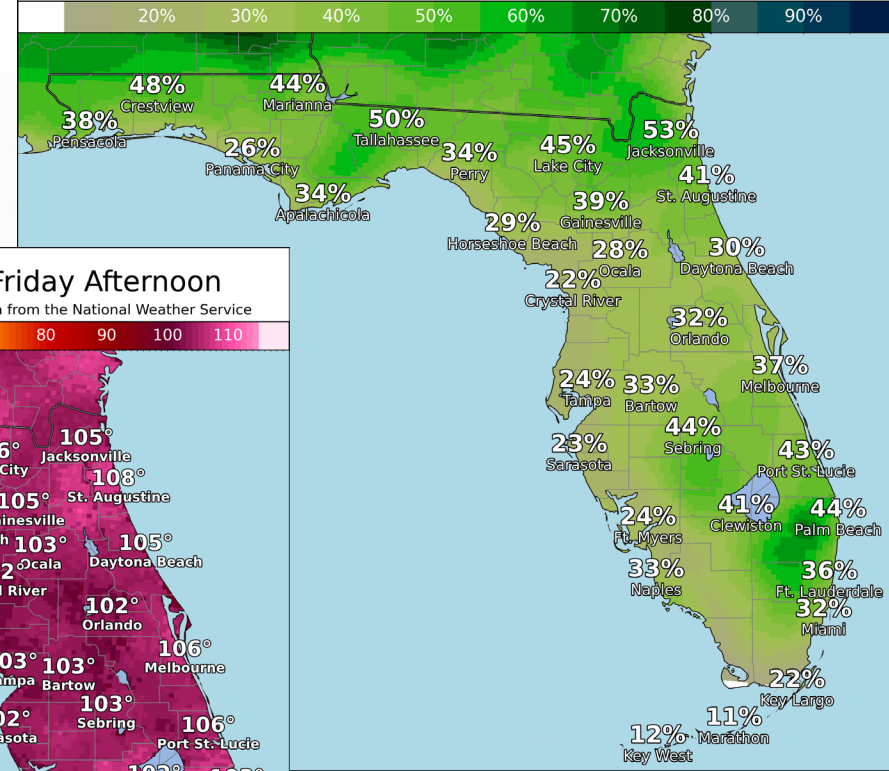
A developing upper-level disturbance continues to dig into the Eastern Seaboard today, as a weak frontal boundary remains draped well to our north over the Deep South. Closer to home, morning satellite imagery shows a small mid-level disturbance located over Northeast FL. This disturbance is already helping spark some early morning thunderstorm activity near the FL-GA border. This will likely continue to provide a local “boost” to the days shower and thunderstorm development as the disturbance progresses eastward. Trends will continue to be monitored as the day progresses, as high-resolution guidance does not appear to have the best grasp on this feature. Outside of this disturbance, a very similar setup to the past few days is expected, with numerous and occasionally strong late thunderstorm development across the state. The highest chances for rain will be across North Florida and within Southeast FL (40-60% chance) where atmospheric instability will likely be highest. Like prior days, these storms will be capable of producing **frequent lightning**, **heavy rainfall**, and **damaging winds (>60mph)**. A wind-driven **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is once again outlooked across portions of the FL Panhandle this afternoon. Additionally, a localized **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across portions of the Northern FL Panhandle this afternoon closest to a frontal boundary to our north that may provide enhancing lift for thunderstorm development.

One more hot day is expected across the state on Friday, with feels-like temperatures in the **lower to middle 100s** across the Peninsula and in the **middle to upper 100s** within North FL. **Heat Advisories (heat index $\geq$ 108F)** are once again in effect today for much of North and Southeast Florida. Overnight low temperatures will be seasonable, in the middle 70s to lower 80s.



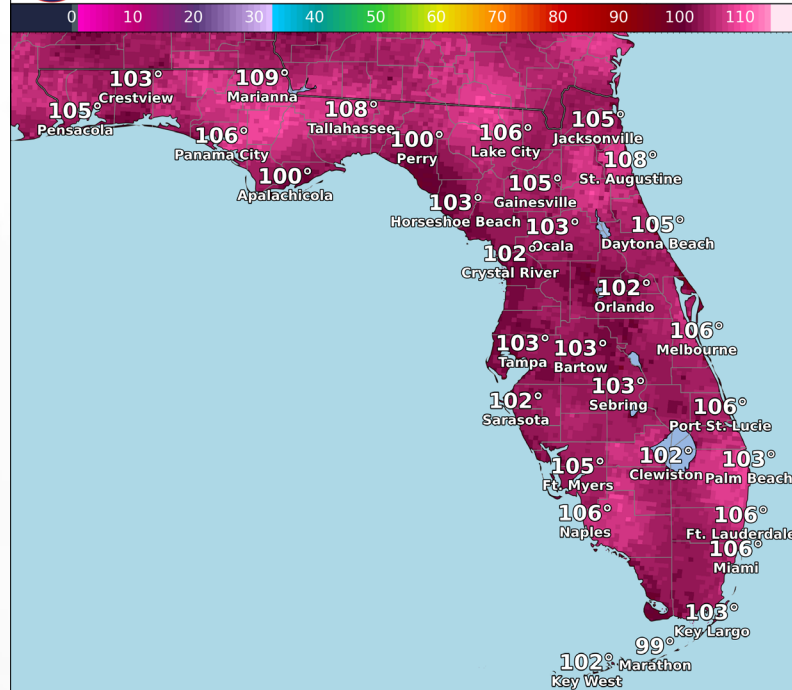
Chance of Rain: Friday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service



Max Feels-like Temperature: Friday Afternoon

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from the National Weather Service





Tropical Weather

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

Northeastern Atlantic:

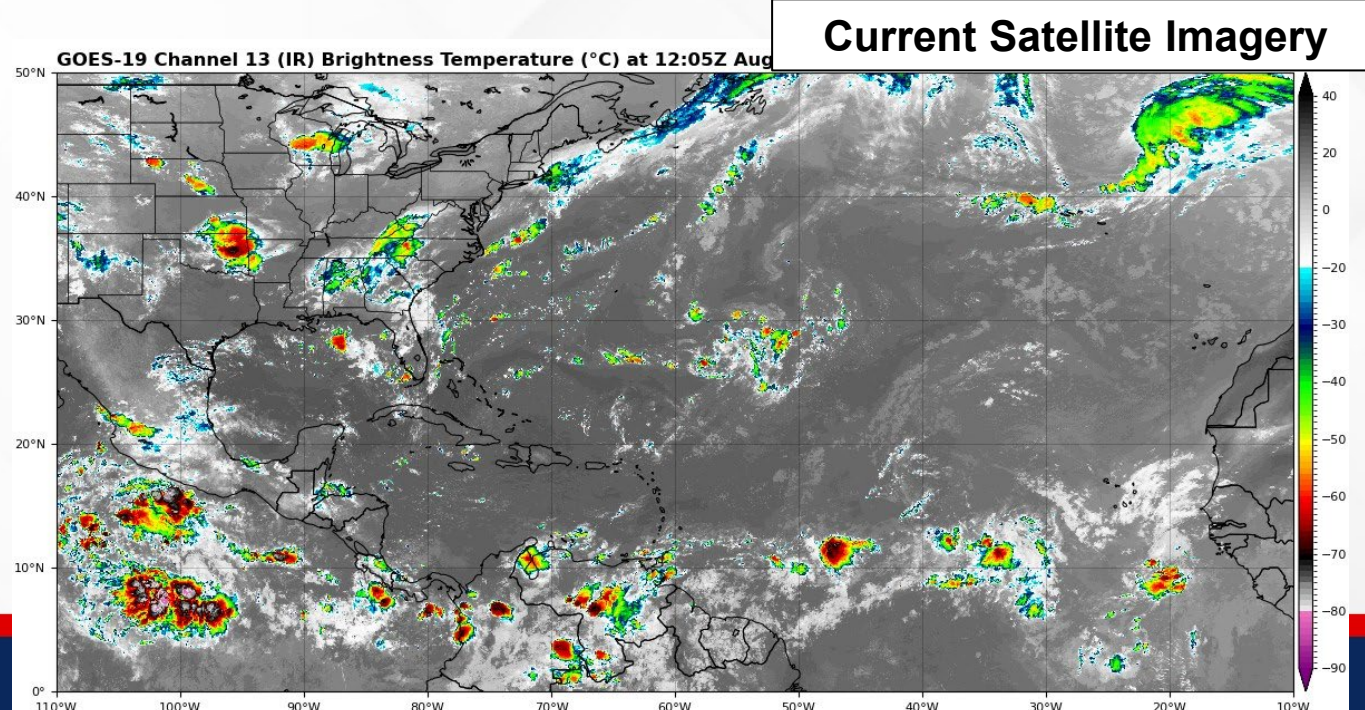
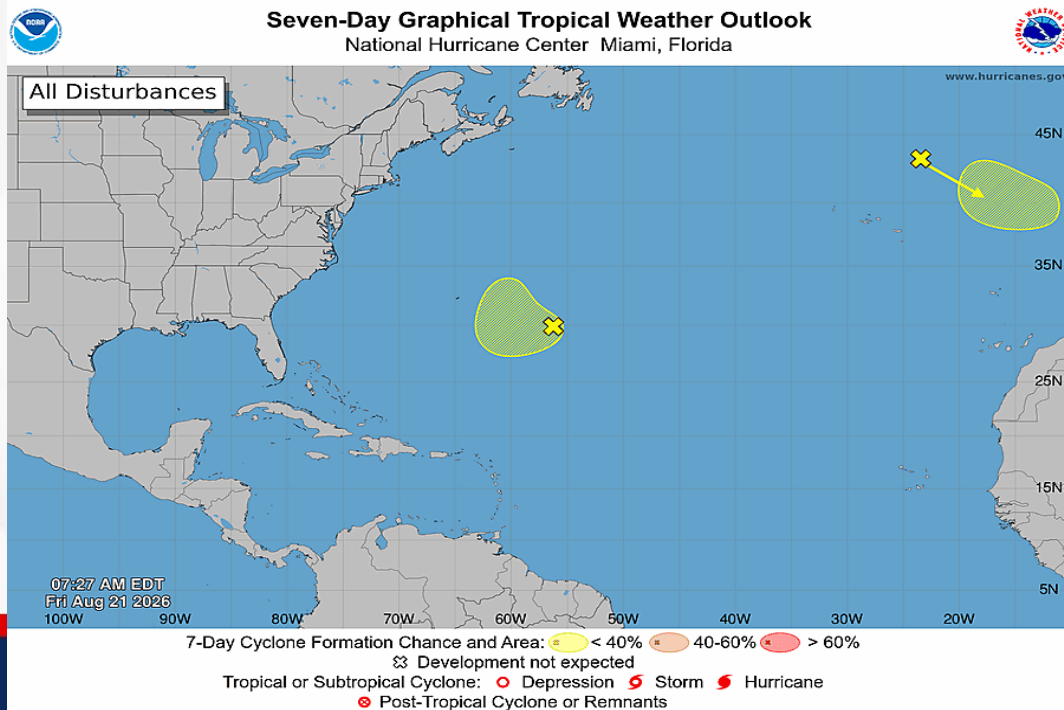
A non-tropical area of low pressure has developed over the northeastern Atlantic several hundred miles north-northeast of the Azores. This system could acquire some subtropical or tropical characteristics on Saturday or early Sunday while it moves east-southeastward at 10 to 15 mph toward Portugal and northwestern Spain. The opportunity of tropical or subtropical development should end by Sunday night when the system moves into unfavorable environmental conditions. For more information, see High Seas Forecasts issued by Meteo France.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...20 percent.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**low...20 percent.**

Central Subtropical Atlantic:

A weak area of low pressure located over the central subtropical Atlantic a few hundred miles east-southeast of Bermuda is producing an area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Development of this system, if any, is expected to be slow to occur while it drifts west-southwestward through Sunday and then turns northward early next week.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...10 percent.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**low...20 percent.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked across most Panhandle beaches and Northeast FL. A low risk for rip currents is outlooked for all other FL 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. Surf may reach upwards of 4' in isolated beaches across Northeast FL.

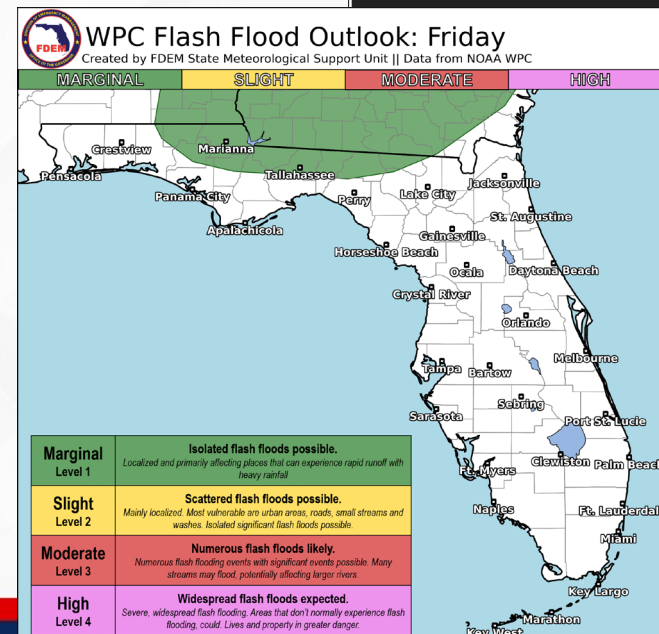
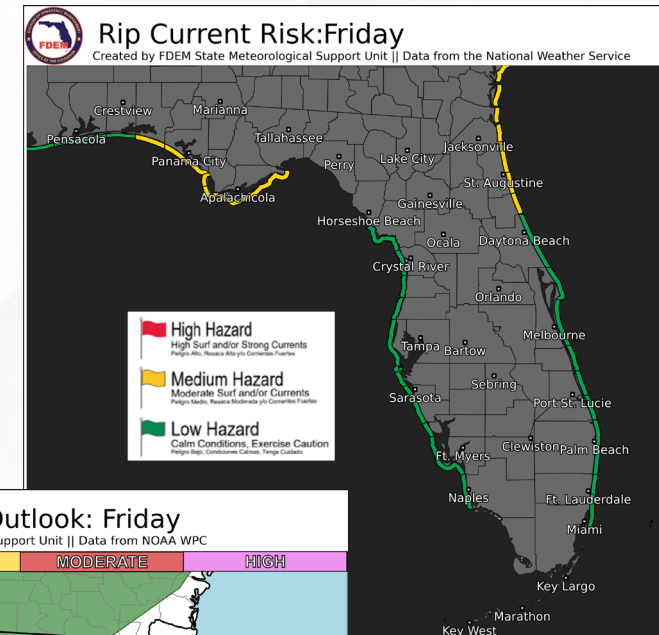
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations in Pasco county, in very low to low concentrations in Nassau county, very low to medium concentrations in Duval County, and very low concentrations in St. Johns County (valid 8/14/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the Northern Panhandle this afternoon. Widespread thunderstorm development, some of which may become **locally strong to severe**, is expected across North FL today. Our northernmost counties within the outlooked flash flooding risk area may see more enhanced thunderstorm development with multiple sources of lift present (front, mid-level disturbance, sea-breezes), which may lead to some **localized flash flooding** in the heaviest of thunderstorms. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Riverine Flooding: Recent heavy rainfalls in the Western Panhandle has caused river rises in [Big Coldwater Creek near Milton](#) and the [Shoal River near Crestview](#), with the expectation that both of these rivers to briefly reach **Action Flood Stage**, especially if additional heavy rainfall falls in the coming days. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 10.89 feet, which is 3.16 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



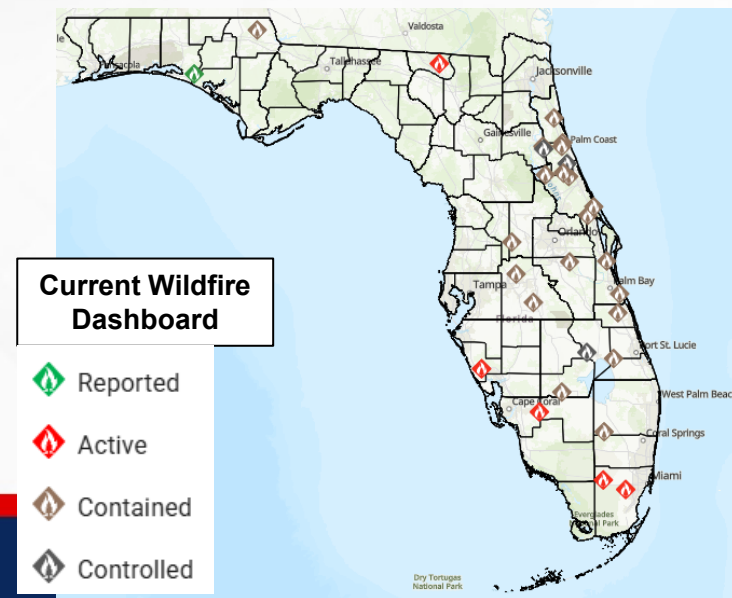
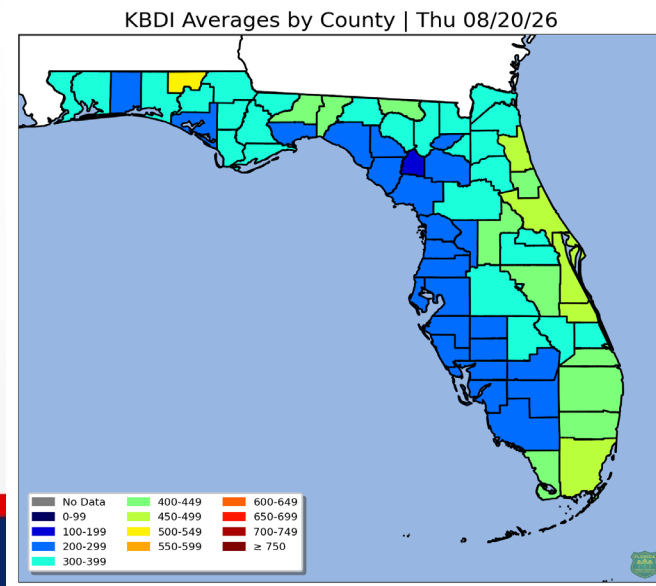
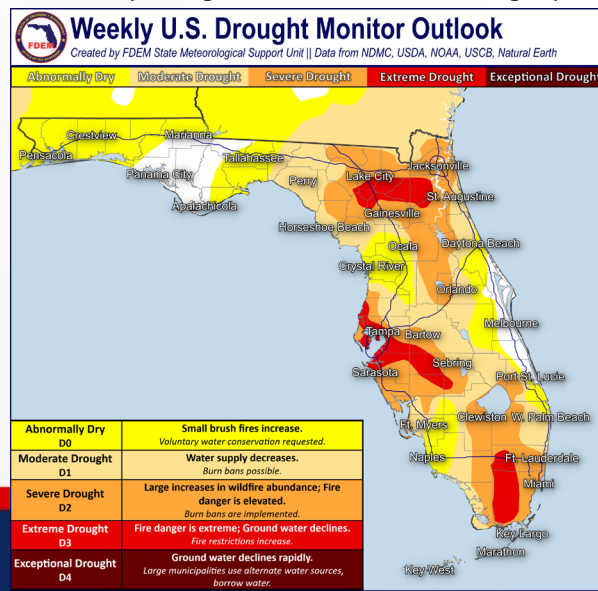


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat will remain low today given relative humidities staying well above critical thresholds and winds remaining light. Scattered to widespread 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 30 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 11,591 acres.

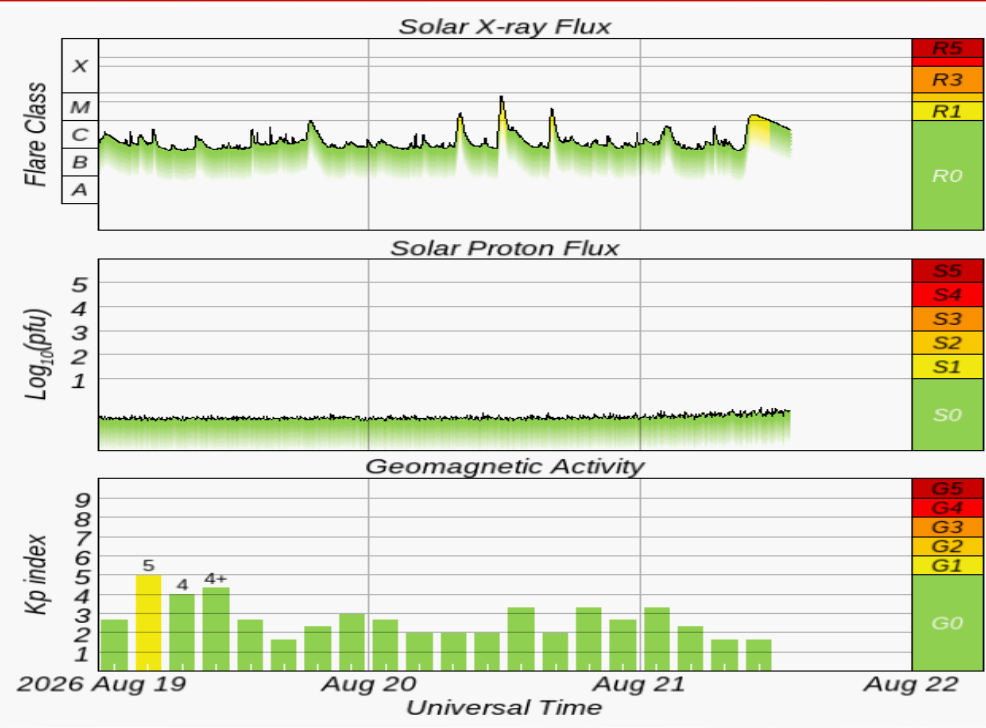
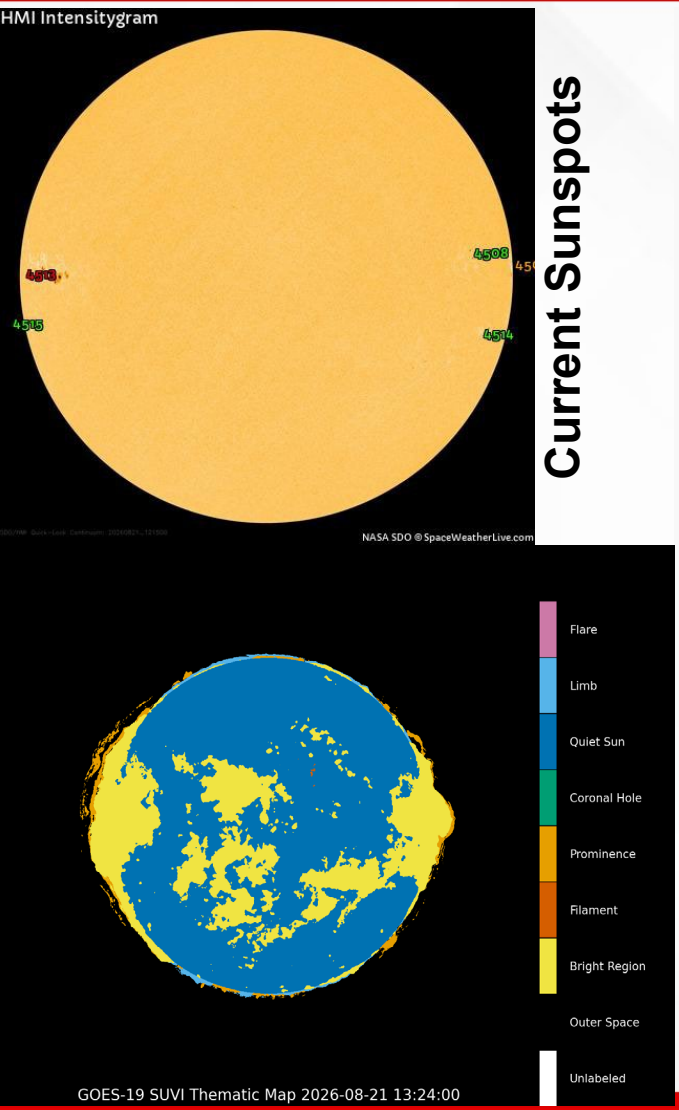
Drought (8/18/26): Very little change was made on this week's drought update, with only minor degradations (*worsening drought*) observed in isolated locations. Areas within an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** and **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** in South Florida have been locally expanded westward within Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The southern extent of the area of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** across West-Central Florida within Manatee, Hardee, and DeSoto Counties has been reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. A small area of **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** has been expanded into Levy, Marion, and Citrus Counties. D0 (*abnormally dry conditions*) has been locally expanded southward in Northern Jackson County. No other categorical drought conditions were made elsewhere across the state on this week's drought update. Areas in Northeast FL, West-Central FL, and South FL remain in a **severe to extreme drought (level 2-3 of 4)**. 9% of the state remains in an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. 9.5% of the state remains under no drought designation. Looking ahead, a typical regime of scattered to widespread showers and storms will yield minimal categorical drought improvements.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **347 (-11)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **1 out of 67** Florida County (Holmes) that has 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	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
8/21	8/22
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to continue at predominantly low levels through Sunday, with a high chance of an M-Class flare and a slight chance for an X-Class flare. Any M-Class flares will be accompanied by R1-R2 radio blackouts (minor-moderate). Any X-Class flares will be accompanied by R3 radio blackouts (strong). Waning influences from a negative polarity coronal hole on solar wind conditions are expected to continue through Saturday, returning to undisturbed levels on Sunday. Active geomagnetic periods are expected through Saturday as negative polarity coronal hole influences wane. Unsettled levels return on Sunday. The overall space weather threat to Florida is 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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