





...Strong to Severe Storms in the Panhandle & Big Bend Saturday...Damaging Winds and Tornadoes are the Primary Hazards...Windy Conditions Statewide This Weekend...Daily Showers & Isolated Storms across North Florida into Next Week...Staying Warm & Humid...Dangerous Beach Conditions at Panhandle & Atlantic Beaches...



A cold front currently over Texas and Oklahoma will move eastward tonight and move into the Florida Panhandle by late Saturday evening. This front will bring the potential of strong to severe thunderstorms to the Panhandle and Big Bend Saturday afternoon through Saturday night. The Storm Prediction Center has outlined

the Panhandle west of the Apalachicola River in an Enhanced Risk of severe weather (level 3 of 5). The Big Bend is outlined in a Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1 to 2). The main threats with the severe thunderstorms will be damaging winds over 60 mph and a few tornadoes. The storms will likely enter the Panhandle in the early to middle afternoon and be near the Apalachicola River after sunset. As the line moves into the Big Bend during the late evening and nighttime hours,

weakening is expected, and the coverage of severe thunderstorms will decrease. Ahead of the line, it is possible that isolated thunderstorms may develop, mainly in the western Panhandle. These storms, if they develop, could become severe and pose a tornado risk. The severe weather will not make it into Northeast Florida, but isolated to scattered showers (20-30% chance) will be possible through the day on Saturday.

Ahead of the strong to severe thunderstorms, it will be quite windy. Sustained winds out of the south at 15 to 25 mph with gusts of 30-40 mph are expected on Saturday. For this reason, a **Wind Advisory** is in effect through Saturday for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties.





The front will make it into the Big Bend, but then stall on Sunday before lifting northward as a warm front Monday and Tuesday. This will leave a warm and humid air mass in place across North Florida, leading to daily chances of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Severe weather is not anticipated Sunday through Tuesday.

Temperatures will be quite warm with highs in the 70s in the Panhandle and lower 80s in Northeast Florida. Some places in Northeast Florida will be near record highs. A little bit of cooler air will work into the Panhandle Saturday night behind the front, where lows may drop back into the 50s (still well above normal for this time





year). This cool shot will only last one night, and all other nights will feature lows in the 60s.



## Central & South Florida:

The cold front and associated severe threat will not make it into the Peninsula. However, warm and humid weather will prevail with highs near record levels. Temperatures each day will be in the lower to middle 80s and lows each night will be in the middle 60s to lower 70s—some 10 to 15 degrees above normal for this time of year.

With abundant moisture in place, isolated to widely scattered showers (20-30% chance) will be possible through the weekend, starting near the

coast in the morning and moving inland during the day with showers redeveloping near the coast at night. However, these showers will be light, and thunderstorms

are not expected. Winds will remain breezy through the weekend with gusts of 30-35 mph possible along the East Coast and 25-30 mph elsewhere.

By early next week, rain chances decrease to less than 10% as high pressure tries to nose its influence into the Peninsula. Winds will also decrease as a result of the high pressure's influence. More sunshine is expected, but temperatures will continue in the lower to middle 80s during the day and 60s to 70s at night.





## Hydrology & Flooding:

A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Apalachicola River at Blountstown. Recent releases from the Woodruff Dam and additional rainfall this weekend will cause the river to reach minor flood stage on Sunday. Elsewhere, only a couple rivers will rise into action stage with no flooding expected. For details on individual river levels, visit the <u>River Forecast Center</u>.

About 1-2" of rainfall is expected in the Panhandle with only 0.50-1" in the Big Bend. The Peninsula will see less than 0.25" over the next 5 days. Thus, flooding concerns are not expected.

Due to strong southerly to southeasterly winds, tides will run about 1-2' above normal levels along the Panhandle coast. This will result in nuisance to minor

coastal flooding near high tide through Saturday. A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect from Escambia through Okaloosa County through Saturday evening

The Lake Okeechobee average elevation is 13.07 feet, which is 1.67 feet <u>below</u> normal for this time of year, and 0.09' lower than this time last week. Lake levels will slowly fall this week with plenty of sunshine, warm temperatures, and minimal rainfall in the Peninsula.





## **Drought & Fire Weather:**

This week's <u>Drought Monitor</u> shows an elimination of moderate drought in South Florida, but a continuation of **moderate drought** in the Big Bend. The rainfall over the next 5 days will be fairly light over the abnormally dry areas, and little change in the Drought Monitor is expected next week.

Winds will be breezy for much of this weekend (10-20 mph), but winds will subside next week. Relative humidity will be above critical levels. Thus, a **low** wildfire threat is expected this week.

There are 11 <u>active wildfires</u> across the state burning a total of 109 acres.

## **Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**



Breezy to occasionally strong south to southeast winds and high surf will result in a high rip current risk for Panhandle beaches through Sunday, followed by a moderate risk on Monday and Tuesday. A High Surf Advisory is in effect through tonight from Escambia through Okaloosa Counties, with a High Surf Warning starting tonight through Saturday. A High Surf Advisory is also in effect for Walton and Bay Counties on Saturday. Wave heights will build to 7-10' along Panhandle beaches tonight and Saturday, then recede to 2-4' Sunday through Tuesday.

Along the East Coast, there will be a **high rip current risk** through Saturday due to breezy east to southeast winds. Waves will be 5-8' today, subsiding to 3-6' into next week. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect from Volusia to Martin County through this evening. Winds will subside, but swells will remain Sunday through Tuesday, resulting in a **moderate rip current risk**.

West Coast beaches will see a low risk through Tuesday. The exception, though, is Saturday when swells over the Gulf may affect the West Coast beaches. This will result in a moderate rip current risk. The latest rip current outlook for Florida can be found <u>here.</u>

Red Tide has been reported at low concentrations offshore of Collier County and along the coast of Okaloosa County. Respiratory irritation, however, is not expected. For the latest concentration reports, please view the <u>Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission map</u>.

<u>NWS Mobile Daily Hazards</u> <u>NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards</u> <u>NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards</u> <u>NWS Key West Daily Hazards</u> NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities: <u>Pensacola</u> • <u>Panama City</u> • <u>Tallahassee</u> • <u>Gainesville</u> • <u>Jacksonville</u> • <u>Daytona Beach</u> <u>Orlando</u> • <u>Tampa</u> • <u>Fort Myers</u> • <u>West Palm Beach</u> • <u>Miami</u> • <u>Key West</u> <u>Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service</u> For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click <u>here</u>.

Have a great weekend! Cameron Young, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org



