



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Sunday, August 23, 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 | <a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>                 |
| Watch Officer                      | Sam Walters        | (850) 519-8638 | <a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>               |
| Duty Officer                       | Jeremy Whitt       | (850) 755-8521 | <a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>             |
| Operations Officer- Day            | Ian Danley         | (850) 815-4001 | <a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>                               |
| Operations Officer- Swing          | Joel Lalog         | (850) 815-4001 | <a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>                               |
| Operations Officer- Night          | Daniel Leader      | (850) 815-4001 | <a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>                               |
| Meteorologist                      | Evan Newman        | (850) 241-5606 | <a href="mailto:Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com">Evan.Newman@em.myflorida.com</a>               |
| Plans Chief                        | Claudia Riddle     | (850) 755-2924 | <a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>           |
| Logistics Chief                    | Christina Goetzman | (850) 519-8581 | <a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a> |
| Human Services Branch Director     | Pam Hughes         | (850) 528-5638 | <a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>           |
| Emergency Services Branch Director | Tim Kenyon         | (850) 591-7732 | <a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>                 |
| Infrastructure Branch Director     | Paige Lay          | (850) 591-9933 | <a href="mailto:Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com">Paige.Lay@em.myflorida.com</a>                   |
| ESF 8: Health & Medical On-Call    | Hunter Stafford    | (866) 786-4673 | <a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>           |
| ESF 14: Public Information Officer | Stephanie Hartman  | (850) 570-3053 | <a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com">Stephanie.Hartman@em.myflorida.com</a>   |
| Finance Chief                      | Jeremy Smith       | (850) 273-1273 | <a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>             |



# Response Regional Coordination Team



| Team                      | County Location | Visits             |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Region 1: Jim Roberts     | In Region       | On-Call Status     |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston  | In Region       | On-Call Status     |
| 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 8 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 5

## Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

| Team                       | County Location | Status / Activities |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Region 1: Allison Blevins  | In Region       | Off & Monitoring    |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara   | In Region       | Off & Monitoring    |
| 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 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

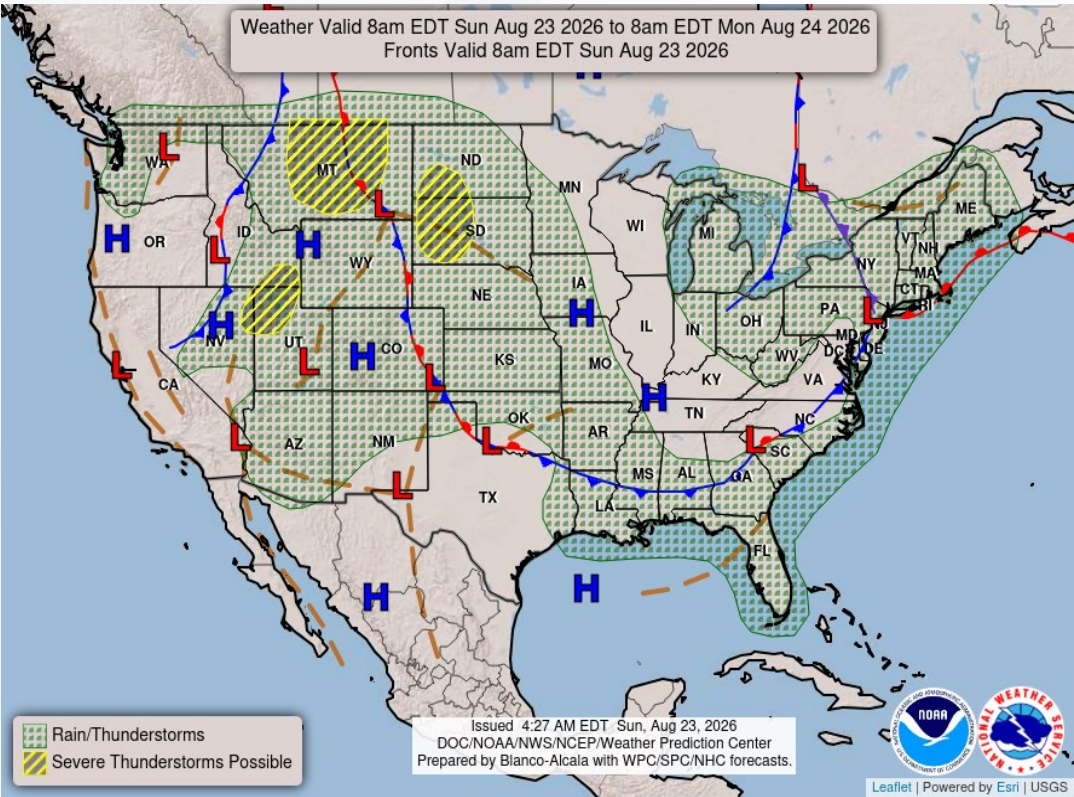
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

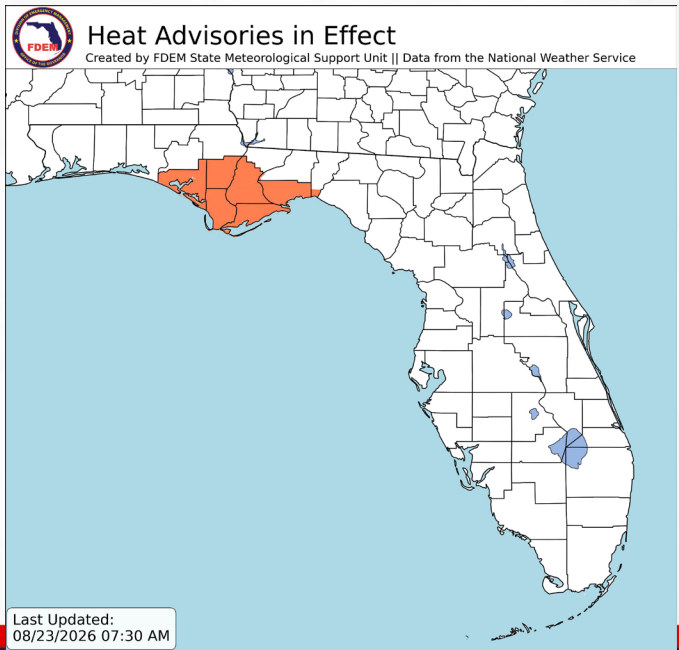
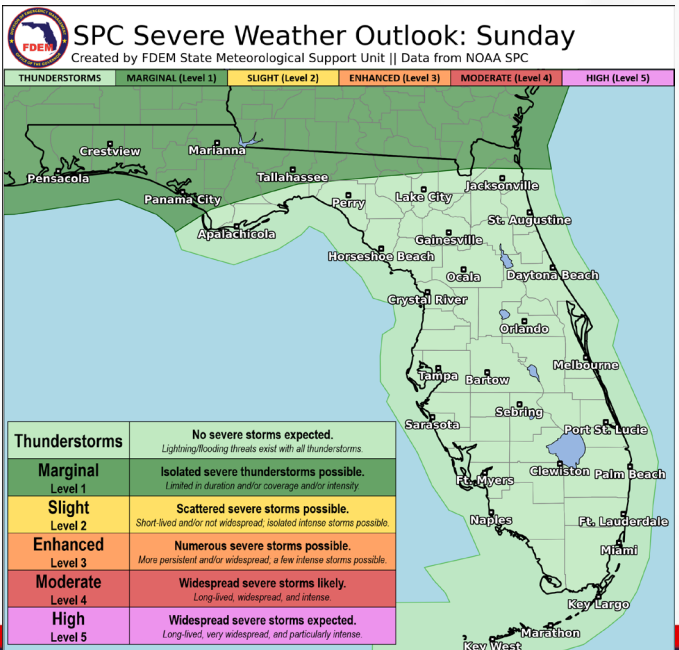


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| T threat                   | R1                                                        | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning                  | M                                                         | M  | M  | M  | M  | M  | M  | M  | M  | M   |
| Tornado                    |                                                           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Damaging Wind              | L                                                         | L  | L  | L  |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Hail                       |                                                           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Flash Flooding             |                                                           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Extreme Heat               | M                                                         | M  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L  | L   |
| Fog (Overnight)            |                                                           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Wildfire                   |                                                           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Rip Currents               | M                                                         | M  | L  | M  | L  | L  |    | L  | L  | L   |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation  | 10.89 ft. (3.18 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 343 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |





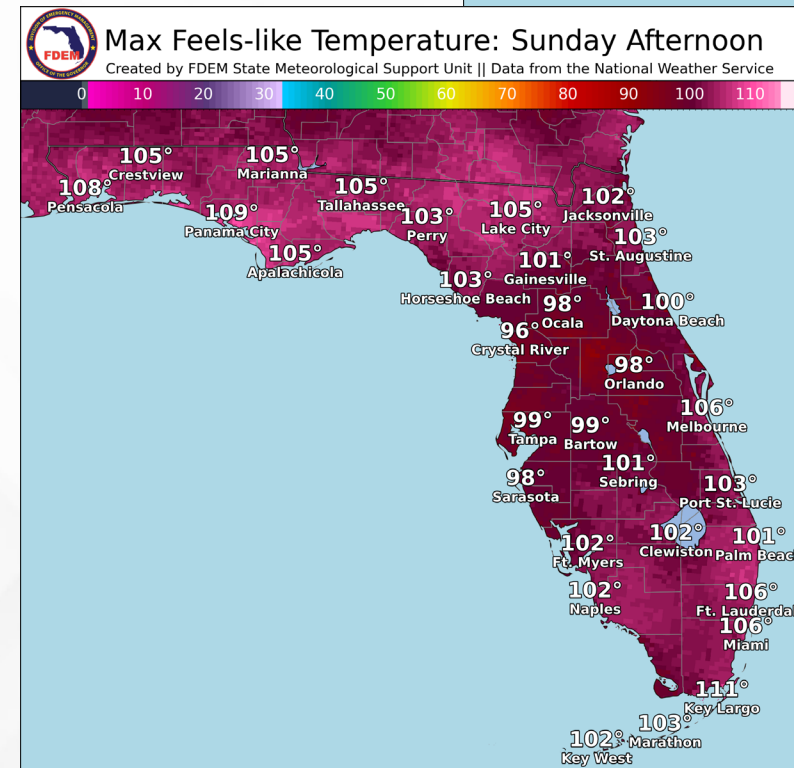
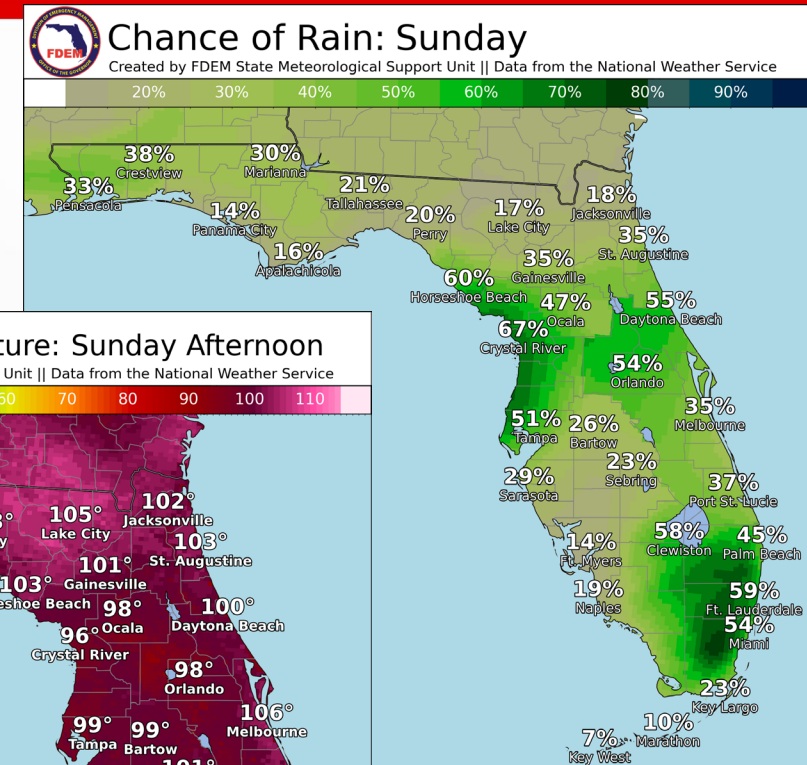
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Radar and satellite imagery indicates a few scattered showers and thunderstorms already ongoing along the Nature Coast this morning associated with a remnant thunderstorm cluster that moved onshore from the Gulf overnight. This activity will begin to move southward and wane through the morning hours as it approaches West-Central Florida (60-75% chance of rain). Throughout the remainder of Central Florida, drier air will continue to linger in the atmosphere today, though still enough low-level moisture will be around for a few scattered thunderstorms developing around 10AM – 12 PM across North-Central Florida, eventually spreading eastward and increasing in coverage through the afternoon (45-60% chance of rain). Only a few isolated showers or storms are expected across Southwest Florida today (15-25% chance of rain), though higher moisture levels will allow for scattered activity across interior and Southeast Florida (45-60% chance of rain). Cannot ruled out a few storms becoming **locally strong to severe**. Any thunderstorm activity will begin to wane and dissipate after sunset.

As for North Florida today, computer forecast models remain in disagreement regarding the overall coverage of activity. Trends will continue to be monitored throughout the day, however given drier air filtering into the mid-levels, expecting thunderstorm coverage to remain isolated to widely scattered (35-45% chance of rain). Should thunderstorm activity sufficiently develop, the atmosphere will be primed for a few to become **locally strong to severe** and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is outlooked along or north of the I-10 corridor. The primary hazards with any thunderstorms will be **frequent lightning**, **locally damaging wind gusts (40-60 mph)**, and **torrential downpours**. Rainfall rates within the heaviest thunderstorms could reach **upwards of 1-2" per hour**, which could lead to **localized flooding**. Any thunderstorm activity will begin to wane after sunset, though may linger into the evening before dissipating before midnight (15-30% chance of rain).

Drier air will help to keep feels-like temperatures this afternoon mostly below heat advisory thresholds with lower humidity. The exception is portions of the southeast Panhandle and southwest Big Bend where a **Heat Advisory** is in effect this afternoon for heat index values soaring into the **upper 100s to lower 110s**. Heat index values will generally remain in the **lower to middle 100s** elsewhere statewide. Lows will only fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s overnight.





# Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).

**Northeastern Atlantic:** A gale-force, non-tropical area of low pressure located a few hundred miles west of the coast of Portugal is producing limited shower activity. This system could acquire some subtropical or tropical characteristics later today while it moves eastward to east-northeastward at 10 to 15 mph toward Portugal and northwestern Spain. By tonight, the low will encounter unfavorable environmental conditions, and further development is not expected.

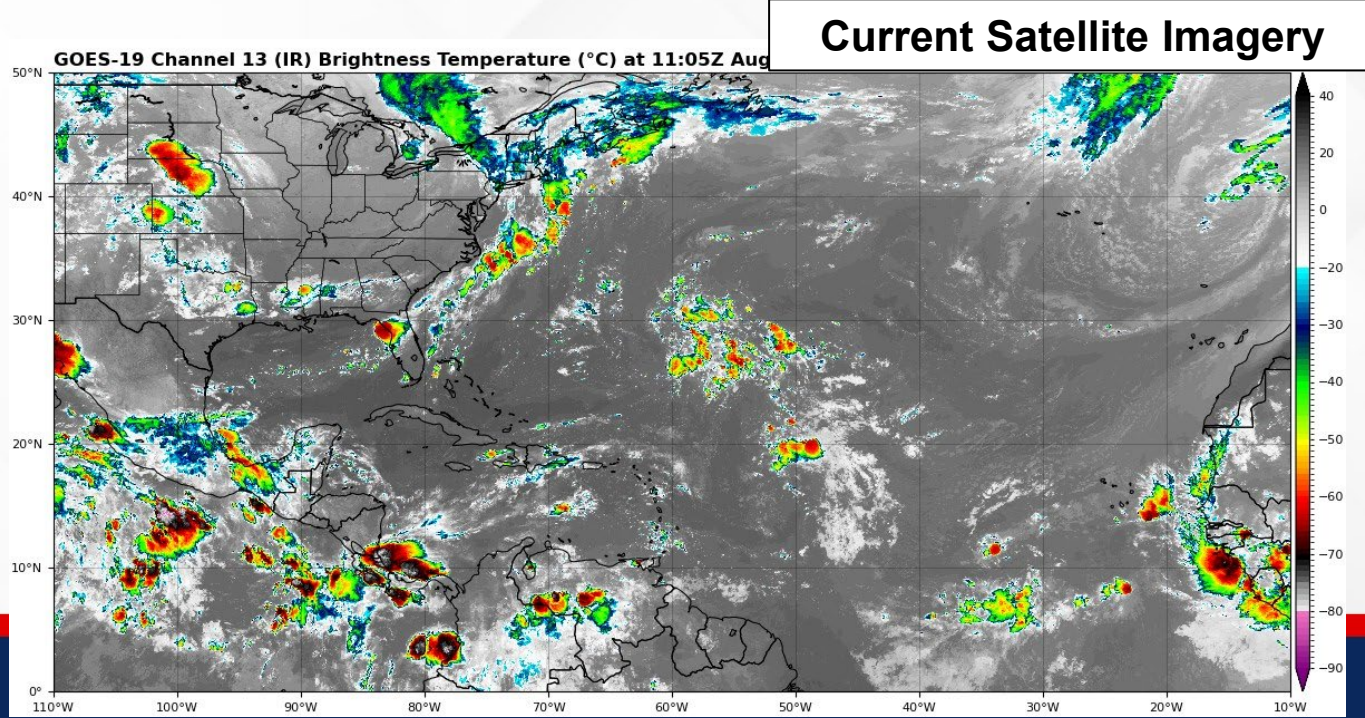
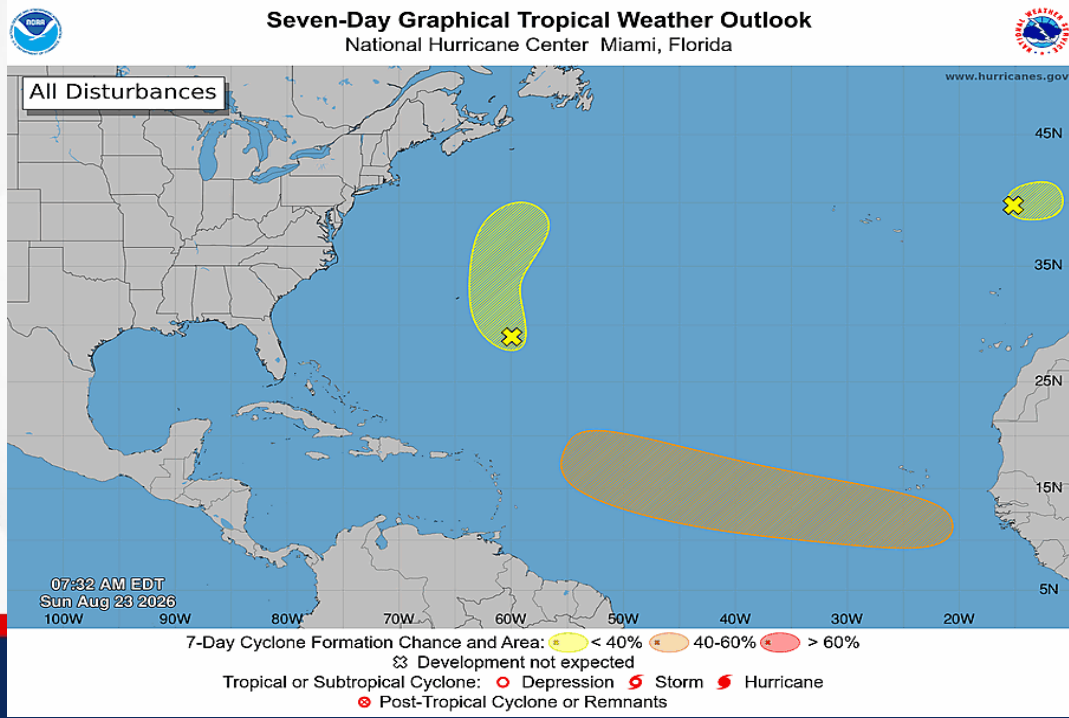
- Formation chance through 48 hours...low...10 percent.
- Formation chance through 7 days...low...10 percent.

**Central Subtropical Atlantic (Invest 95L):** A broad area of low pressure located several hundred miles southeast of Bermuda is produced some disorganized shower and thunderstorm activity. Slow development of this system is possible during the next few days as it drifts westward or northwestward today and then accelerates northward early this week.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...low...20 percent.
- Formation chance through 7 days...low...30 percent.

**Eastern Tropical Atlantic:** A tropical wave is expected to move off the west coast of Africa on Monday, and an area of low pressure could form in association with the wave early this week. Environmental conditions are forecast to be marginally conducive for development, and a tropical depression could form by the middle to latter portions of the week while the system moves generally westward at 15 to 20 mph across the eastern and central tropical Atlantic.

- Formation chance through 48 hours...low... near 0 percent.
- Formation chance through 7 days...low...50 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 remains outlooked for all other FL beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

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

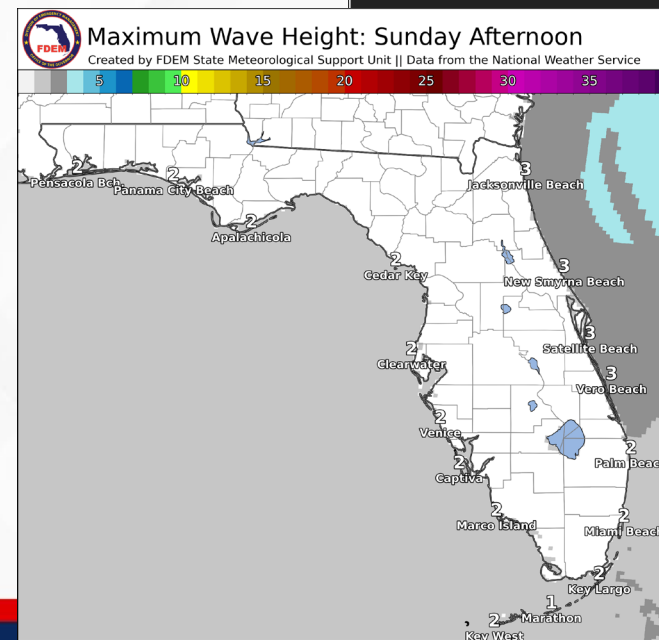
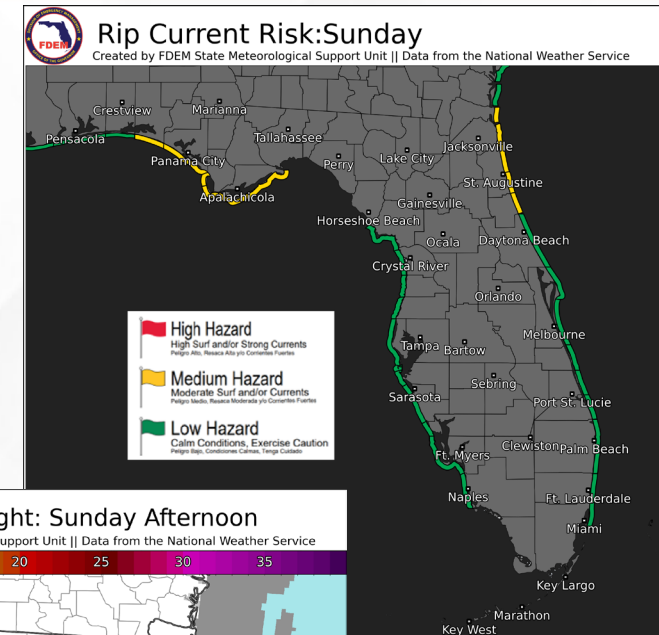
**Red Tide:** was observed at background concentrations in Pinellas County, in background to medium concentrations in Nassau County, background to low concentrations in Duval County, and background to very low concentrations in St. Johns County (valid 8/21/26).

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

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Isolated to scattered thunderstorm development, some of which may become **locally strong to severe**, is expected across much of the state today. Given the influence of a dissipating upper-level disturbance and the sea breezes with sufficient tropical moisture, a few slow-moving storms may contain **locally heavy downpours** capable of producing **localized flooding and ponding of water**. Rainfall amounts may add up to 1-2" under the heaviest thunderstorm activity, with locally higher amounts **upwards of 2-3"** possible. For more information, visit the [Weather Prediction Center](http://Weather Prediction Center).

**Riverine Flooding:** There are no riverine concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](http://River Forecast Center).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 10.89 feet, which is 3.18 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



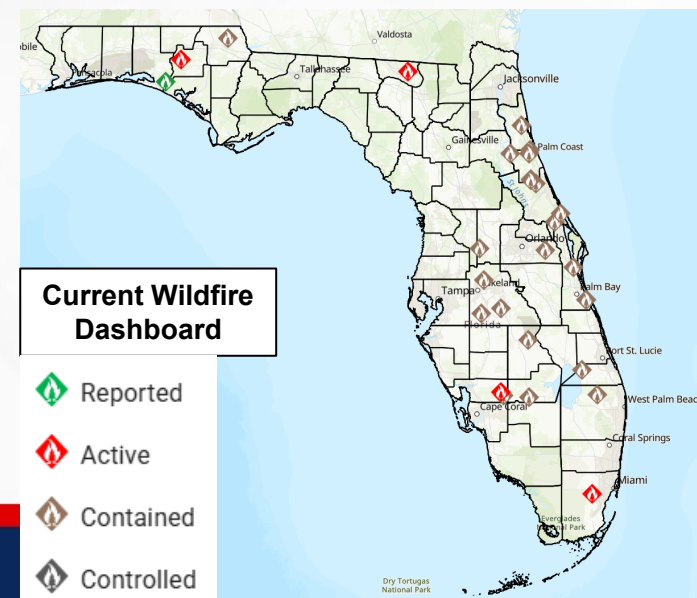
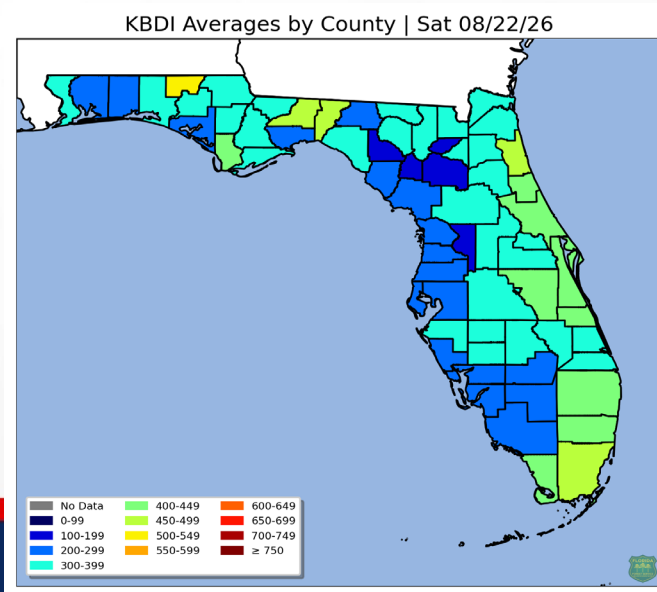
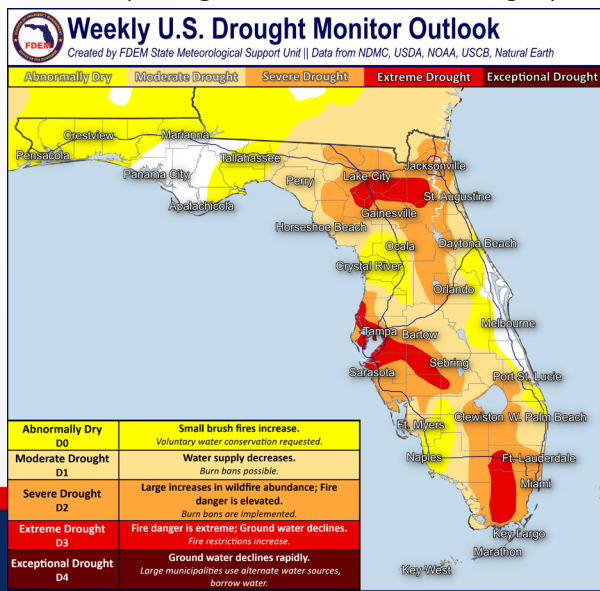


# Drought & Fire Weather

**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 38 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,837 acres.

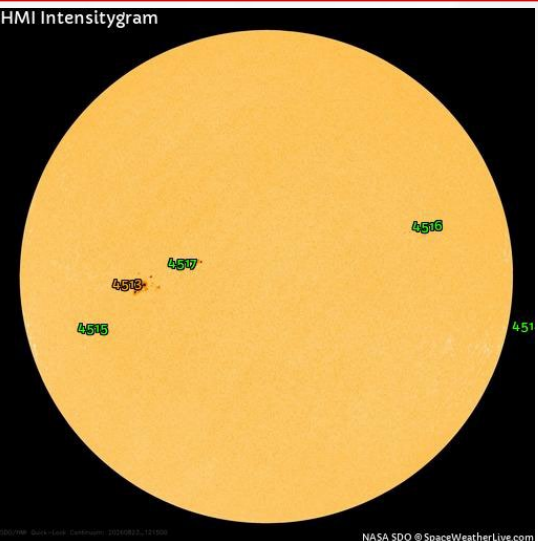
**Drought (8/18/26):** Very little change was made on this week's drought update, with only minor degradations (*worsening drought*) observed in isolated locations. Areas within an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** and **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** in South Florida have been locally expanded westward 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 **343 (+7)** 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).

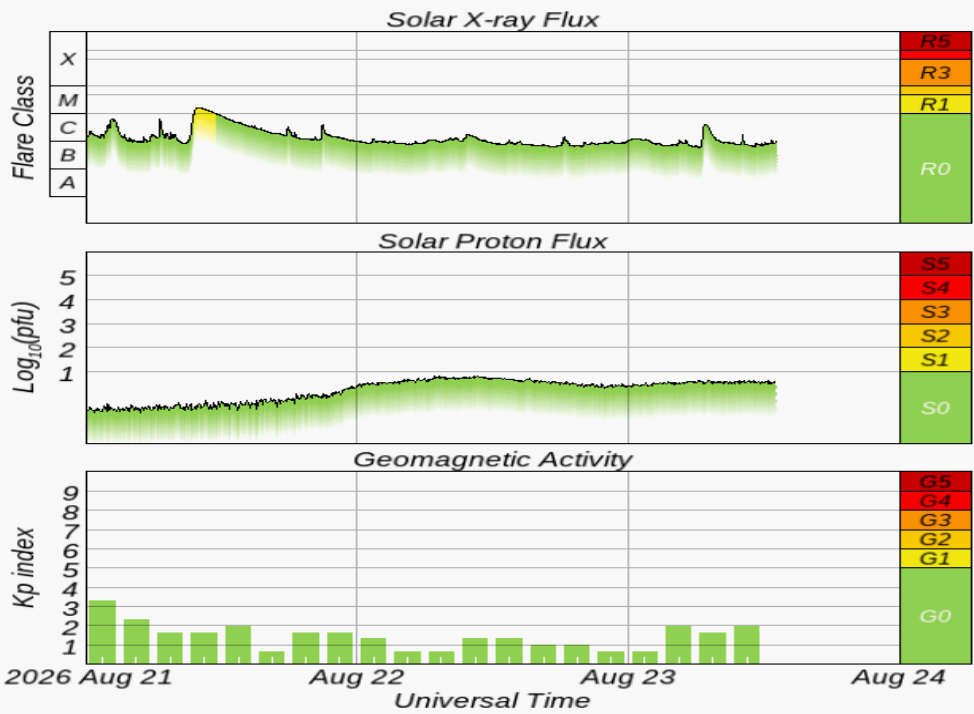
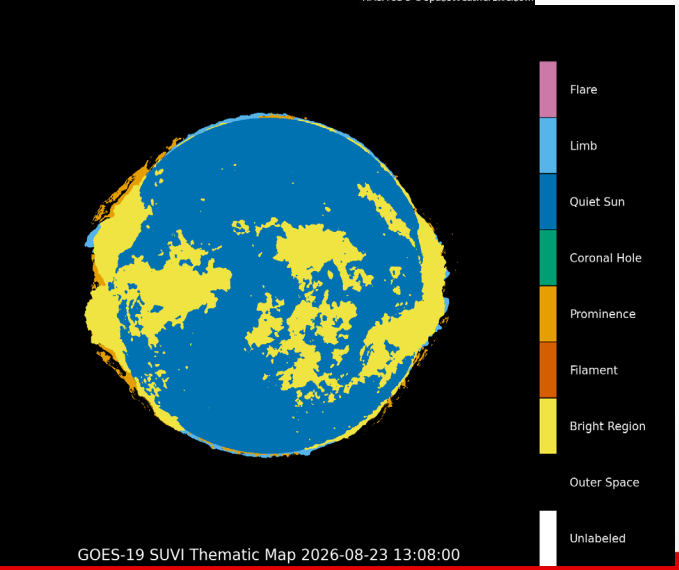




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours     |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| M-class: 45%     | Geomagnetic Storm: None   | C4 Solar Flare    |
| X-class: 10%     | Radiation Storm: None     | No Radio Blackout |

| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast                          |                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/23                                                  | 8/24                                                  |
| Max Kp= 2 (G0)                                        | Max Kp= 2 (G0)                                        |
| Chance of minor activity = 5%<br>severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 5%<br>severe activity = 1% |

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to continue at predominantly low levels through Tuesday, with a 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). Ambient background solar wind conditions are expected through Tuesday as coronal hole influences diminish. Geomagnetic field conditions will remain at mostly quiet levels. The overall space weather threat to Florida is very low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

| Equipment                | Contact                                                                       | Status          | Comments             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Phone:</b>            | 850-815-4001; 800-320-0519; 850-591-0071                                      | Operational     |                      |
| <b>Fax:</b>              | 850-815-4979                                                                  | Operational     |                      |
| <b>Email:</b>            | <a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>                | Operational     |                      |
| <b>SWO Tracker:</b>      | <a href="https://swo.floridadisaster.org">https://swo.floridadisaster.org</a> | Operational     |                      |
| <b>SLERS:</b>            | DEM Statewide                                                                 | Operational     |                      |
| <b>FNARS:</b>            | WGY974                                                                        | Not Operational | System in Transition |
| <b>Federal NAWAS:</b>    | State Watch Office                                                            | Not Operational | System in Transition |
| <b>EMnet Message:</b>    | FL.000 - State Watch Office                                                   | Not Operational | System in Transition |
| <b>EMnet Voice:</b>      | FL SWP - State Watch Office                                                   | Not Operational | System in Transition |
| <b>IPAWS:</b>            | 300006 - FL Florida Division of Emergency Management                          | Operational     |                      |
| <b>FIN:</b>              | SOFEOC                                                                        | Not Operational | System in Transition |
| <b>Satellite Phones:</b> | MSAT 888-890-5178; Iridium 480-263-8838                                       | Operational     |                      |
| <b>Website:</b>          | <a href="https://floridadisaster.org">https://floridadisaster.org</a>         | Operational     |                      |

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