Florida Division of Emergency Management
State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, October 9, 2026

State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 1: Full Activation

SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@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	Cody Nowak	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	**Escambia, Santa Rosa**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	**Wakulla, Gulf, Franklin**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 3: Glen Hammers	**Dixie, Taylor, Madison**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 4: Tara Kostich	**Walton**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	**Leon**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 6: Paul Siddall	**Okaloosa**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 7: Brian Carey	**Holmes**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 8: Keila Puello	**Bay**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	**Lee**	**Office Admin / Hurricane Isaias Monitoring/Meetings**
Region 10: Claudia Baker	**Bay**	**Hurricane Isaias Response**

Region 4, 5, & 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 7, 8, 9, & 10 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable

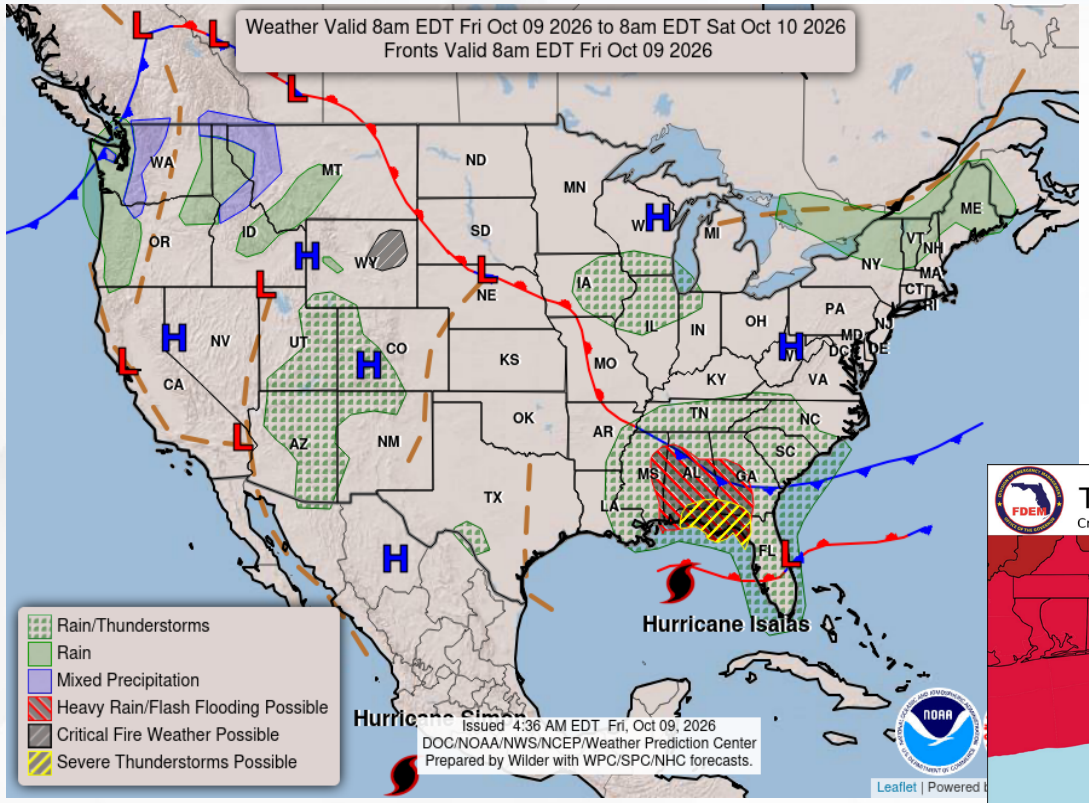
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Storm Respsonse/Readiness
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Isaias Monitoring/ County Check-ins
Region 3: Kevin Blom	Washington	Liaison Assistance
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Santa Rosa	Liaison Assistance
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	Strom Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Citrus	Storm Monitoring (Response Coverage Region 4,5,6
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	Santa Rosa	Liaison Assistance

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5, 10
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6, 10

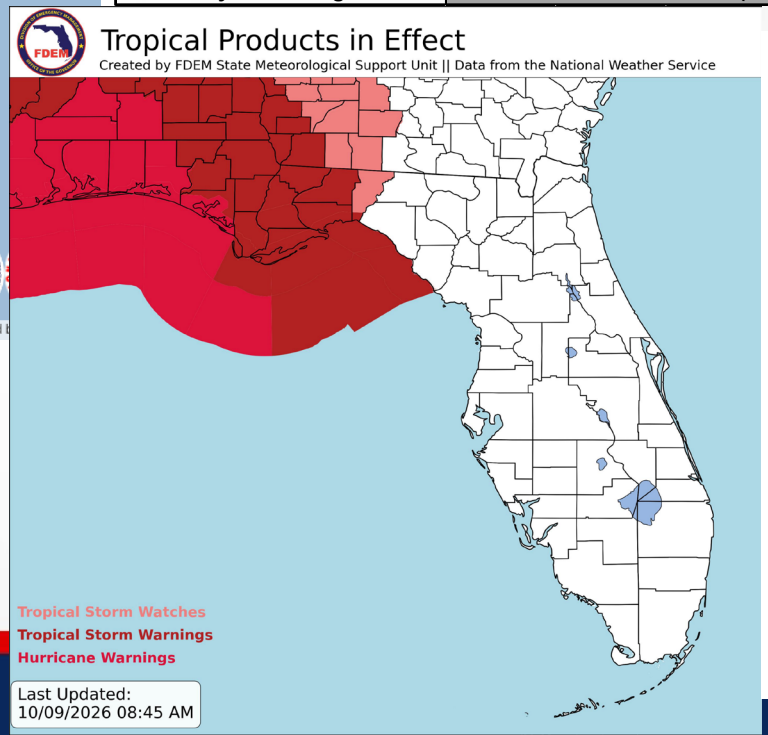
Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable

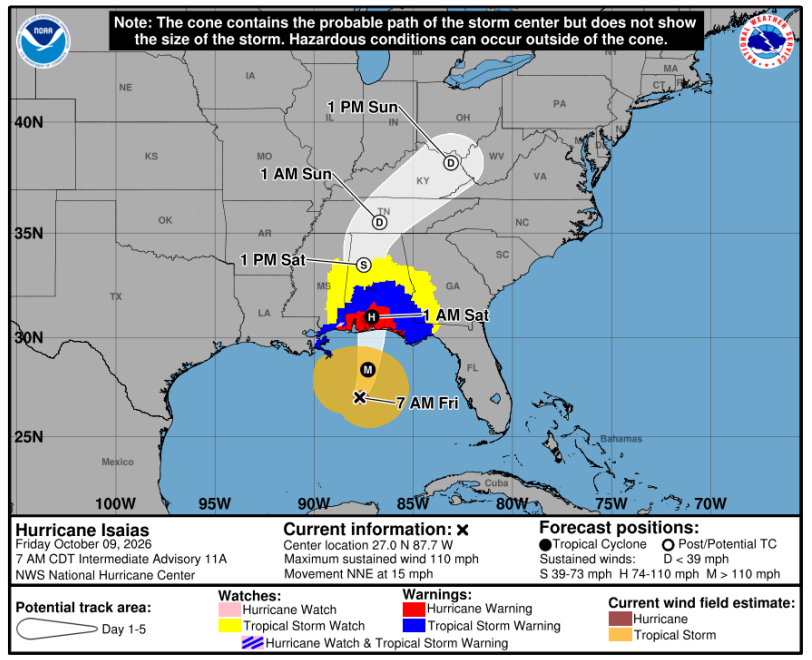
Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning			M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Tornado	M	M	M							
Damaging Wind	H	M	L							
Hail										
Flash Flooding	H	H	H	M						
Extreme Heat					L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
Rip Currents	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	12.19ft. (2.81 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	97 (-34) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

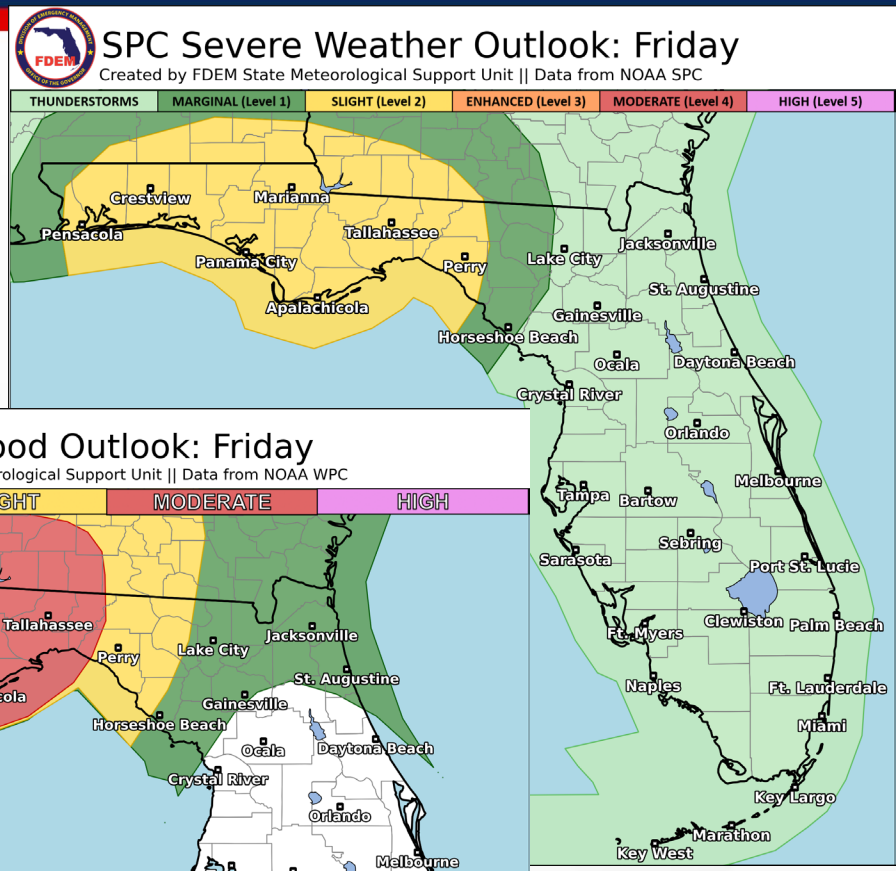
Attention will be almost entirely focused on impacts from approaching Hurricane Isaias. As of the time of writing this, Hurricane Isaias is a Category 3 hurricane containing maximum sustained winds of 120mph and a minimum central pressure of 959mb. The outer rain bands are already beginning to push onshore across coastal and inland Panhandle locations. **Conditions will continue to deteriorate across the entire Florida Panhandle throughout the day on Friday, with life-threatening storm surge, strong winds, heavy rainfall, and isolated tornadoes all possible.**

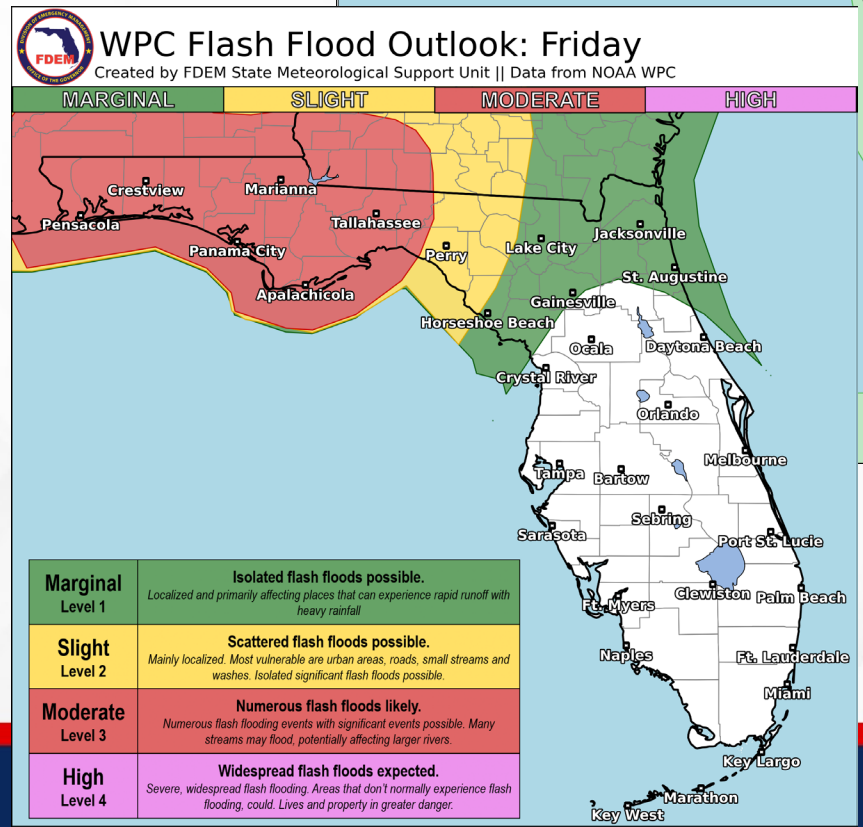
Isaias will make landfall later tonight in the far Western Panhandle and will swiftly lift north tomorrow morning. As the storm lifts, a feeder band will establish somewhere to the east of the system, likely training over the same areas for multiple consecutive hours and producing some of the highest event-total rainfall accumulations. Additionally, areas in this band will see the greatest tornado threat of the event. Where precisely this band sets up is the biggest remaining point of uncertainty regarding Hurricane Isaias, as subtle shifts in the storm's track and structure will have large impacts on the narrow column that receives these greatest impacts. For the **flash flooding threat**, a **moderate risk (level 3 of 4) for flash flooding** is outlooked across the Western and Central Panhandle today. For the severe weather threat, a **slight risk (level 2 of 5) for severe weather** is outlooked across the Panhandle on Friday/Saturday.

A **High risk for life-threatening rip currents** is in effect for nearly all coastal FL locations. A **Moderate risk of rip currents** is in effect for South FL.

Interests in the Florida Panhandle should prepare to hunker down later today as tropical storm force winds will reach the Florida Panhandle this afternoon, hurricane conditions are expected overnight. Direct impacts, including destructive winds, storm surge, heavy rainfall, and tornadoes are expected across the Florida Panhandle.

For the rest of the Florida panhandle, another wet and unsettled day is expected as moisture associated with Major Hurricane Isaias and a stalled frontal boundary promote prolific shower and thunderstorm development.



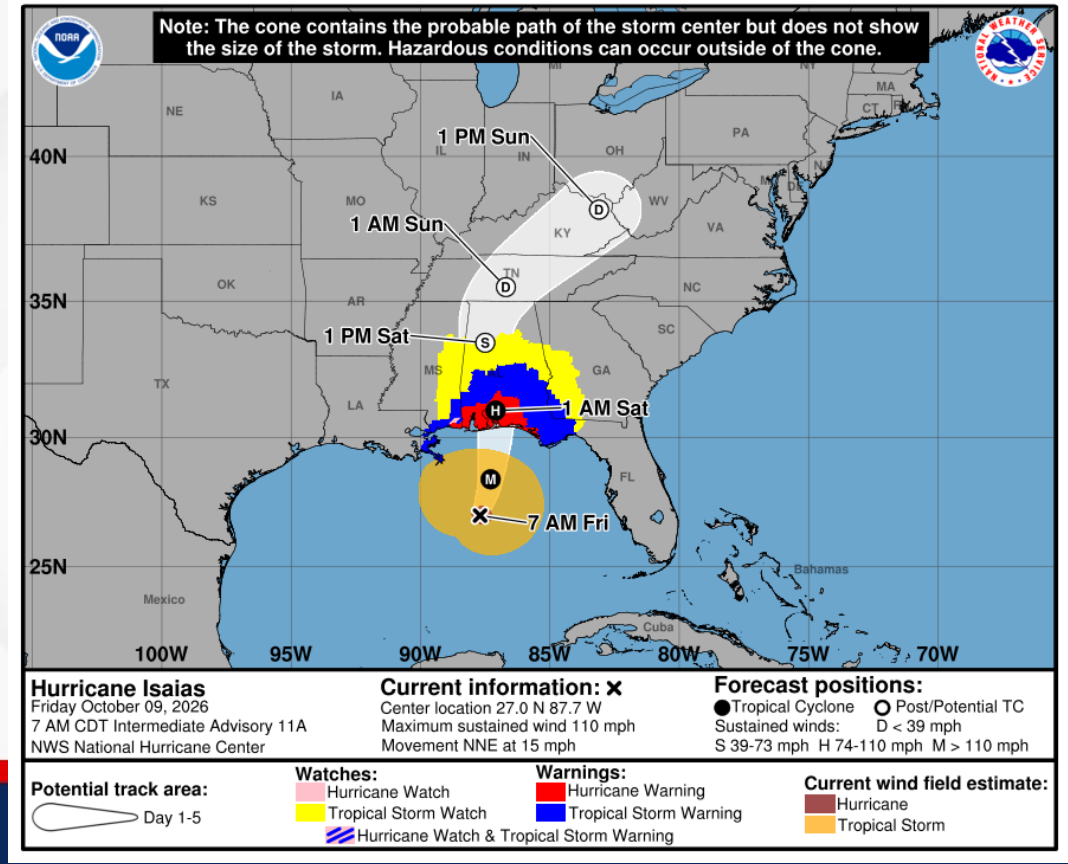


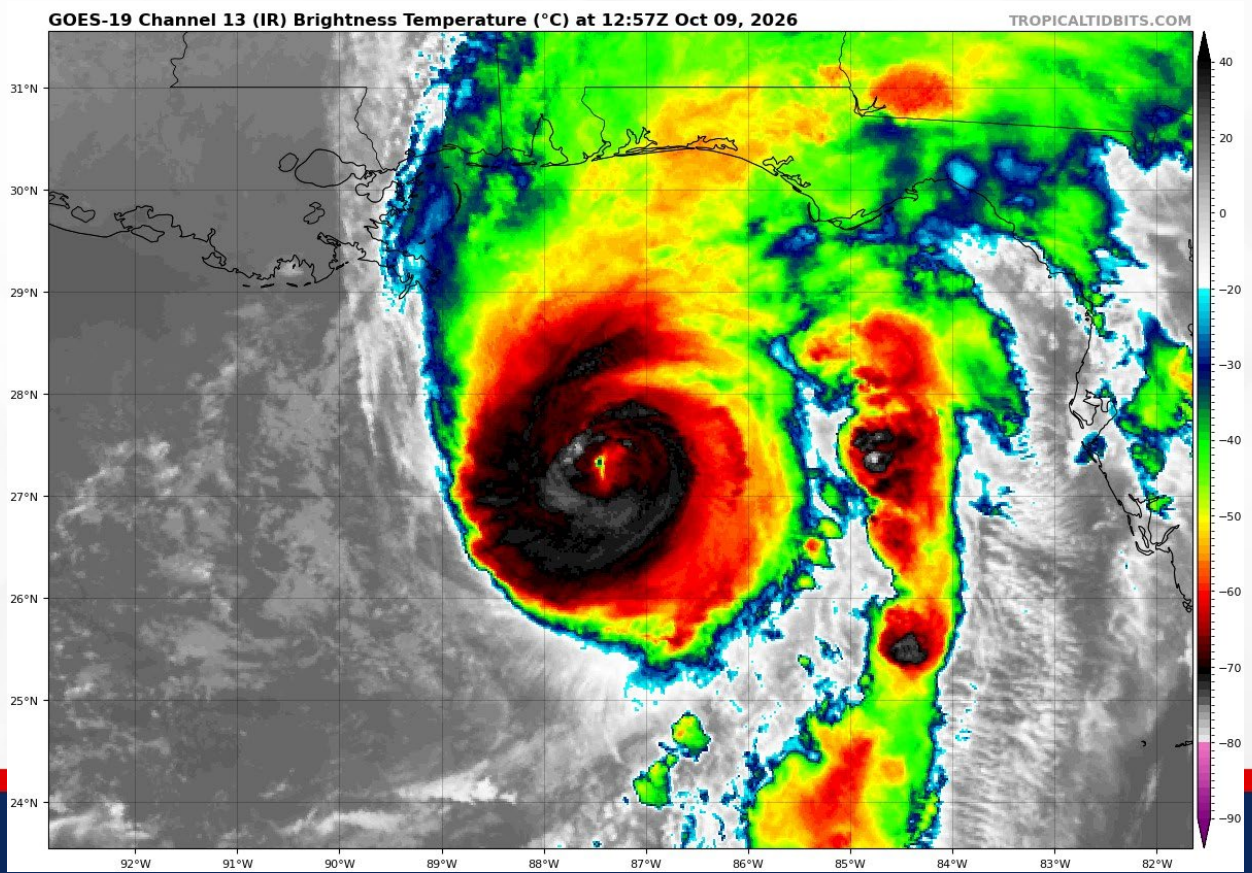
Tropical Weather

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

Major Hurricane Isaias:

Hurricane Isaias has strengthened into Major Hurricane Isaias this morning, becoming the first major hurricane of the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season. As of the 8AM EDT advisory, Isaias has maximum sustained winds of 120mph, a minimum central pressure of 958mb, and is located in the Central Gulf moving NNE at 15mph. The storm will continue pushing northward today followed by an eventual landfall in the Western Panhandle sometime between later tonight/Saturday Morning. ***With Hurricane, Tropical Storm, and Storm Surge Watches and Warnings in effect across the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, residents need to prepare for rapidly deteriorating conditions as the storm pushes closer to the coastline.***





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: There is a **High risk for rip currents** for nearly all FL beaches today. A **Moderate risk for rip currents** is in place in extreme South FL. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Extremely dangerous marine conditions develop alongside the arrival of Major Hurricane Isaias. Marine winds over the Gulf will frequently gust near or over **tropical storm force**, even for areas well to the east of the center. Near Isaias's center, **hurricane force winds** will spread over large areas. Wave heights will climb over **double digit values** for most coastal Panhandle locations today. Over open Gulf waters, widespread **20-30'** wave heights will be common. Winds along the east coast will be more subdued, ranging anywhere from 10-20kts.

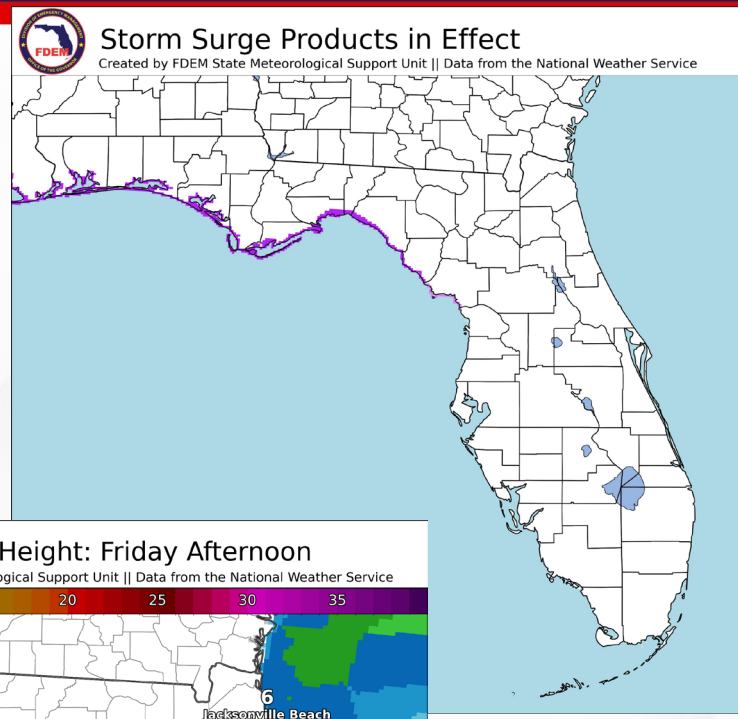
Red Tide: Red tide was observed at background to very low concentrations in six samples in NW Florida in Gulf County and background concentrations in three samples in SW Florida in Sarasota County (10/2).

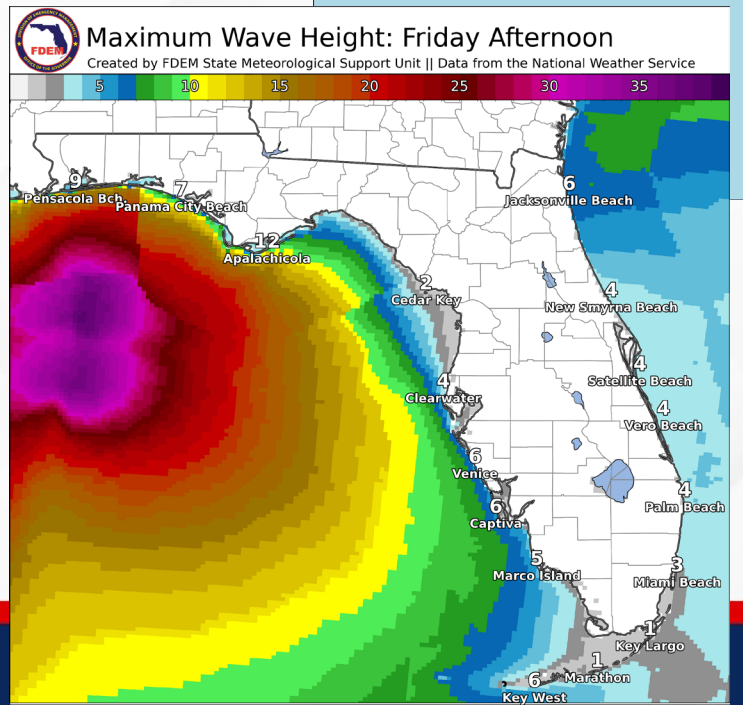
Coastal Flooding: **Storm Surge Watches and Warnings** are in effect for all coastal Panhandle and Big Bend counties in anticipation of the approaching Hurricane Isaias. A **coastal flood advisory** is in effect for Northeast and West Coastal locations for **minor coastal flooding**. The **coastal flood advisory** in effect for the West Coast is for **minor storm surge inundation.** A **coastal flood statement** is in effect for coastal South Florida locations for **minor coastal flooding.** Water levels will be highest this afternoon near high tide.

Flash Flooding: A **moderate risk (level 3 of 4) for flash flooding** is in effect today for most of the Florida Peninsula today in expectation of the approaching **Major Hurricane Isaias**. Widespread event-total rainfall accumulations generally range from **5-10",** although isolated higher amounts of **15"+** are likely, especially in areas that are impacted from a large training rain band on the east side of the storm. A **Flood Watch** is currently in effect across much of North Florida today. For more information, visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Riverine Flooding: Due to ongoing northeasterly flow, the St Johns River at Astor is expected to remain in **Moderate Flood Stage** for the foreseeable future as an extended reverse-flow event establishes. Otherwise, various river basins are in or forecast to be in action to **minor flood stage** in response incoming heavy rainfall from Hurricane Isaias. For more information, visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.19 feet, which is 2.81 feet below normal for this time of year and in the water shortage management band.



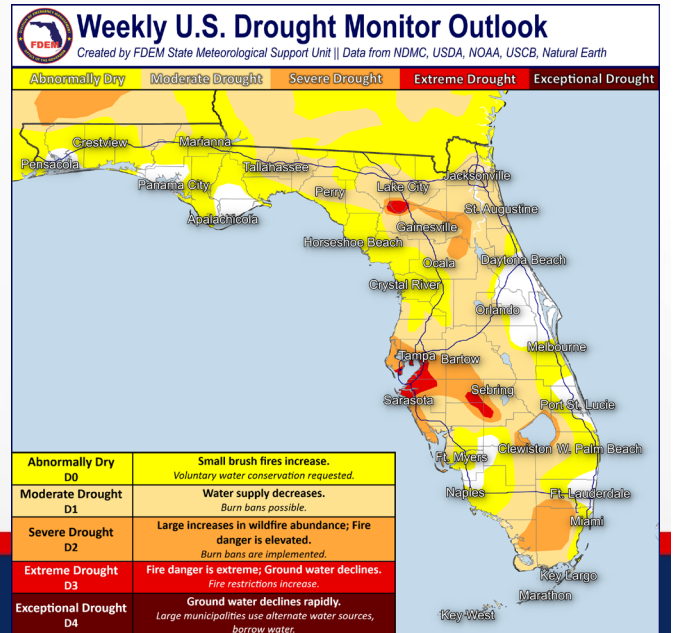


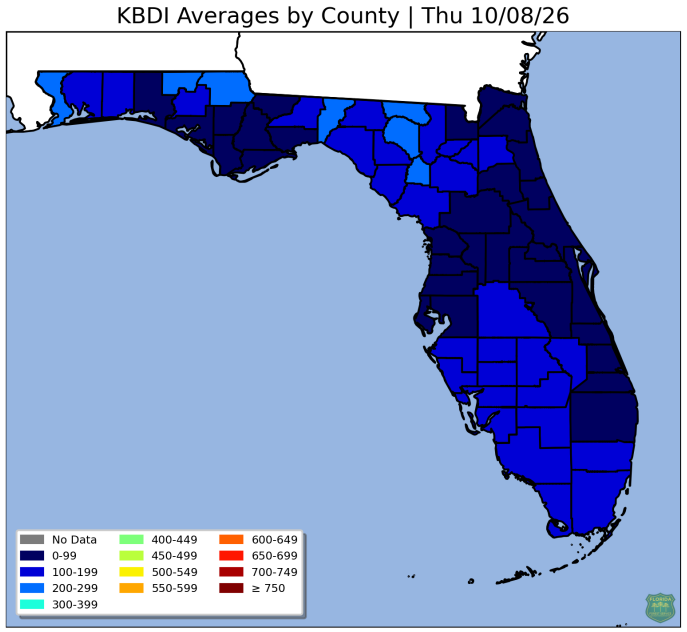
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: No organized fire weather danger is expected today with heavy rainfall and extremely saturated soil conditions currently present. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are 6 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 22 acres.

Drought (10/06/26): Widespread categorical drought improvements were made on this week's drought monitor update. No categorical drought degradations were made. Widespread one-level categorical drought improvements were observed across the Panhandle and East Coast. With most locations in the Panhandle and immediate East Coast locations previously being in only D0 drought conditions (*abnormally dry),* these areas are now under no categorical drought conditions. Elsewhere in the state, only scattered categorical drought improvements were made at various locations. All areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** across North-Central and West-Central Florida were left untouched from last week. Only 2% of the state remains under an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4).** An area of **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** remains around Lake Okeechobee as well as in the southern portion of the Everglades. **Moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** continues from North-Central FL, southward. About 31% of the state has no characterization in this week's drought monitor, a nearly 20% increase from last week.

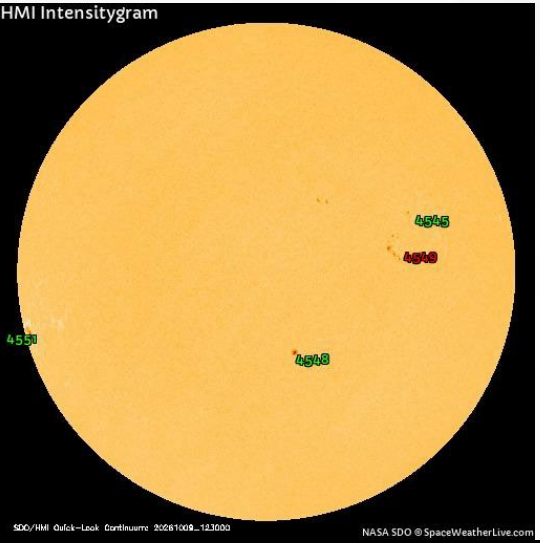
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida on Saturday was **97 (-34)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **0 out of 67** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



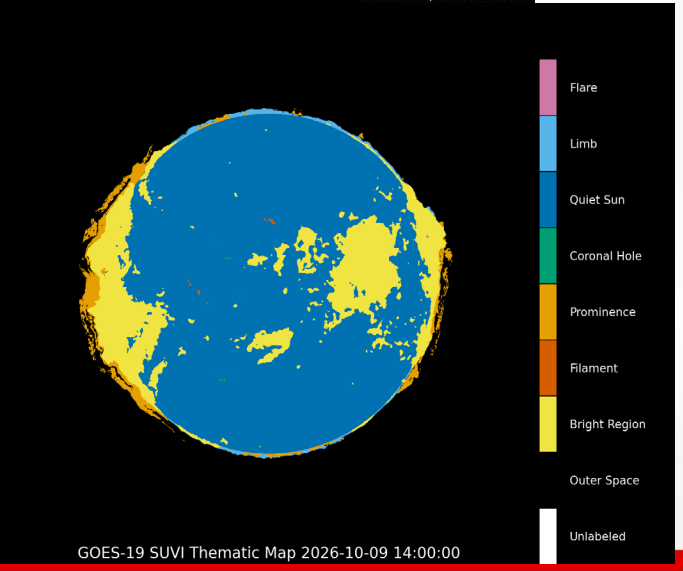


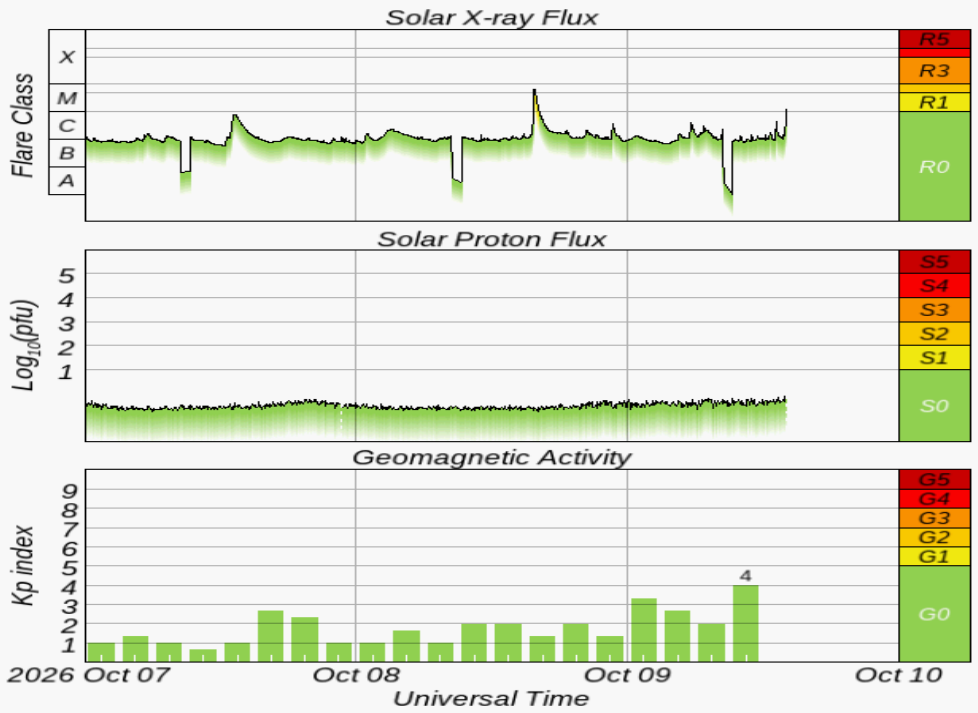


Space Weather



Current Sunspots





Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: G2 (Moderate) Watch	M6 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

10/09	10/10
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: A strong chance (55%) for M-Class flares is expected today, particularly from sunspot region #4549. Solar wind and geomagnetic conditions will be enhanced today due to the arrival of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). The overall space weather threat to Florida is 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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Austin Johnson

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