



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, September 25, 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	Wyatt Duclos	(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	Bay	SRT Assessment (Bay County SO)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Liberty	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Vehicle Maintenance / LSA Coordination
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	UF Shands MCI Planning Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco	Dengue Fever Calls / Planning Meetings
Region 7: Brian Carey	Polk	Quarterly Meeting Follow-up Admin
Region 8: Keila Puello	Palm Beach	County EM Introductory Meeting / R8 & R10 Response Coordinator Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Palm Beach	R8 & R10 Response Coordinator Meeting



Region 10 coverage provided by Response Coordinator 9

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Marion	Trailer Mission
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Liberty	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Columbia	Career Development/Admin
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Admin Duties
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Admin Duties
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Cover R10 Response/Instructor Preparation
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	Admin Duties/PM Off (806 Covering)

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

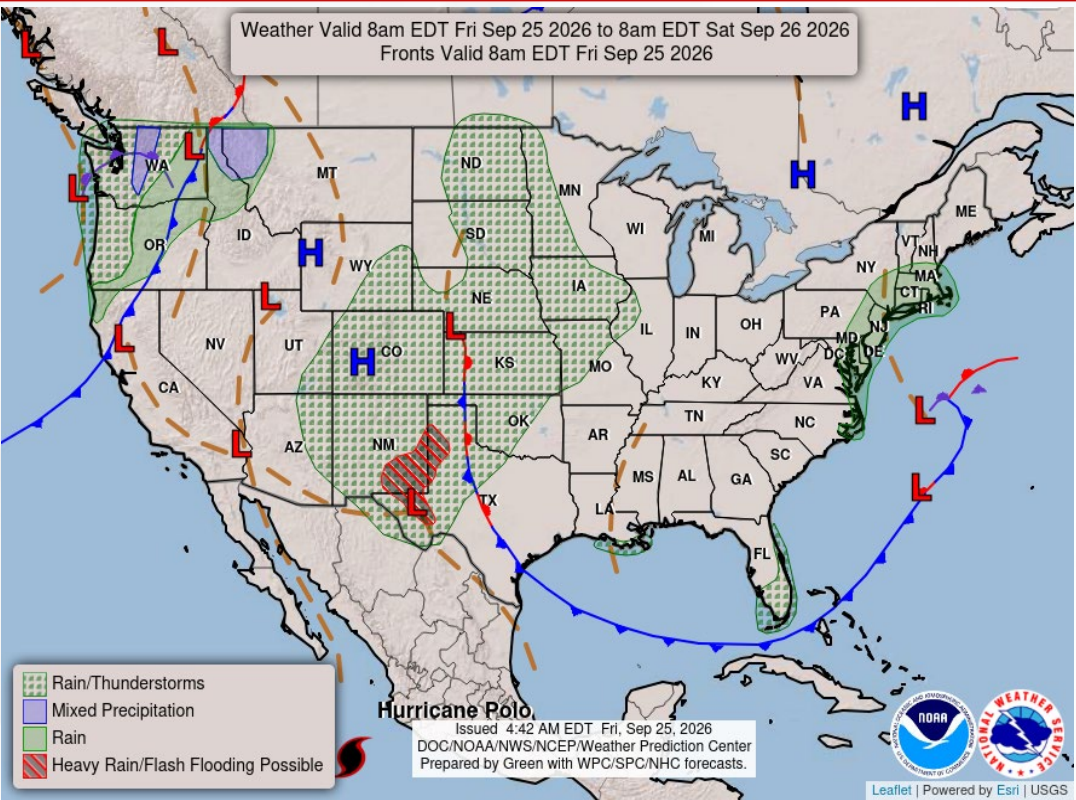
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

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

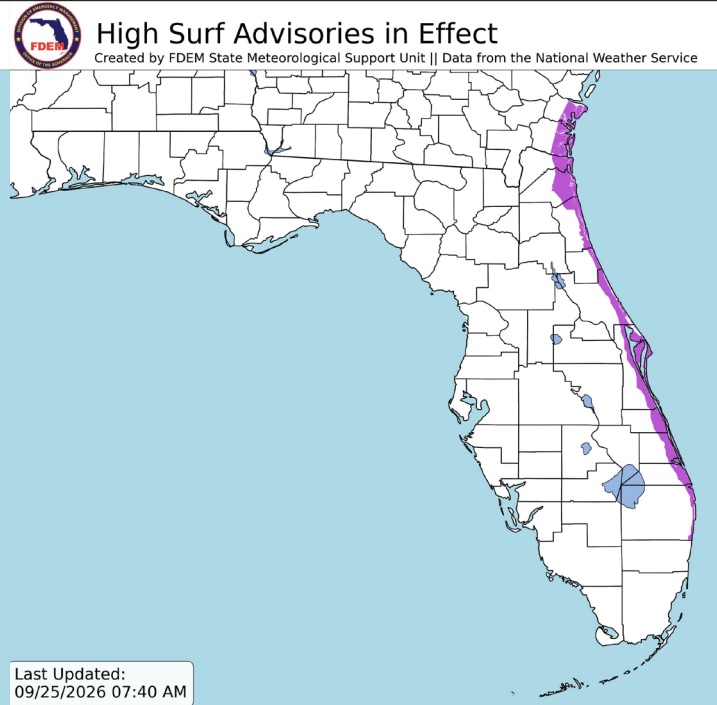
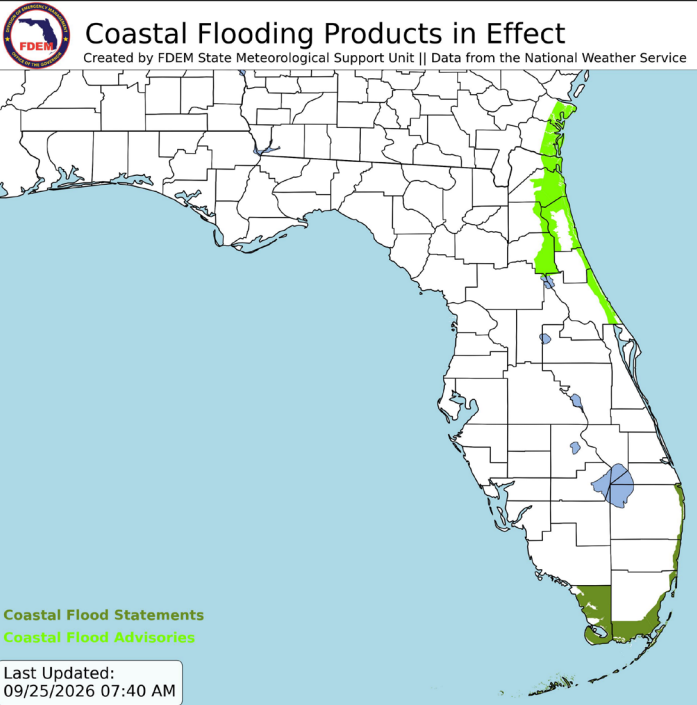


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning				L	L				L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	M	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.76 ft. (2.96 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	233 (+7) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Pleasant and benign conditions have spread across the state of Florida today in the wake of a cold front's passage. Dry continental air has pushed in from the north, helping to suppress any rain chances for most statewide locations today. The only exception to this is along the I-95 Corridor where northeasterly flow may be able to interact with some lingering moisture to produce some brief and transient westerly/southwesterly moving shower activity. Elsewhere across the state, no rainfall is expected today or this weekend.

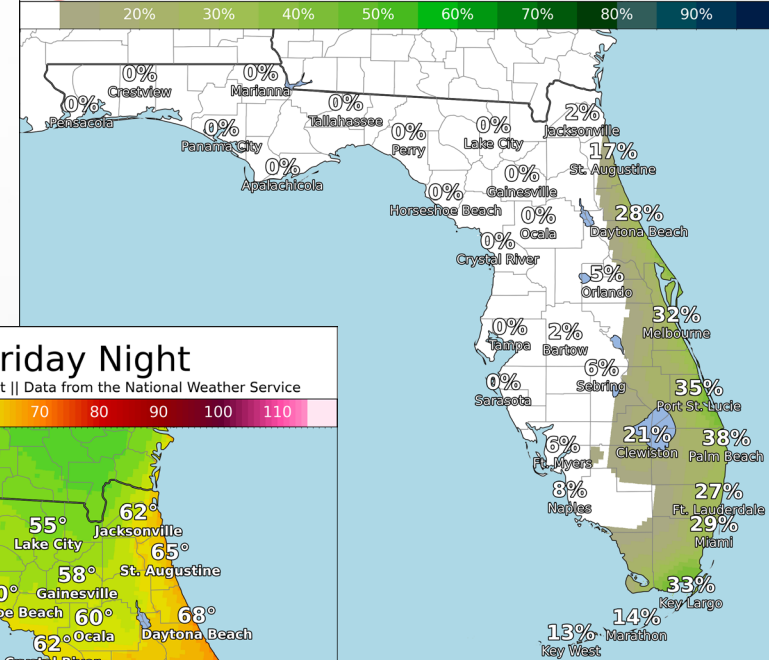
There is a **high risk of life-threatening rip currents** today along the entire Florida East Coast due to strong northeasterly winds and rapidly building surf. These strong winds will also bring **minor to locally moderate coastal flooding** around the time of high tide north of the Cape as well as **large and battering surf** to the Atlantic Beaches, causing **minor beach erosion**. While elevated surf conditions are common following cold frontal passage, early fall fronts can be especially dangerous given the still warm water and air temperatures that encourage beach-goers to enter the water.

Cooler temperatures continue to spread across the state throughout the day today. High temperatures range from the lower to middle 80s across North Florida to the upper 80s within South Florida and the West Coast. Overnight lows dip into the middle 50s across North-Central FL – which would be **10-15 degrees below average** for this time of year. Lows range anywhere from the lower 60s to lower 70s outside of this area.



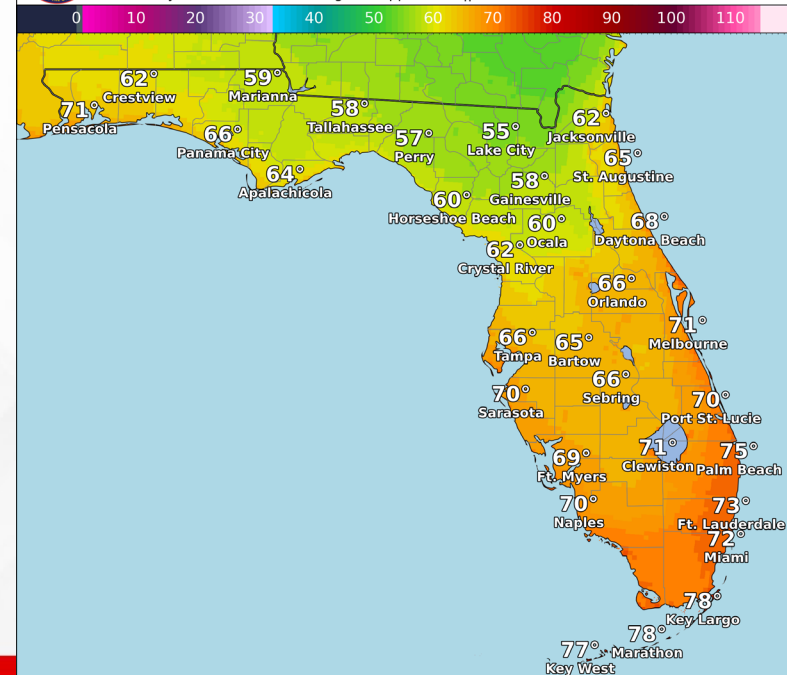
Chance of Rain: Friday

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



Low Temperatures: Friday Night

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.

Tropical Storm Fay (Central Subtropical Atlantic):

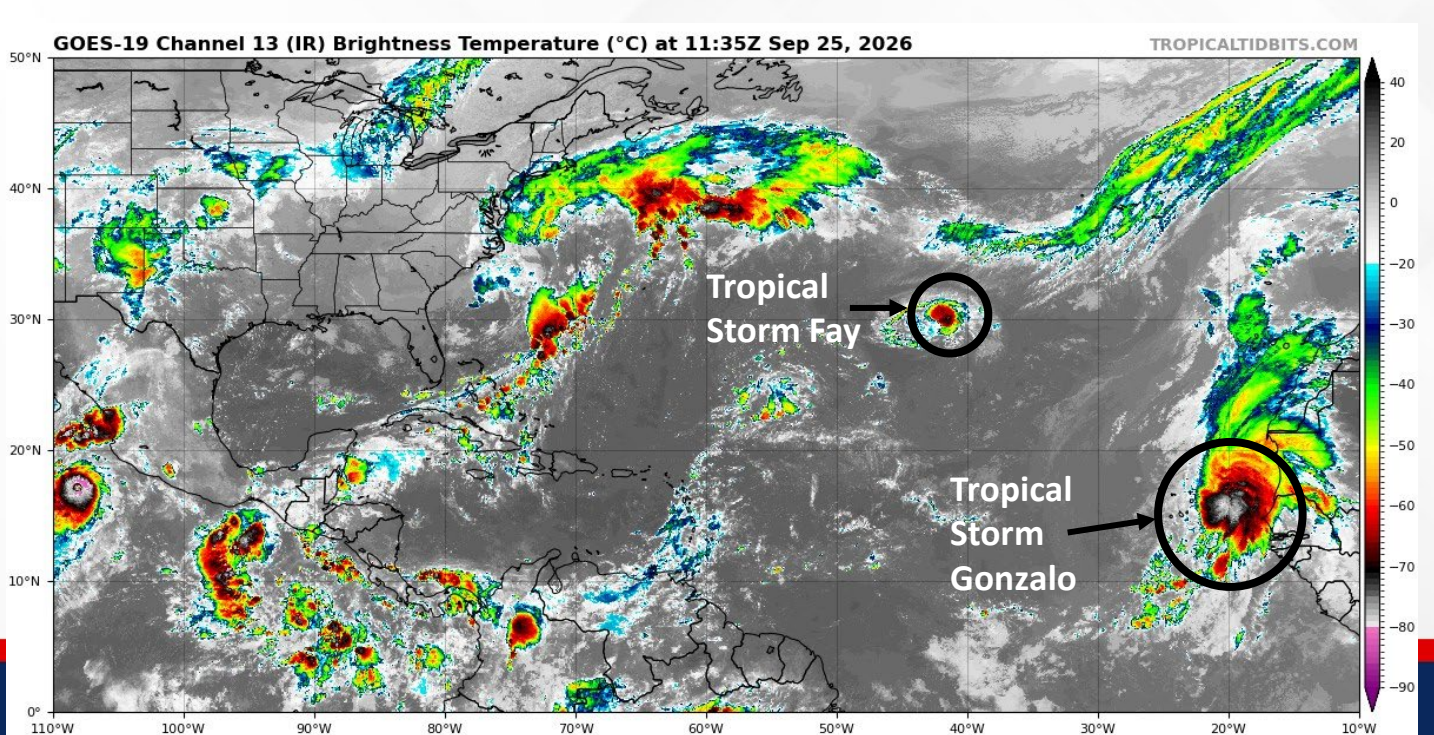
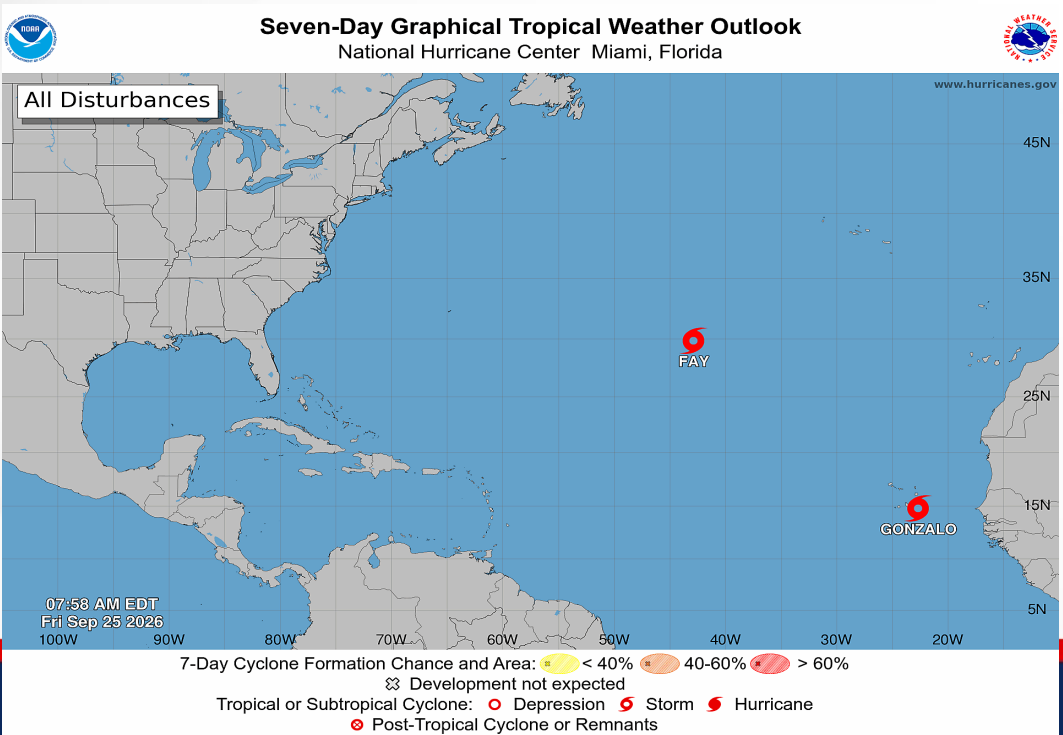
Tropical Storm Fay continues to churn in the open Atlantic. Some moderate strengthening, perhaps up to a strong tropical storm, is expected over the next 12-24 hours as Fay remains in a locally favorable environment. Shear increases quickly after this point, and weakening will commence as early as tomorrow. Still, some pieces of model guidance continue to indicate that Fay may stick around after dissipation as a remnant low over the open Atlantic for many days to come, with a non-zero chance of yet another re-development down the line.

This storm poses no threat to Florida.

Tropical Storm Gonzalo (Far Eastern Tropical Atlantic):

Invest 90L was designated Tropical Storm Gonzalo late last night. The storm has gradually strengthened since then, reaching its current intensity of a 50mph tropical storm. Vertical wind shear is expected to increase by tomorrow and the storm should become a remnant low within the next day or two.

This storm poses no threat to Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: There is a **high risk for rip currents** along the Atlantic Coast Beaches as well as along the Franklin County Beaches along the Northern Gulf Coast. Along the Atlantic Beaches, **especially dangerous and life-threatening rip currents are expected today**. There is a **moderate risk for rip currents** for much of the Florida Panhandle today. A **low risk** is forecast across for all other FL beaches. *(An error exists with NWS rip current data, displaying a low risk for rip currents across SE FL instead of a high risk)*. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Northeasterly winds begin to wane throughout the day on Friday, beginning at **20-25kts** and declining to around 15kts by nightfall. Regardless, little impact to surf is expected, with wave heights of between **8-10'** still expected along the East Coast north of Broward (**5-6'** for SE FL beaches). Gulf-facing beaches will see wave heights peak at **2-3'**.

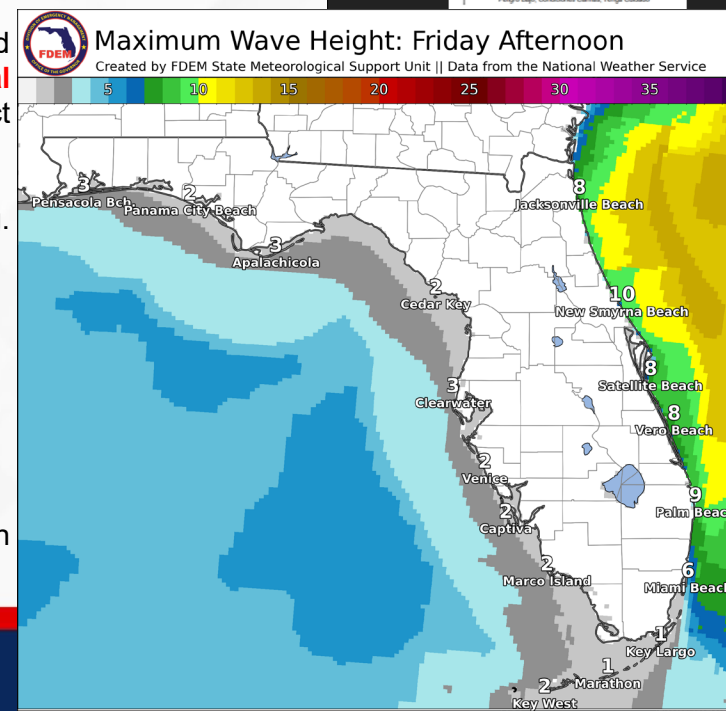
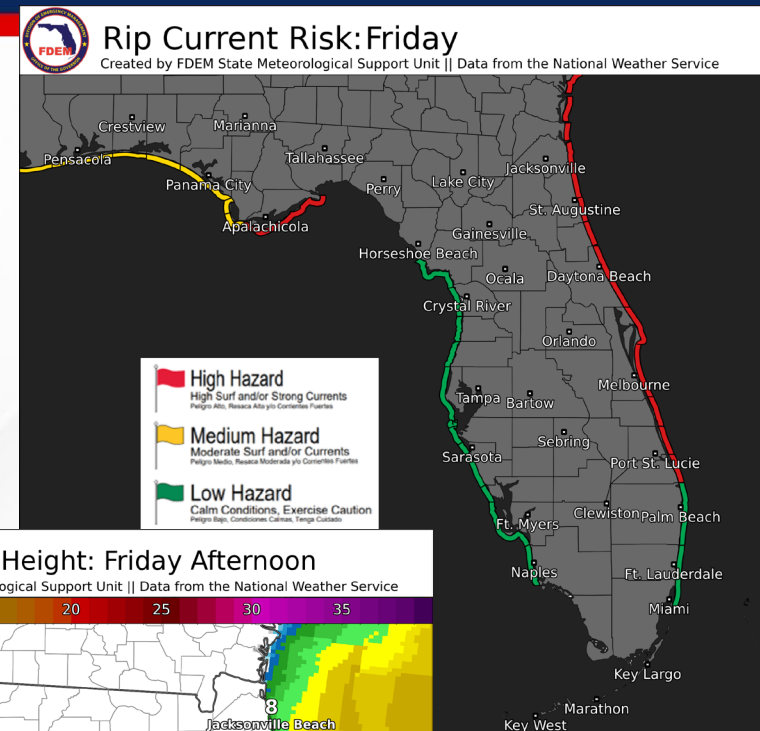
Red Tide: Red tide was observed at background concentrations in Sarasota County this week (9/18).

Coastal Flooding: A **coastal flood advisory** is in effect along the Atlantic Coast from Volusia County northward for **minor coastal flooding**. There is a low-end chance for some isolated instances of **moderate coastal flooding**. **Minor beach erosion** is possible along Atlantic Beaches today. A **coastal flood statement** is in effect across the Florida Keys and Southeast Florida this afternoon for minor tidal overwash around high tide.

Flash Flooding: Drier mid-level air is overspreading the state today, eliminating the potential for flash flooding. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Riverine Flooding: The [Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon](#) is under a **Flood Warning** and is expected to remain at or near **Minor Flood Stage** into next week. The [St. Johns River at Astor](#) will also reach **Minor Flood Stage** later this afternoon or tonight as northeasterly backs up the St. Johns River. There is low chance (10-20%) of Astor reaching **Moderate Flood Stage** by Saturday. [Fisheating Creek at Palmdale](#) remains in action stage. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

[Lake Okeechobee's](#) average elevation is 11.76 feet, which is 2.96 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



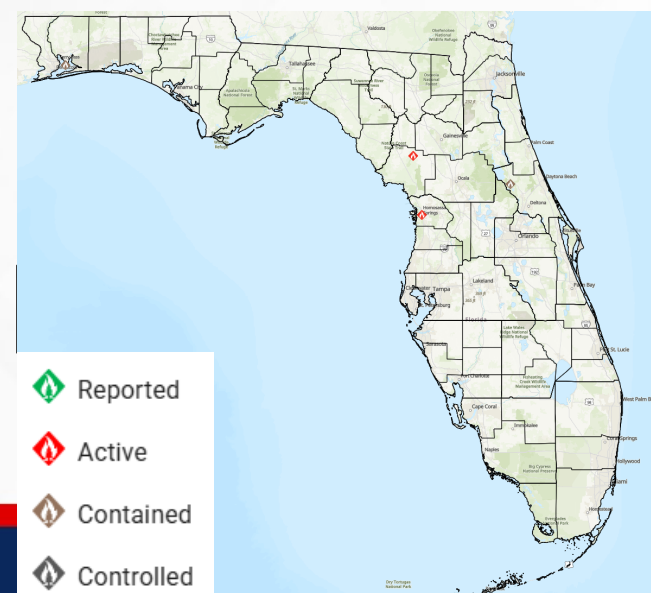
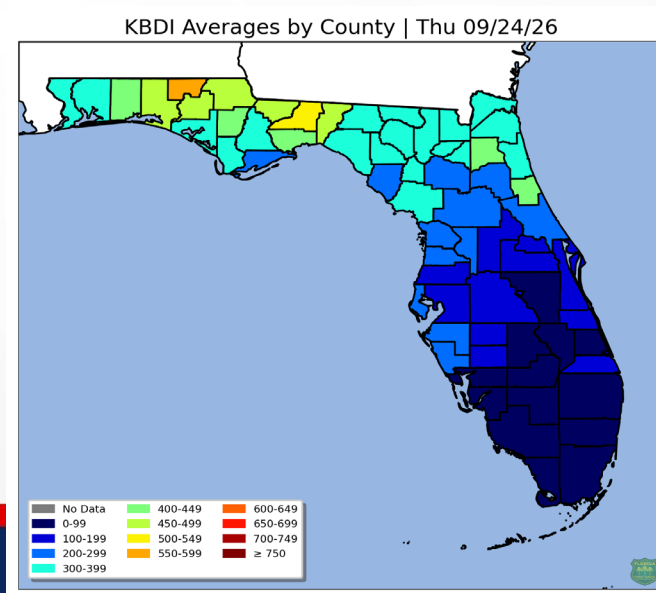
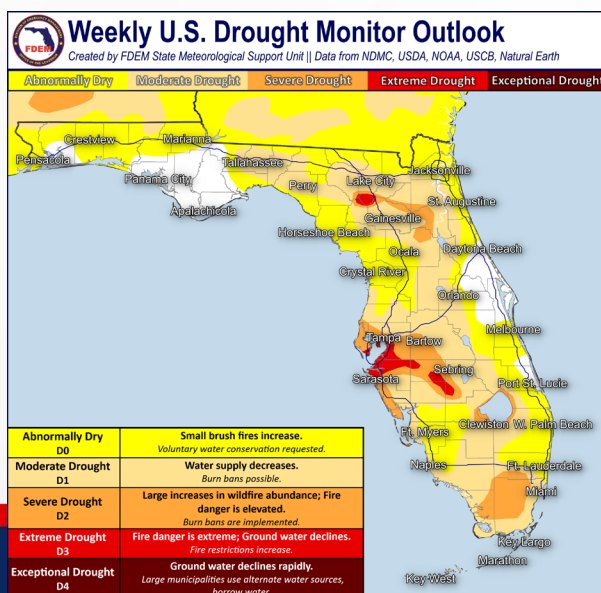


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall fire weather danger will remain low today with relative humidity values staying above 40%. However, breezy northeasterly winds of 15-20 mph with gusts to 35 mph could enhance the spread of any existing wildfires in the Eastern Florida Peninsula. **More impactful wildfire conditions** may develop across North Florida on Saturday with relative humidity values dropping into the **lower 30s** with modest north winds. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 4 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 139 acres.

Drought (9/22/26): Some localized improvements occurred across South Florida this week with widespread rainfall along the I-95 corridor. Otherwise, drought conditions remain largely unchanged statewide. All areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** were unchanged from the previous week. Small areas of **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** remain across the Santa Fe River Basin in Northeast Florida with other areas around the Tampa Bay metro area, around Lake Okeechobee and in southern portions of the Everglades. Most of the remainder of the interior portion of the Peninsula is in moderate drought (**level 1 of 4**) with abnormally dry conditions present along the East Central Florida Coast from Brevard County southward to Broward County. The Florida Panhandle is largely within the abnormally dry category with localized areas of moderate drought (**level 1 of 4**). With limited rain chances across the northern portion of the state, drought conditions could locally worsen next week.

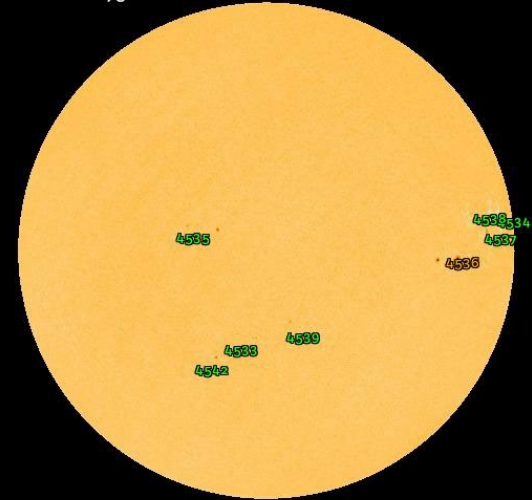
The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida on Saturday was **233 (+7)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **2 out of 67** Florida counties (Holmes and Leon) that has an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





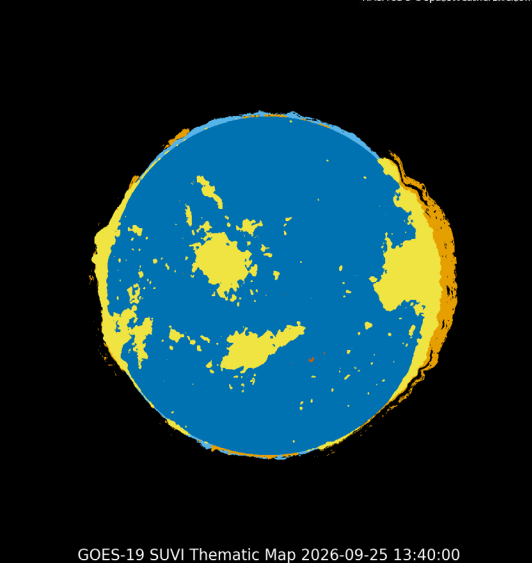
Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram

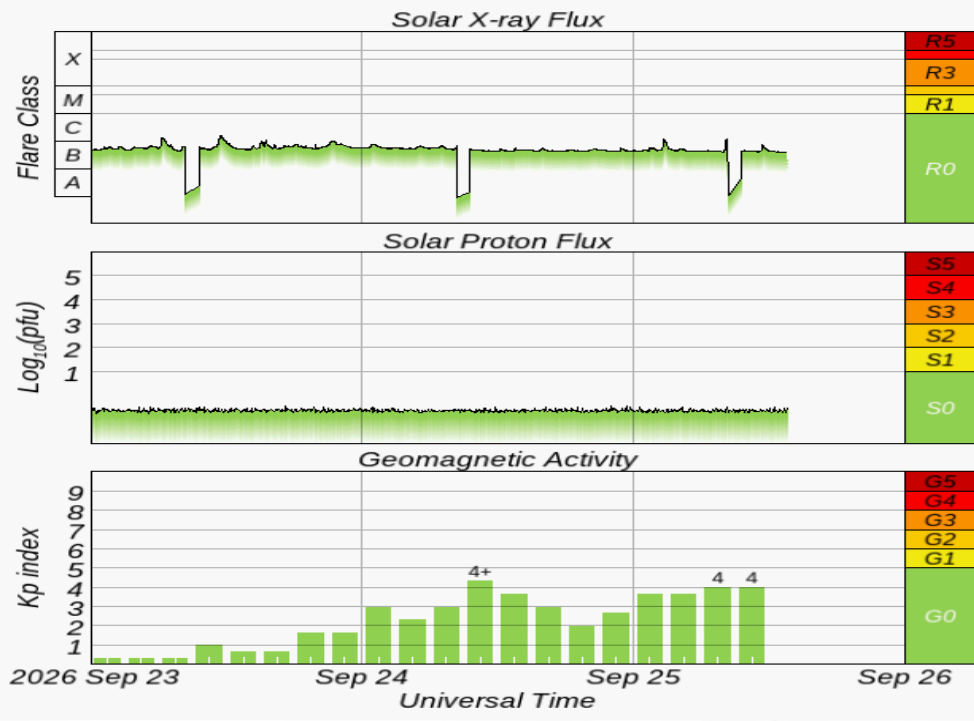


Current Sunspots

SDO/HMI Quick-Look Continuum 2026-09-25 13:00:00



GOES-19 SUVI Thematic Map 2026-09-25 13:40:00



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 20%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
9/25	9/26
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to continue at low levels, with a slight chance for an M-Class flare through Sunday. Slightly enhanced solar wind conditions are set to persist through Saturday before beginning to wane on Sunday. Unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions continue through 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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