



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, September 28, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Scott Shafer	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Daniel Leader	(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, Marion, Polk, Holmes	RV Trailer Movement / Healthcare Coalition Mtg / Barrier Trailer Pickup / Drop Off
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Wakulla	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	FQS Historical Recognition Agency Rep Application Admin / Office Admin
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Region 4 Coordination Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	Hospital EM Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Tampa International Airport EM Planning Mtg/Baycare Hospital Director Mtg
Region 7: Brian Carey	Polk	Office Admin
Region 8: Keila Puello	Indian River	County EM Meeting Introductory Meeting
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Lee	Office Admin
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



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	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Training Call / Team Meeting
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Not Available	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	R4 Coordination Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	FSPMA Conference
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus / Orange	RRC Meeting / FSPMA Conference
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	RRC Meeting

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2, 4

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

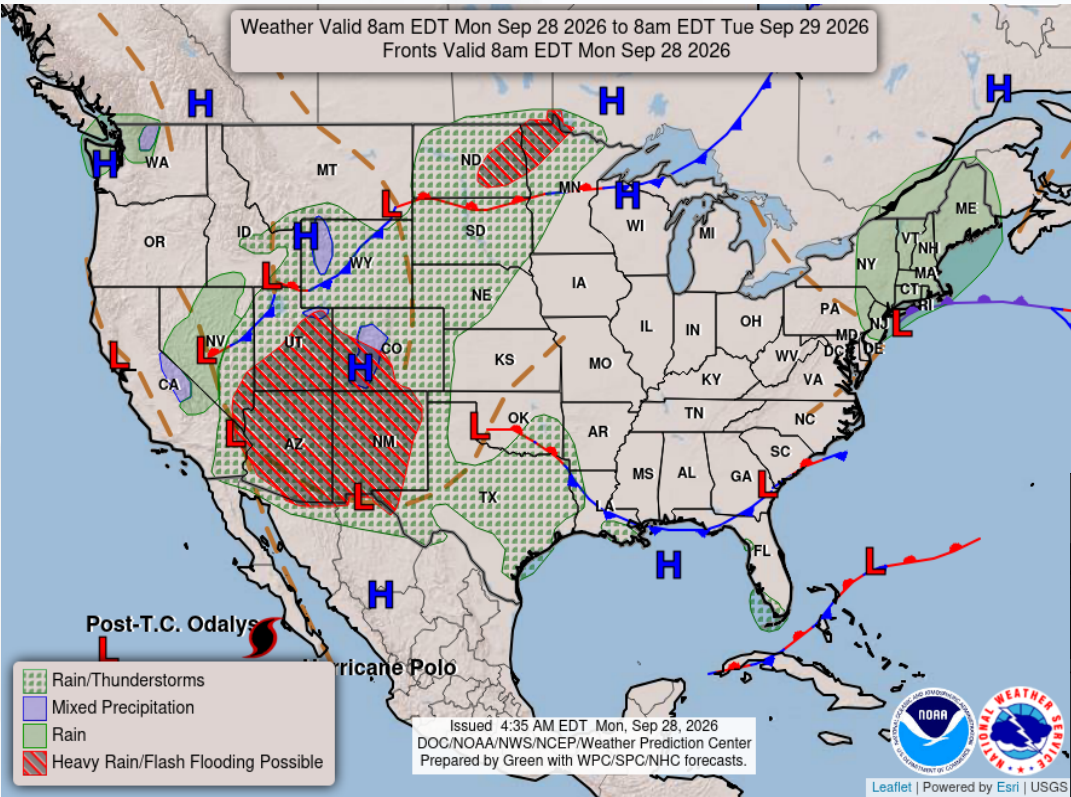
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

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

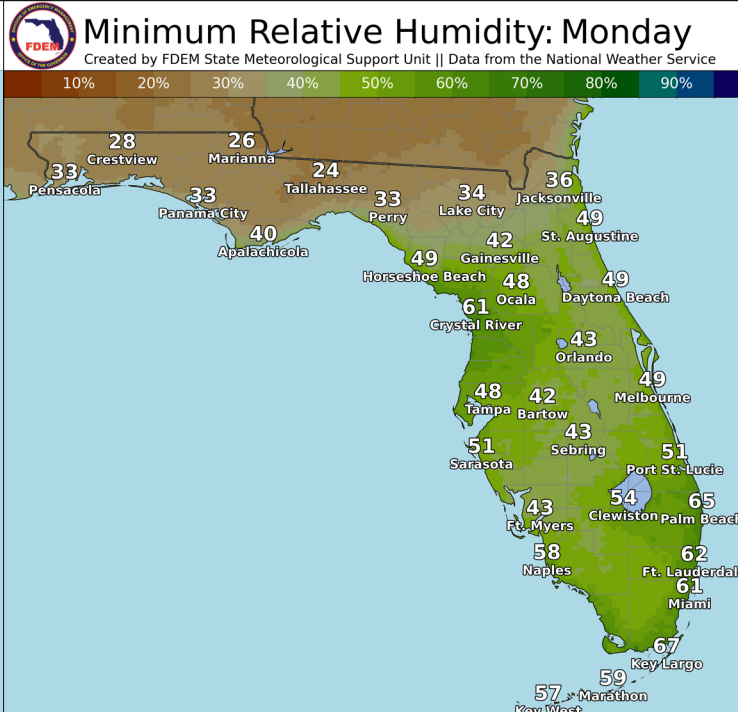
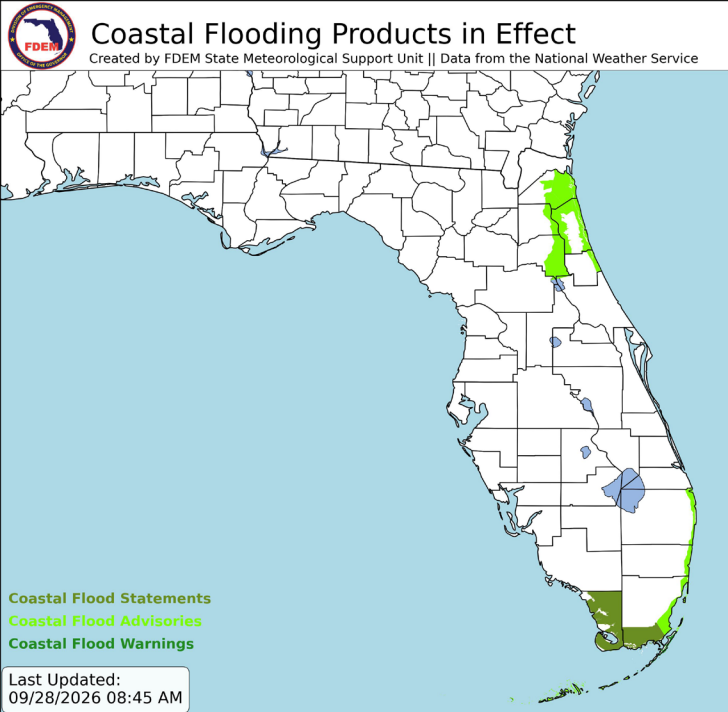


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning									L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Extreme Heat										
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L	L	L	L						
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	11.82 ft. (2.98 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	269 (+12) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Generally dry conditions are expected across the state today. After a cool start across North Florida with several locations in the **mid to upper 50s**, temperatures will rebound into the **upper 80s to near 90** statewide. The dry conditions in North Florida will result relative humidity values dropping into the **low to mid 20 percent** range. The low relative humidities will lead to **elevated fire weather concerns** and support the development of and spread of any wildfires across the state.

A **high risk of rip currents** continues today along the Florida East Coast from Volusia County southward through Palm Beach County. **Major Coastal Flooding** is ongoing in portions of the Upper Keys, and a **Coastal Flood Warning** is currently in effect. **Moderate coastal flooding** is expected to continue today from Palm Beach County southward through much of Miami-Dade County and the Middle and Lower Florida Keys. **Minor coastal flooding** is expected across Mainland Monroe and west of Homestead in Miami-Dade County. **Minor coastal flooding** is expected to continue around the time of high tide within the tidal St Johns River from Duval County southward through Putnam County.

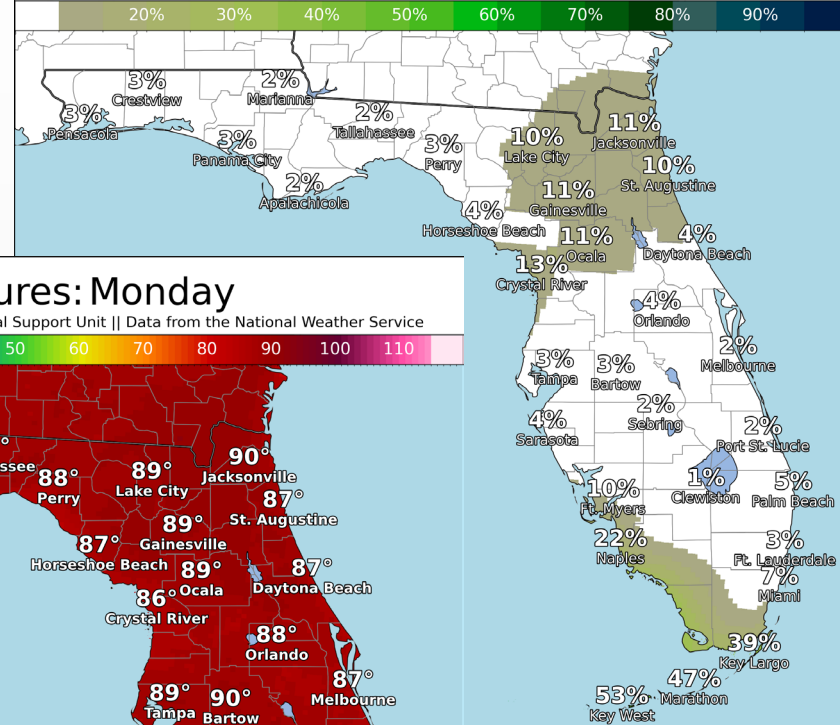
Late this evening and into the overnight hours, showers and thunderstorms will overspread the Florida Keys and into far South Florida (30 to 50 percent chance). Some storms could produce gusty winds up to 40 mph.

Overnight lows continue an upward trend, with areas in the Florida Panhandle, Big Bend, and NE Florida only bottoming out in the lower to middle 60s. Upper 60s to lower 70s can still be expected in inland locations as far south as Lake Okeechobee. Areas south of Lake Okeechobee and along Coastal locations in the Peninsula can expect lows in the middle 70s.



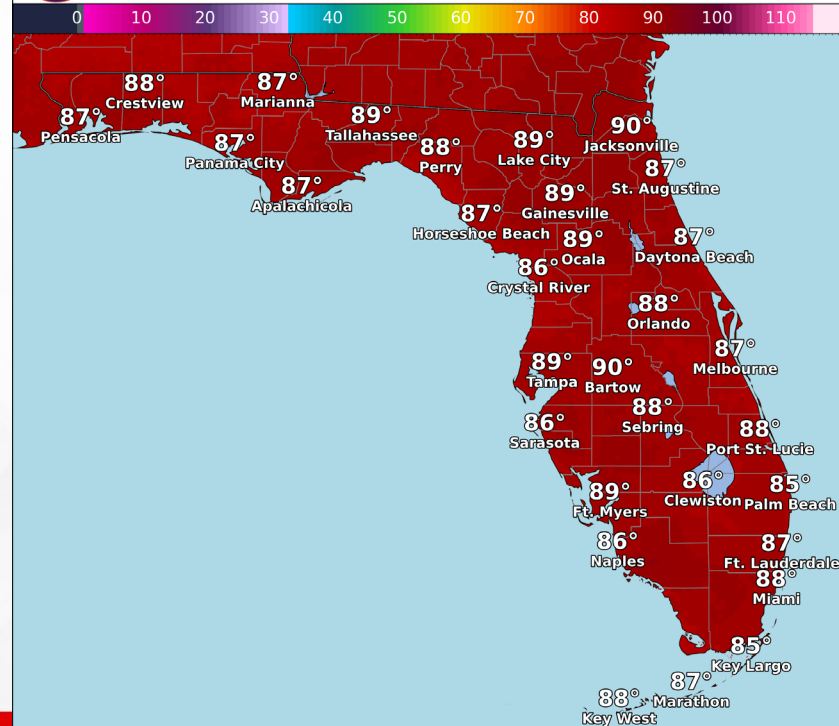
Chance of Rain: Monday Night

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



High Temperatures: Monday

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.

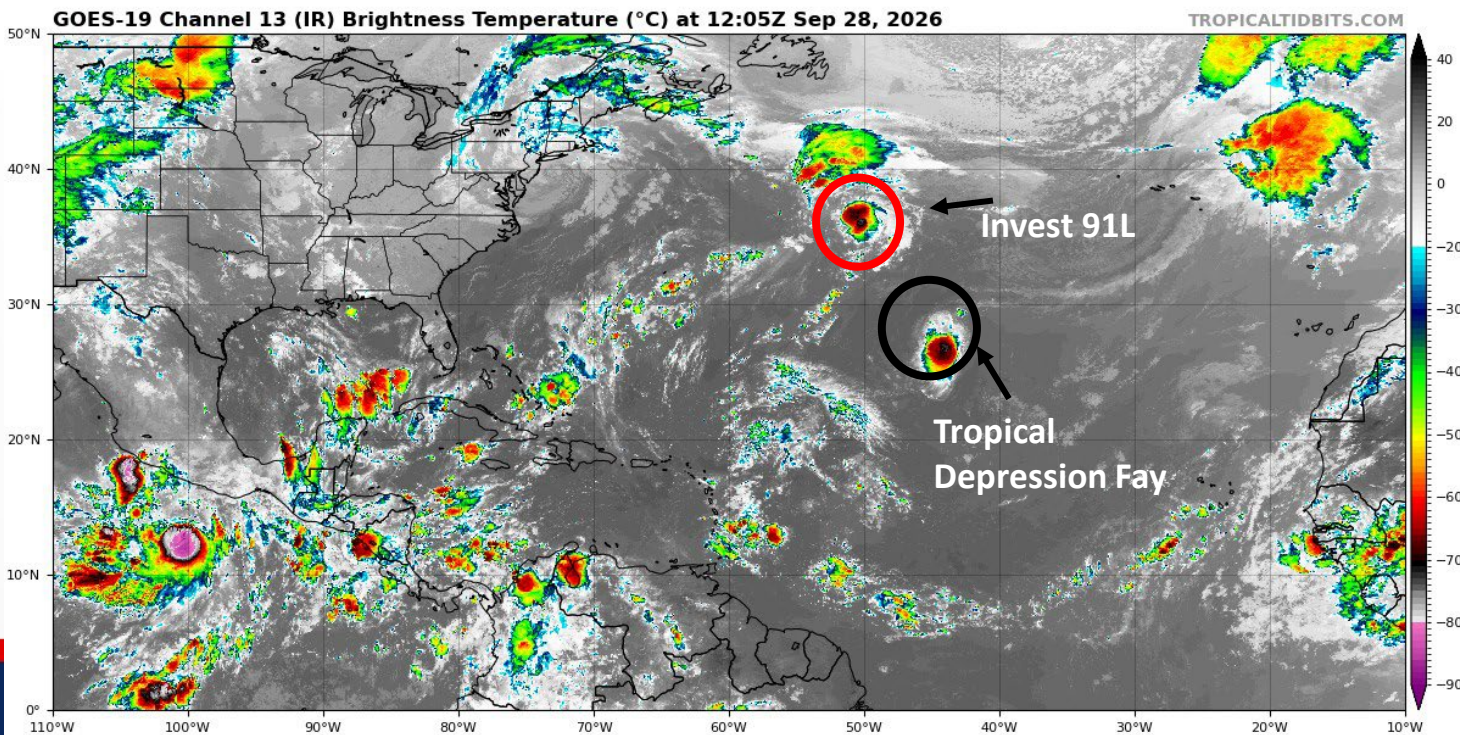
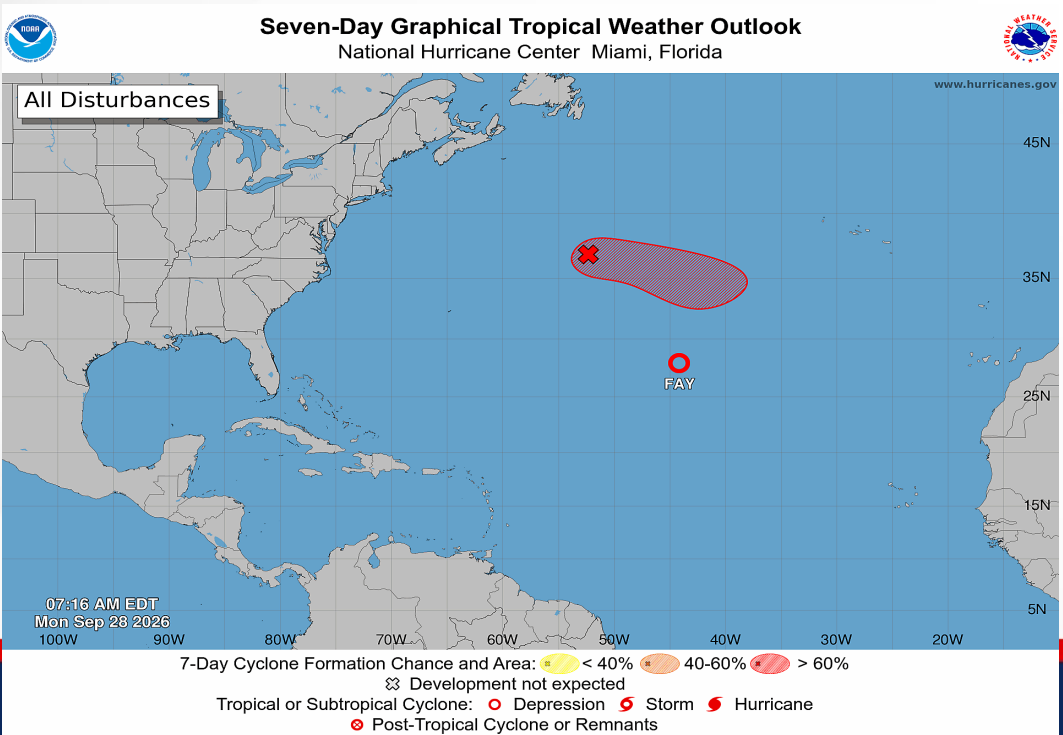
Tropical Depression Fay (Central Subtropical Atlantic):

Tropical Depression Fay remains resilient in an environment largely defined by mid to upper-level ridging. Fay continues to produce intermittent convective bursts which has helped keep the circulation intact. Fay is expected to remain at tropical depression strength before weakening into a remnant tropical wave by Wednesday. The system has a low chance (10-20 percent) of reaching tropical storm status before the environment becomes unfavorable on Wednesday. ***This system poses no threat to Florida.***

Central Subtropical Atlantic (Invest 91L):

An area of low pressure located well to the east-northeast of Bermuda is moving quickly eastward. Recent microwave imagery suggests the shower and thunderstorm activity is beginning to show signs of organization. While environmental conditions are currently only marginally favorable, this system is now likely to become a tropical depression or storm over the next day or two as it turns east-southeastward and slows down over the central Subtropical Atlantic. Environmental conditions are expected to become unfavorable for further development later this week. ***This system poses no threat to Florida.***

- Formation chance through 48 hours...**high...70 percent.**
- Formation chance through 7 days...**high...80 percent.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: There is a **high risk for rip currents** along the Atlantic Coast Beaches from Volusia County southward through Palm Beach County today. There is a **moderate risk for rip currents** along the Atlantic Beaches for Broward and Miami-Dade Counties as well as north of Volusia County. There is also a moderate risk of rip currents for much of the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend Beaches. A **low risk** is forecast across for all other FL beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Southwesterly winds around 10 knots are expected today along Florida's coastline. Wave heights along the Atlantic are expected to be **3-4'**. Gulf-facing beaches will see wave heights of 1-2'.

Red Tide: Red tide was observed at very low concentrations in two samples in NW Florida in Gulf County and background concentrations in five samples in SW Florida in Charlotte, Lee, and Monroe Counties (9/25).

Coastal Flooding: A **coastal flood warning** is in effect for the Upper Florida Keys for ongoing **major coastal flooding**. A **coastal flood advisory** is in effect from Palm Beach southward into Miami-Dade County near Homestead as well as into the Middle and Lower Florida Keys for **moderate coastal flooding** around the time of high tide. A **coastal flood advisory** is also in effect along the tidal St Johns River from the Atlantic Coast in Duval County southward through Putnam County. **Minor coastal flooding** is expected around the time of high tide. A **coastal flood statement** is in effect west of Homestead in Miami-Dade and Mainland Monroe Counties, for **minor coastal flooding** around the time of high tide.

Flash Flooding: Rain chances will remain generally low today across the state, but will be on the increase tonight across the Florida Keys and South Florida. There is no threat for flash flooding in the next 24 hours. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

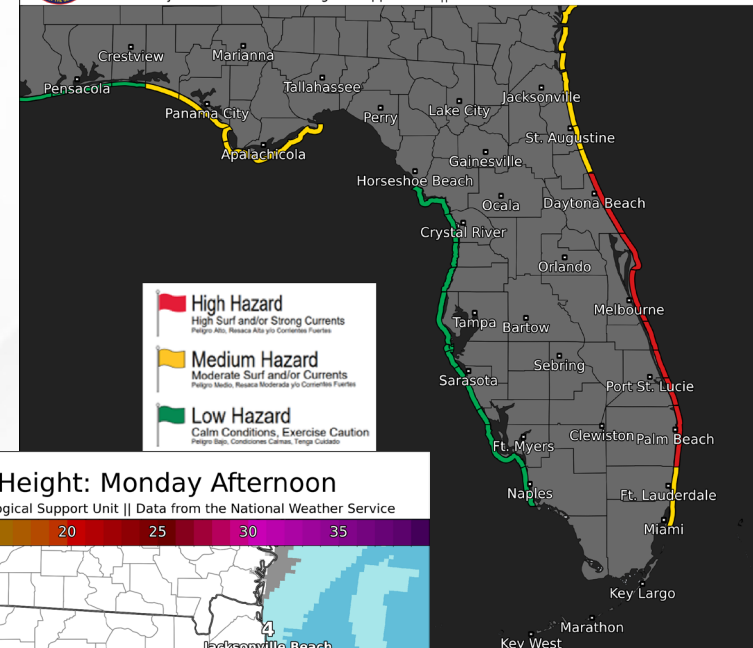
Riverine Flooding: The [St. Johns River at Astor](#) is in **Minor Flood Stage** and is expected to remain there through Friday. The [Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon](#) remains at action stage and is slowly falling as is [Fisheating Creek at Palmdale](#). For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.82 feet, which is 2.98 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



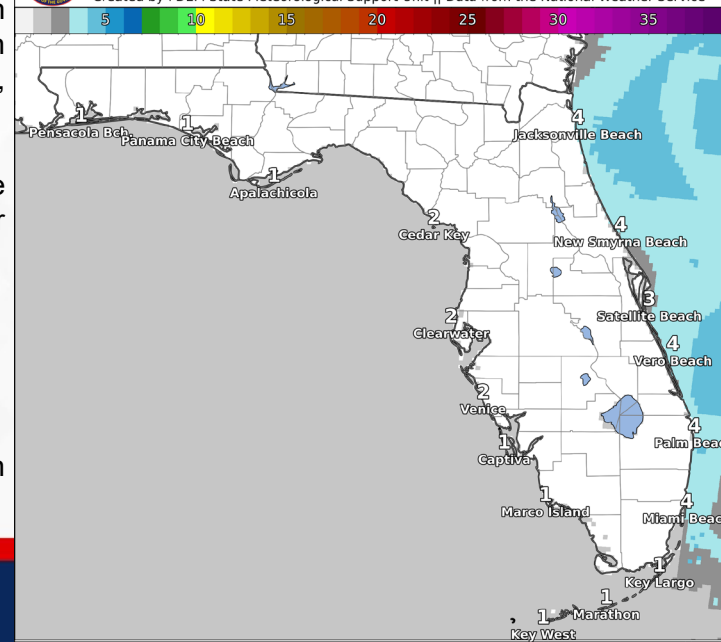
Rip Current Risk: Monday

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



Maximum Wave Height: Monday Afternoon

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



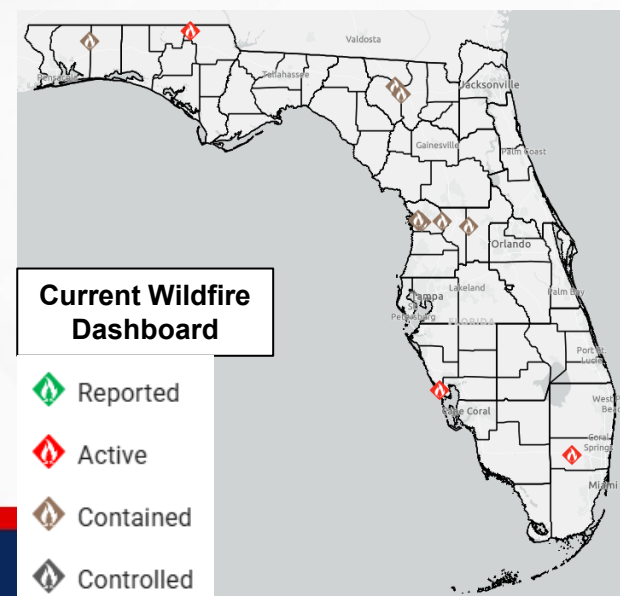
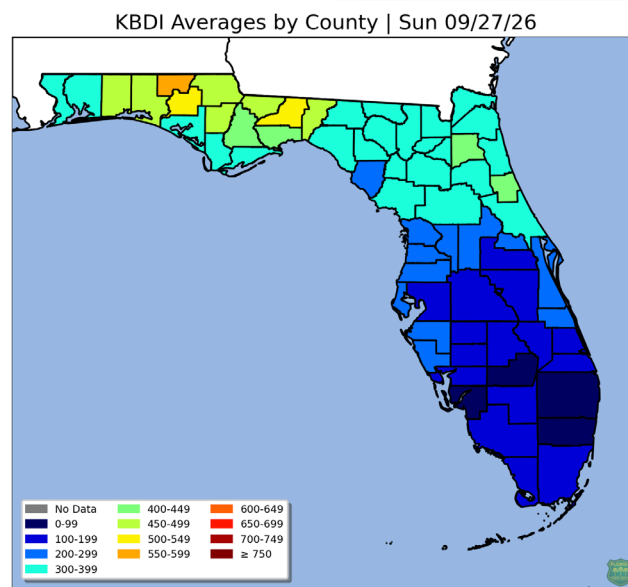
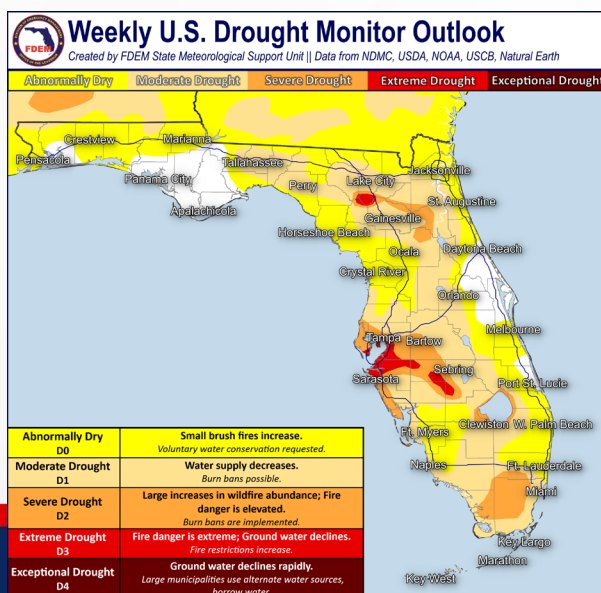


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The fire danger is increased today across North Florida, along the I-10 corridor from Baker County westward through Escambia County. Relative humidity values this afternoon could drop into the **low to middle 20s**. Southwesterly winds of 5 to 10 mph will combine with low relative humidity to support **elevated wildfire conditions**. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 11 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 57 acres.

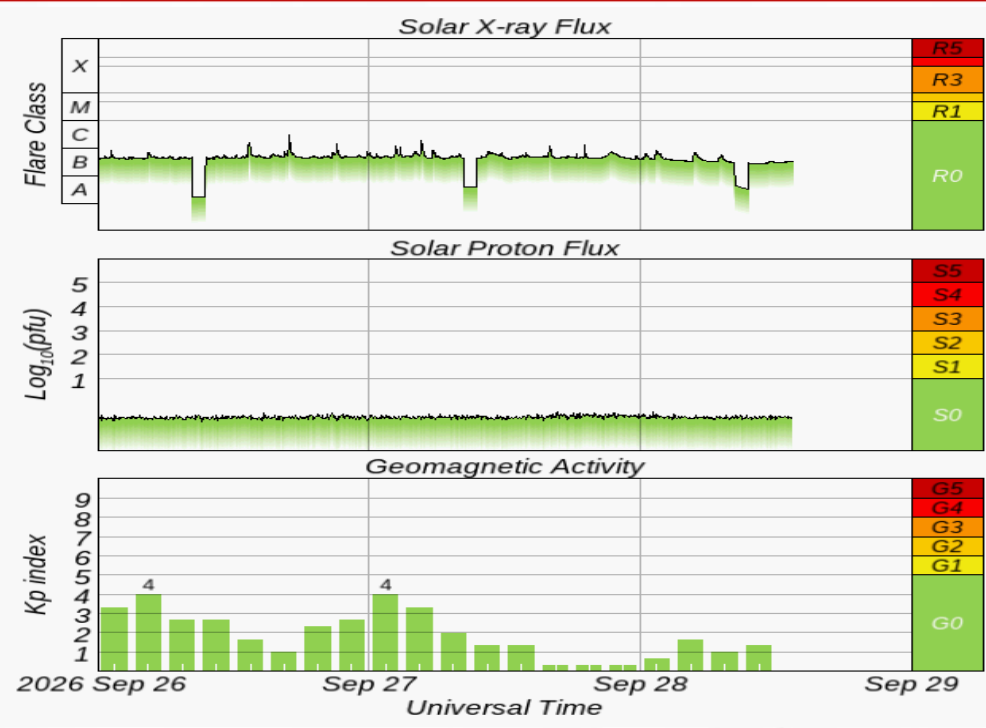
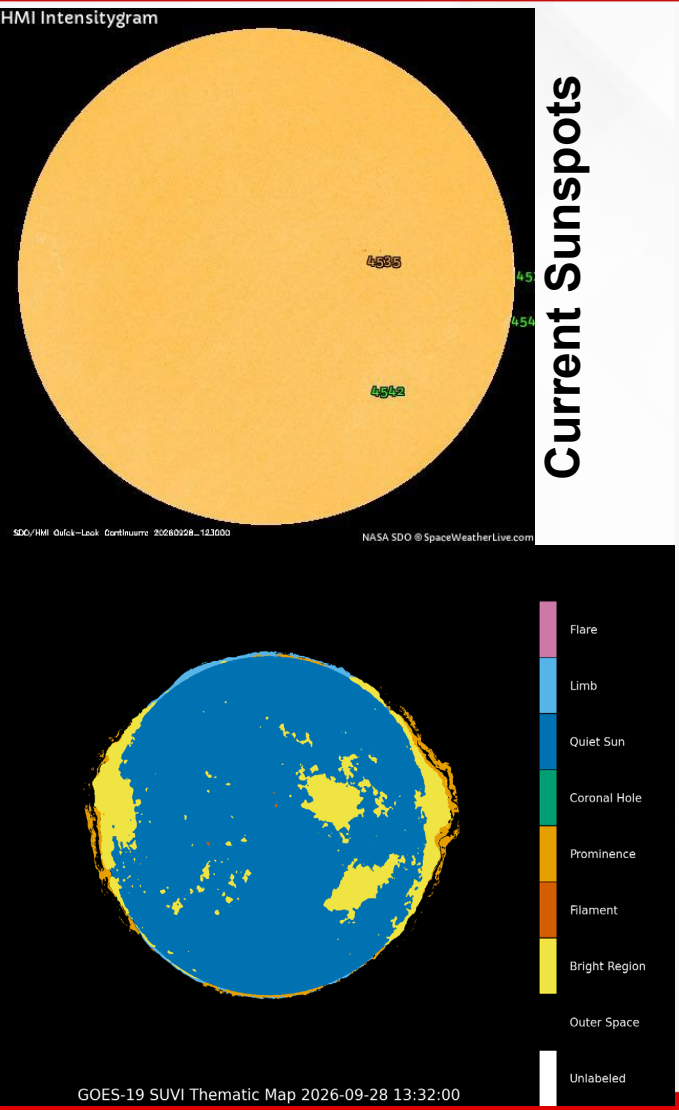
Drought (9/22/26): Some localized improvements occurred across South Florida this week with widespread rainfall along the I-95 corridor. Otherwise, drought conditions remain largely unchanged statewide. All areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** were unchanged from the previous week. Small areas 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 **269 (+12)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are 3 **out of 67** Florida counties (Holmes, Leon, and Washington) that has an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	B5 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
9/28	9/29
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to continue at low levels through Tuesday with quiet solar wind activity over the next couple of days. 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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