



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, August 26, 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	Ian Danley	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Joel Lalog	(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	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	Washington	County EM Visit / Recovery Training
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	G-191 Course
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	FLEX Meeting/Training
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	FLEX Meeting/Training / Regional Exercise Prep
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	G-191 Course Instruction
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Pinellas	UASI Meeting / Southeastern Electrical Exchange Event
Region 7: Brian Carey	Hillsborough, Polk	UASI Meeting / FLEX Meeting/Training
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A (See Coverage)
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	FLEX Meeting/Training
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Executive Team Support / UASI Meeting / Mini Season AAR Meeting



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	Washington	Instructing 608/609
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Gadsden	County EM
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Bradford	Vehicle Maintenance/Administrative Duties
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	MGT-324 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Lake	LEPC Meeting
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	LEPC Meeting
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	F-ROC Training

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

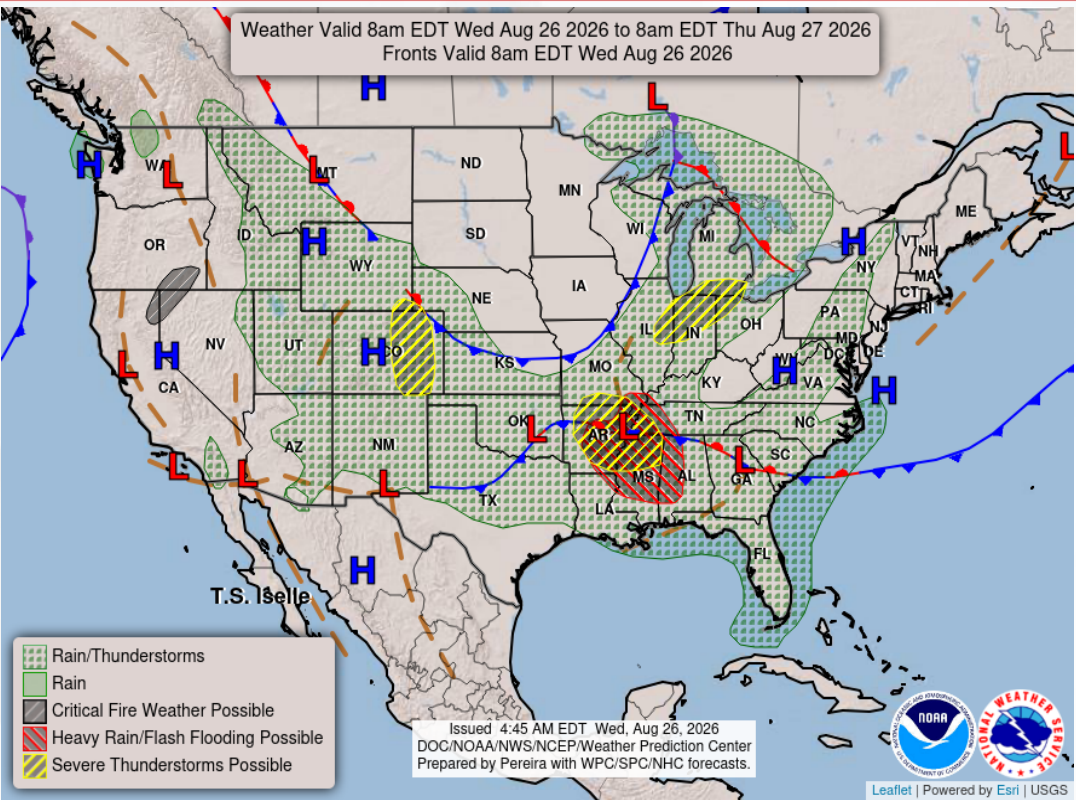
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

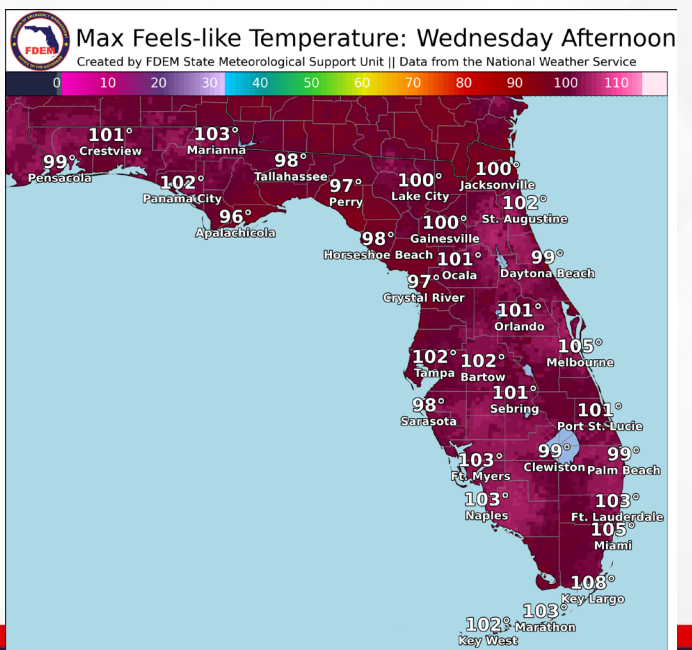
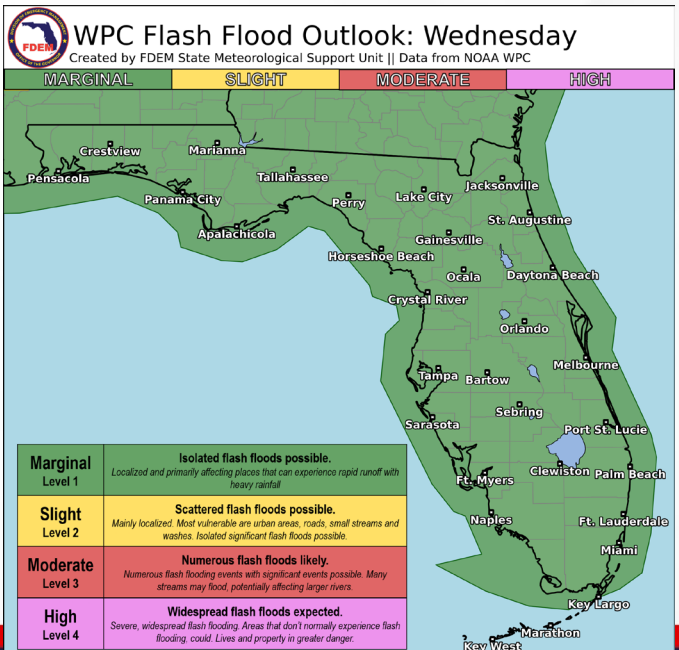


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	H	M	H	M	H	H
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Extreme Heat	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		L	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	10.87 ft. (3.26 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	359 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



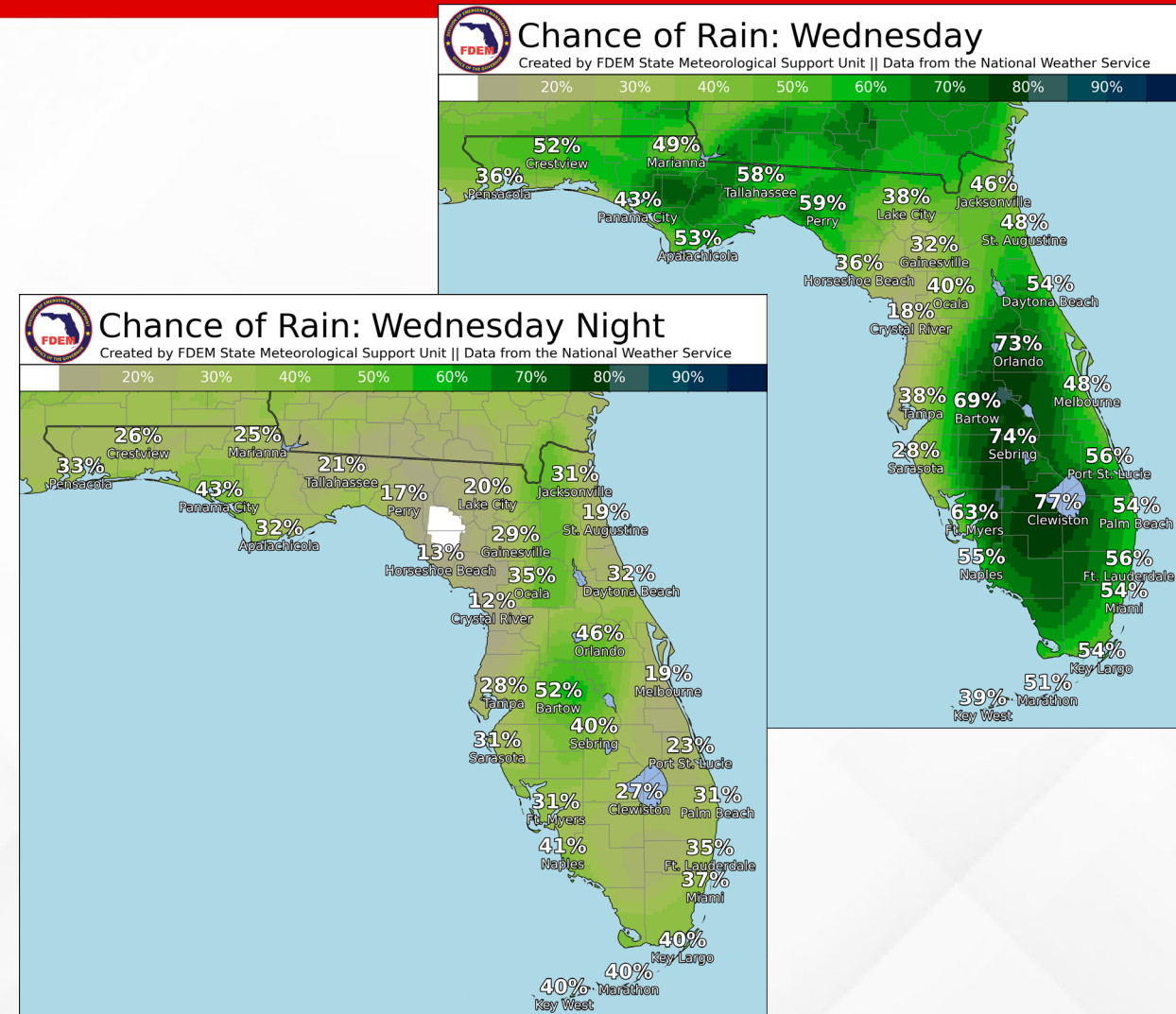


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Very little change overall to the weather pattern today with a frontal boundary still draped across the Deep South and plentiful moisture streaming across Florida under deep south to southwesterly flow. As such, another day of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms are expected across much of the state sparked by the aforementioned frontal boundary, weak mid to upper-level impulses traversing the state, and the sea breeze boundaries (50-75% chance of rain). Radar imagery this morning indicates scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms lingering along the Gulf Coast shorelines, and this activity will continue to push inland throughout the day along the sea breezes increasing in coverage as it does so. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked throughout the state today for the risk of **flooding and ponding of water** in the heaviest thunderstorm activity. Isolated cases of **flash flooding** cannot be ruled out should areas receive training **heavy downpours**. Although there is no organized risk for severe weather, the environment will be sufficiently unstable for a few **locally strong to severe** thunderstorms containing **frequent lightning** and **locally damaging wind gusts (40-60 mph)**. Thunderstorm activity throughout the state will begin to wane after sunset and eventually dissipate or push offshore before midnight (24-40% chance of rain).

Temperatures will remain seasonably hot today, climbing into the upper 80s to **middle 90s**. Cloud coverage and rainfall will likely keep heat index values below Heat Advisory thresholds in the **upper 90s** to **middle 100s**. Lows tonight will only fall into the middle 70s to lower 80s for most locations.



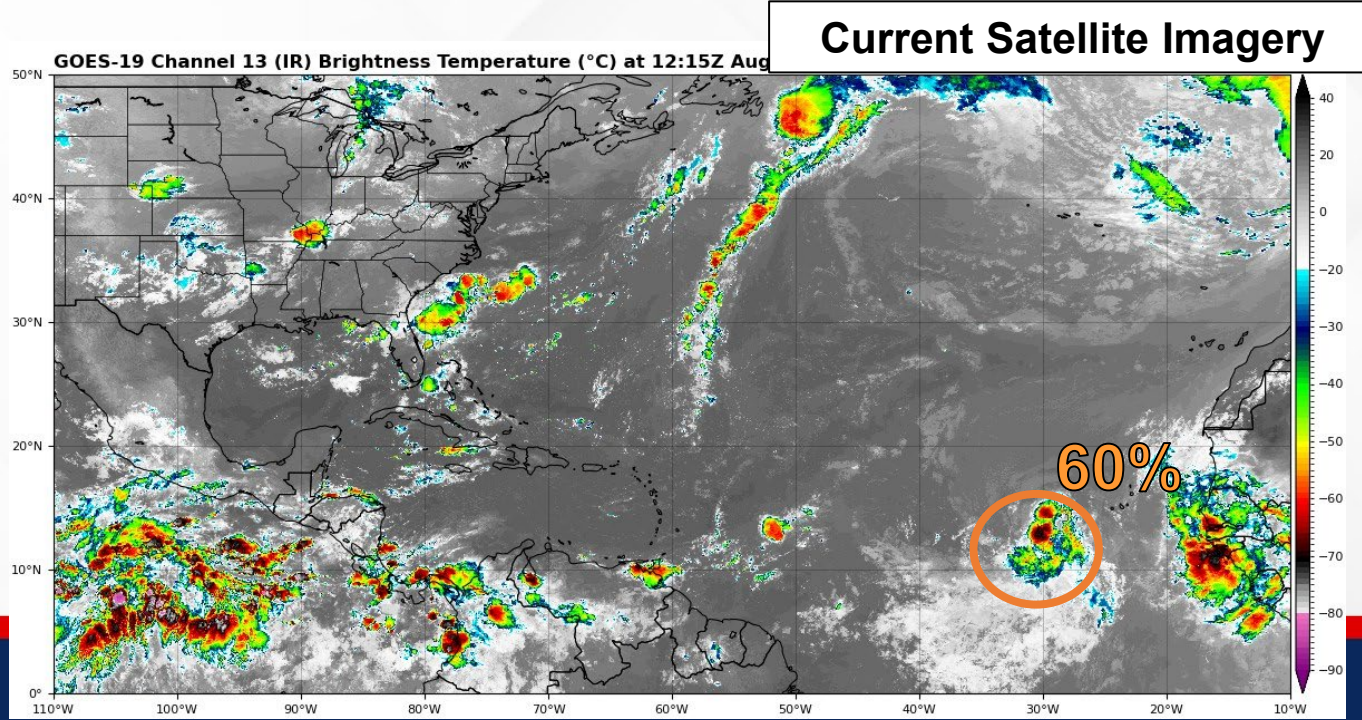
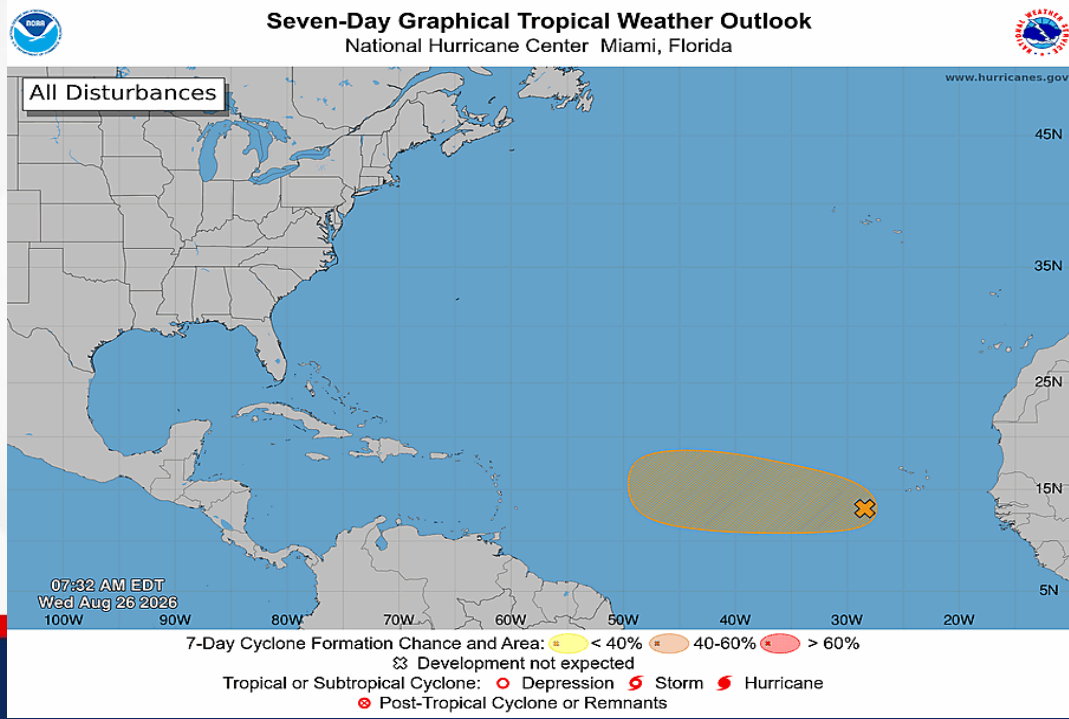


Tropical Weather

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

Eastern Tropical Atlantic (Invest 96L): An area of low pressure, associated with a tropical wave, is located a few hundred miles southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands. Showers and thunderstorms associated with this system remain disorganized. Environmental conditions are somewhat favorable for development over the next couple of days, and a tropical depression could form over the next day or two as the system moves westward to west-northwestward across the eastern and central tropical Atlantic. Environmental conditions are forecast to become less favorable by this weekend, potentially ending its chances for development.

- Formation chance through 48 hours... **medium... 60%.**
- Formation chance through 7 days... **medium... 60%.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** is outlooked across most Panhandle beaches, Northeast FL, and much of the Space Coast. A low risk for rip currents remains 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.

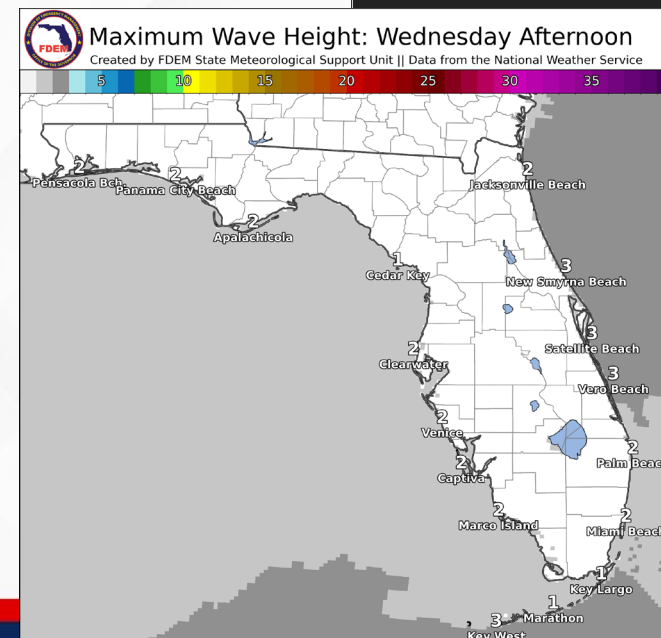
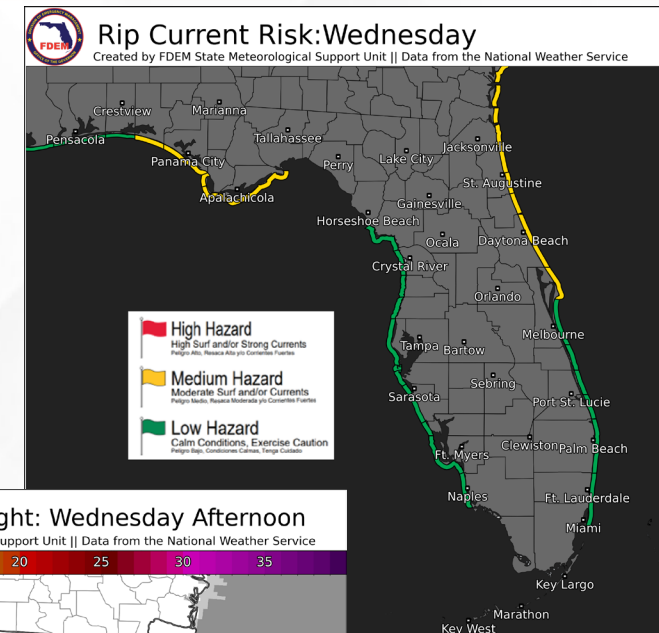
Red Tide: was observed at background concentrations in Pinellas County, in background to medium concentrations in Nassau County, background to low concentrations in Duval County, and background to very low concentrations in St. Johns County (valid 8/21/26).

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

Flash Flooding: A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across the state today with scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms expected. Thunderstorms are expected to be efficient rain makers under a very moist and tropical airmass, and numerous **torrential downpours** are likely in the heaviest activity. Instances of **flooding and ponding of water** may result from the heaviest thunderstorms, and isolated cases of **flash flooding** cannot be ruled out. Rainfall amounts will generally add up to 0.5-1" in most locations, however locally higher totals **upwards of 2-3"** are possible. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

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

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 10.87 feet, which is 3.26 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



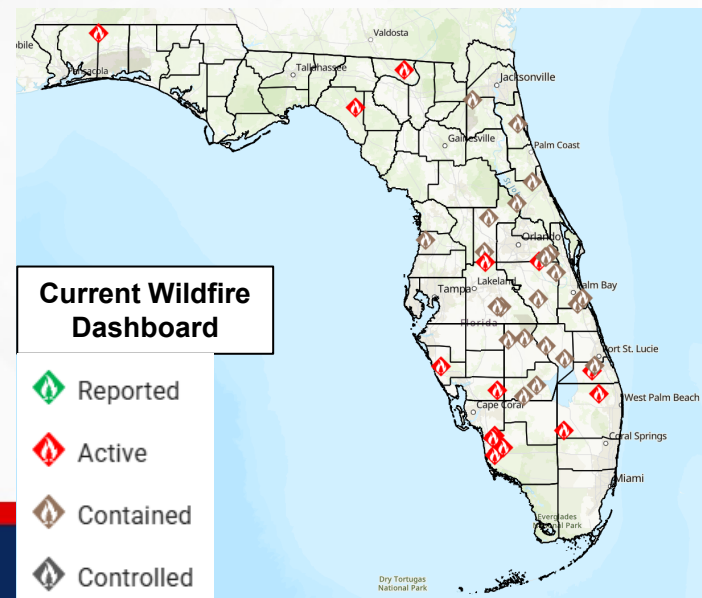
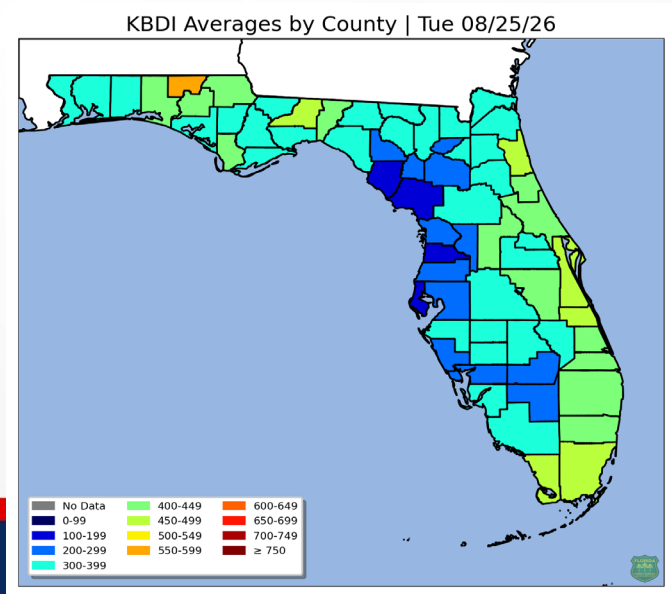
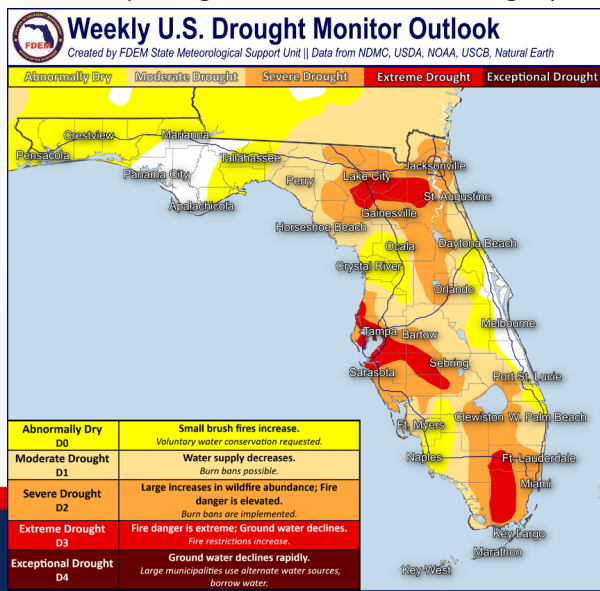


Drought & Fire Weather

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 40 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,991 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.

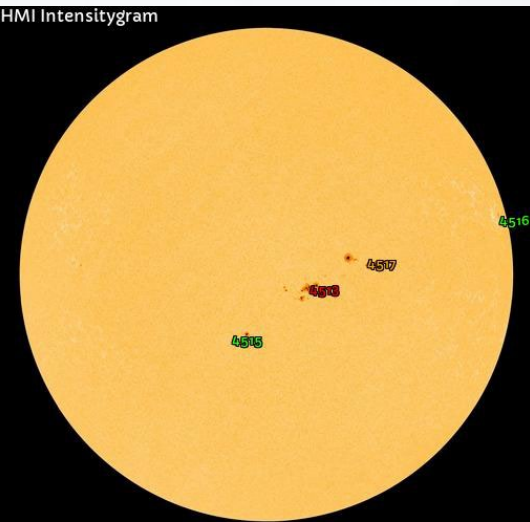
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **359 (+7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **1 out of 67** Florida County (Holmes) that has an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather

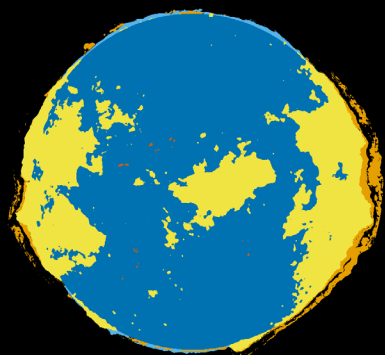
HMI Intensitygram



Current Sunspots

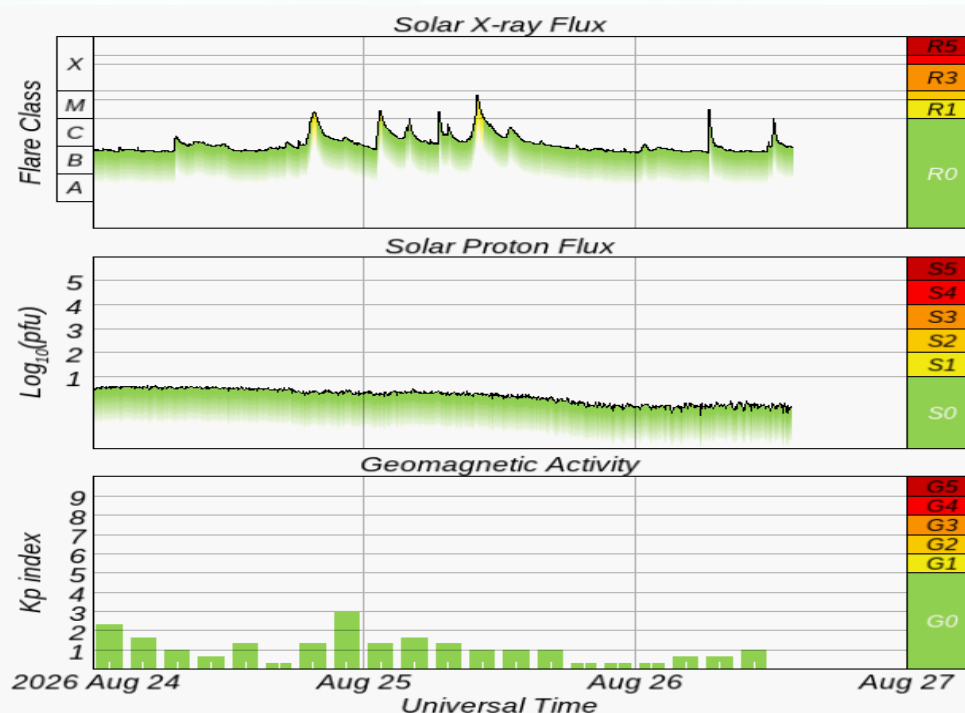
2026-08-26 13:52:00

NASA SDO @ SpaceWeatherLive.com



- Flare
- Limb
- Quiet Sun
- Coronal Hole
- Prominence
- Filament
- Bright Region
- Outer Space
- Unlabeled

GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-08-26 13:52:00



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: G1 Watch (8/27) & G2 Watch (8/28)	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 15%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
8/26		8/27
Max Kp= 2 (G0)		Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%		Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity will likely remain at low to moderate levels with a medium chance of M-class (R1-R2) solar flares, and a slight chance of X-class (R3) solar flares. Nominal solar wind conditions are expected to continue until mid-day Thursday, when the onset of positive polarity coronal hole influences is anticipated. Additional solar wind disturbances are expected into Friday. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at mostly quiet levels through mid-day Thursday as well, increasing to unsettled to G1 (Minor) levels by Friday due to the impact of the coronal hole influences and a glancing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). 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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