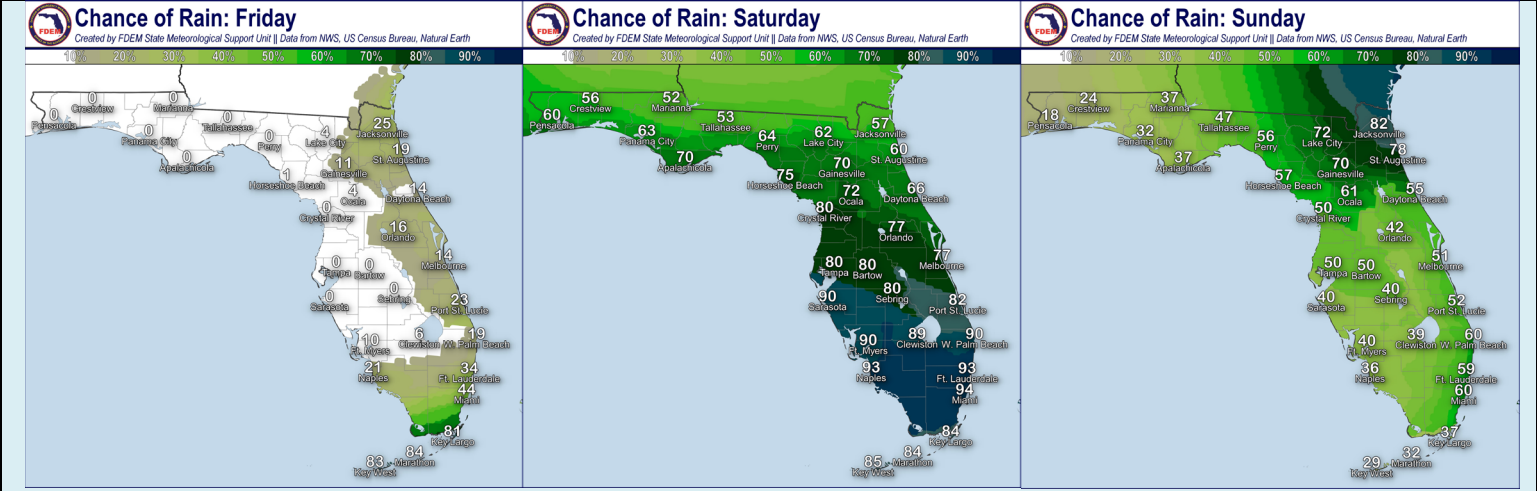
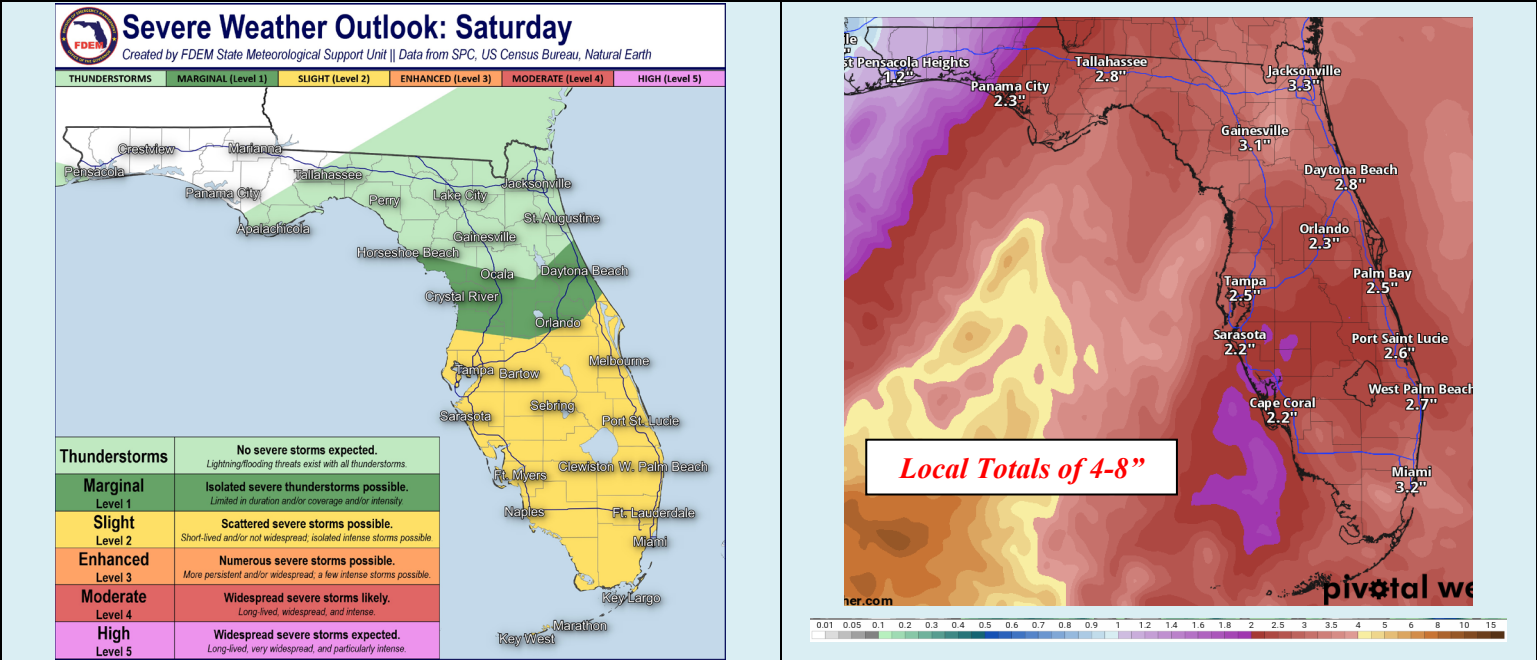


Friday, December 15, 2023					5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook			
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Freezing (Overnight)	Rip Currents
Fri	South FL & Keys		Locally South & Central FL		Keys	Central-E Coast E-Coast& Keys Nature Coast		Statewide Gulf Coast
Sat	Locally Peninsula Panhandle	S. & Central FL N-Peninsula	Peninsula Coastal Panhandle		Statewide Panhandle	Central-E Coast E-Coast, Keys, & Nature Coast		Statewide Gulf Coast
Sun	Locally Peninsula	First & Space Coasts	Peninsula Locally Panhandle		Locally Iso. N- Peninsula	Central-E Coast E-Coast& Keys Nature Coast		Statewide Locally
Mon	Iso. NE Peninsula		Locally Iso. Peninsula			E-Coast & Keys Iso. Nature Coast	Locally N-Panhandle	Panhandle Elsewhere Locally
Tue						Locally Iso. E-Coast & Keys	I-10 Corridor Interior North FL	Locally Statewide Gulf Coast



Chance of Rain: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday



SPC Severe Weather Outlook: Saturday

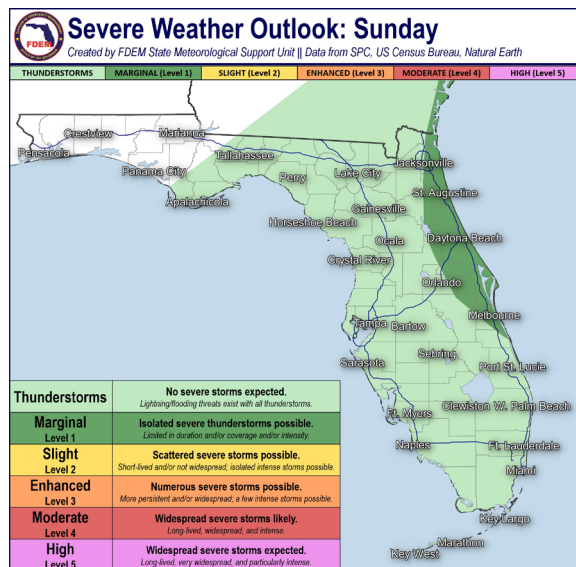
Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Tuesday Night



**...One More Day Of Relatively Dry Conditions Today...Gulf Low Forecast to Develop Tonight, Creating Numerous to Widespread Showers and Thunderstorms Statewide Saturday and Into Sunday...Slight Risk For Severe Weather Across South And Central Florida Saturday...Frequent Lightning, Damaging Wind Gusts (45-65 MPH), A Few Tornadoes, and Heavy Downpours Possible...Slight Risk for Flash Flooding Nearly Statewide Saturday as Heavy Downpours Will Likely Give Way to Elevated Rainfall Totals...Breezy to Strong Winds Expected Over the Next 5 Days With Gusts Of Up to 50 MPH in the Peninsula This Weekend...Wind Advisories in Effect Along the East Coast...Strong, and At Times Gale Force, Winds to Create Large Breaking Waves and Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Statewide Through the Weekend...Coastal Flooding Possible Along Nature Coast, and Atlantic Coast This Weekend... Moderate to High Risk For Rip Currents Statewide...Instances of Minor Flooding Possible In Rivers and Waterways Statewide Into Next Week...Cool and Dry Conditions Return Early Next Week...Sub-Freezing Temperatures Possible In North Florida Monday and Tuesday Night...Wind Chills In the Upper 20s to Low 30s...**

#### Friday – Sunday:

Similar to the last few days, high pressure will maintain relatively dry conditions along the Florida Panhandle, Northwestern Peninsula, and West-Central Florida today. The stalled frontal boundary just south of Florida will allow for scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms along South Florida and the Keys (45-85% chance of rain). Onshore flow will continue to fuel a few scattered showers along the East Coast as well (15-25 mph). A non-tropical Gulf low is forecast to develop in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico and approach the Florida Gulf Coast tonight into Saturday, allowing scattered showers to return to the state tonight (10-40% chance of rain). South Florida and the Keys will continue to see numerous showers overnight thanks to the nearby frontal boundary (50-75% chance of rain). Shower and thunderstorm coverage will increase statewide Saturday as the Gulf low draws closer to the Florida Gulf Coast (60-95% chance of rain). Showers and thunderstorms will become even more widespread Saturday night into early Sunday morning as the Gulf low begins to push into the Florida Gulf Coast (80-100% chance of rain). There is a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across South and Central Florida with a **Marginal Risk** into North-Central Florida Saturday as strong to severe thunderstorms producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), a few tornados, and heavy downpours will be possible. There is also a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across nearly the entire state Saturday with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** elsewhere as abundant tropical moisture will likely give way to heavy rainfall rates, yielding widespread rainfall totals of 2-4” across much of Florida with locally higher rainfall totals of 4-8” possible. A **Flood Watch** remains in effect along Southeast Florida and the Keys through Sunday morning as Southeast Florida and the Keys may see a faster onset of **flooding** and **ponding of water** due to having already received several rounds of heavy rainfall over the last few days. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue statewide Sunday as the Gulf low traverses the state (40-80% chance of rain) before beginning to gradually dissipate Sunday night (5-20% chance of rain). A **Marginal Risk for Severe Weather** will persist along the First and Space Coasts Sunday as bands of **strong to severe thunderstorms** trail behind the Gulf low. Despite no organized risk,



continued heavy rainfall over likely already saturated grounds may quickly give way to isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water**.

High temperatures will remain in the low to middle 60s across the Florida Panhandle over the next 3 days with upper 60s to low 70s in the Northern Peninsula, low to middle 70s in Central Florida,

and middle to upper 70s in South Florida and the Keys. Breezy, and at times gusty, winds will persist statewide with **gusts upwards of 30-40 mph** along the Peninsula and coastal Panhandle today, strengthening to **30-45 mph** Saturday and Sunday. The Florida Panhandle will also see strengthen winds with **gusts upwards of 20-25 mph** today strengthening to **20-30 mph** Saturday and Sunday. **Wind Advisories** are in effect along the entire East Coast where **northeast winds of 20-30 mph with gusts up to 40-45 mph** are possible through Sunday morning. Additional wind hazard products may be issued as **wind gusts reach up to 50 mph** across the Peninsula Saturday and Sunday. Strong, and possibly **gale force**, winds will create **ocean swells** and **hazardous beach and boating conditions** across the state. **Coastal Flood Statements, Advisories, and Warnings** are in effect along the entire Atlantic Coast as **minor coastal flooding and coastal erosion**

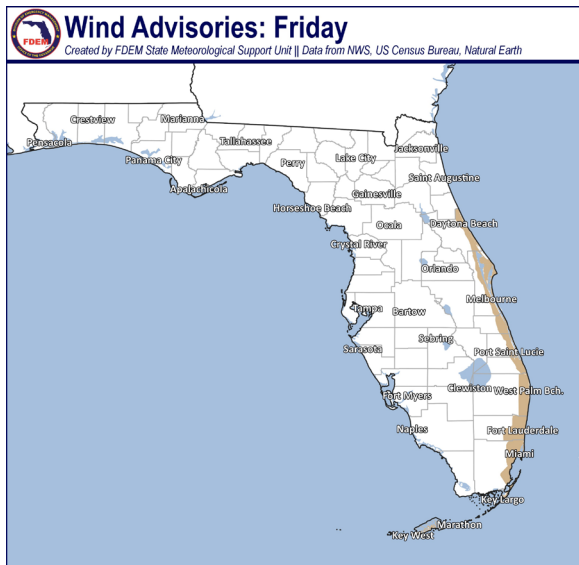
is expected along the Northeast Coast, Southeast Coast, and Keys with **significant coastal flooding and shoreline erosion** possible along the Central-East Coast through Sunday. **Coastal Flood Watches** have been issued along the Nature Coast for Saturday evening through Sunday afternoon as **minor to moderate coastal flooding and coastal erosion** will be possible, causing impacts to coastal roads and inundation of low-lying coastal buildings.

Ahead of the Gulf low this weekend, overnight conditions will remain mild and breezy. Low temperatures will remain in the low to middle 50s across the Florida Panhandle tonight and Saturday night with upper 50s to low 60s across the Northern Peninsula, middle 60s across Central Florida, and upper 60s to low 70s in South Florida and the Keys. Cooler and drier air will begin to move in behind the Gulf low Sunday night, allowing for more pleasant overnight conditions. Low temperatures will fall into the low to middle 40s across the Florida Panhandle overnight Sunday with middle to upper 60s across the Northern Peninsula, low to middle 50s across Central Florida, and middle 50s to upper 60s across South Florida and the Keys. Areas of **patchy fog** and **low clouds** will be possible statewide over saturated grounds overnight Saturday and into Sunday morning.

### Monday – Tuesday:

Another cool start to the work week can be expected in the Panhandle as **wind chills** reach the **middle to upper 30s** just before Sunrise. High pressure will build back in over the eastern U.S. early next week as the Gulf low moves off to the northeast, promoting cool and dry conditions statewide (near 0% chance of rain).

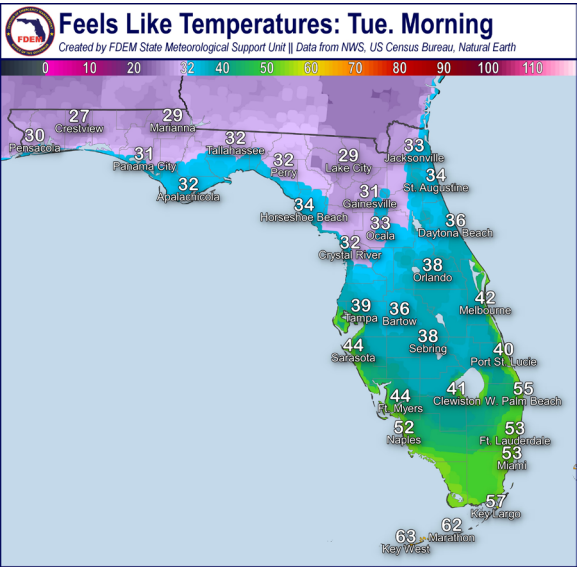
High temperatures will remain warmer Monday in the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida, 60s in Central Florida, and upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida and the Keys. Conditions will cool a few degrees Tuesday with high temperatures in the middle 50s across the Florida Panhandle, middle to upper 50s in the Northern Peninsula, low to middle 60s in Central Florida, and middle 60s to low 70s in South Florida and the Keys. Winds will begin to subside but remain somewhat breezy Monday and Tuesday with northerly to northwesterly winds of around 15 mph and **higher gusts** along the Peninsula and portions of the Florida Panhandle. Relative humidity values will begin to decrease early next week as cooler and drier air returns behind the Gulf low and minimum values dip into the low 30% to middle





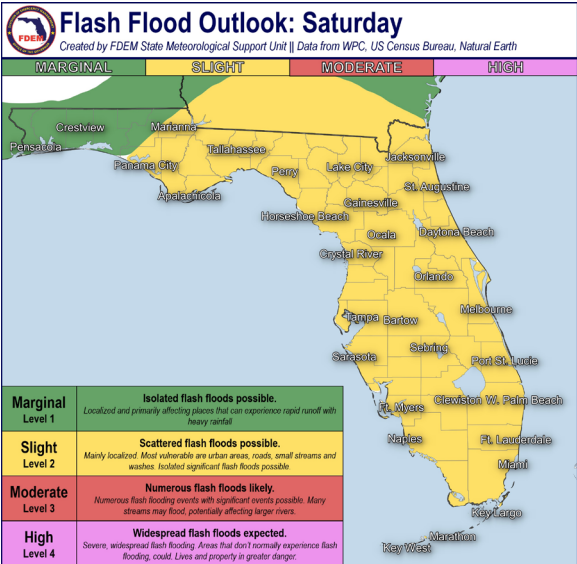
40% at times in North Florida. While **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible in the Panhandle, heavy rainfall this weekend will likely keep the overall wildfire risk low statewide.

Dry and cool conditions will persist into the overnight hours early next week as high pressure builds over the state (near 0% chance of rain). **Sub-freezing temperatures (28-32)** will be possible along and North of the I-10 corridor Monday night with the rest of North Florida falling into the **middle to upper 30s**. Central Florida can expect low temperatures in the low to middle 40s overnight Monday while South Florida and the Keys dip into the upper 40s to low 60s. With breezy conditions lingering overnight Monday and into Tuesday, **wind chills** will create “feels-like” temperatures in the **upper 20s to low 30s** across North Florida Tuesday morning with **upper 30s** in Central Florida and 40s reaching into South Florida. Cooler overnight conditions can be expected Tuesday with **sub-freezing temperatures (28-32)** likely along interior portions of North Florida with **middle 30s** to low 40s closer to the coasts. Low temperatures will fall into the low to middle 40s across Central Florida Tuesday night with middle 50s to low 60s across South Florida and the Keys. **Frost** and **freeze** will be possible in the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee River Valley Monday and Tuesday night thanks to clearing skies and weakening winds.



**Hydrology & Flooding:**

As the lingering stationary frontal boundary along the Florida Keys shifts back to the south today, onshore flow and the return of abundant tropical moisture will continue along the East Coast, South Florida, and the Keys, fueling scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the day. While flooding is not anticipated today, isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out along the Southeast Coast urban corridor and the Florida Keys today. Showers



and thunderstorms will become more widespread and begin to increase in coverage Friday night and Saturday as a non-tropical Gulf low develops in the Southwestern Gulf of Mexico and approaches the state. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across nearly the entire state with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** elsewhere Saturday. Abundant moisture and the approaching Gulf low will give way to heavy rainfall within showers and thunderstorms throughout the day Saturday, likely leading to **localized instances of flooding** across the state throughout the day. During the beginning of the day, **instances of flooding** and **ponding of water** from heavy rainfall will be most likely along urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas as recently dry conditions slow the onset of flooding in less vulnerable areas. As grounds become saturated from continuous and training showers and thunderstorms

later in the day, instances of **flash flooding** will likely become more widespread across the state. A **Flood Watch** remains in effect along Southeast Florida and the Keys through Sunday morning as Southeast Florida and the Keys may see a faster onset of **flooding** and **ponding of water** due to



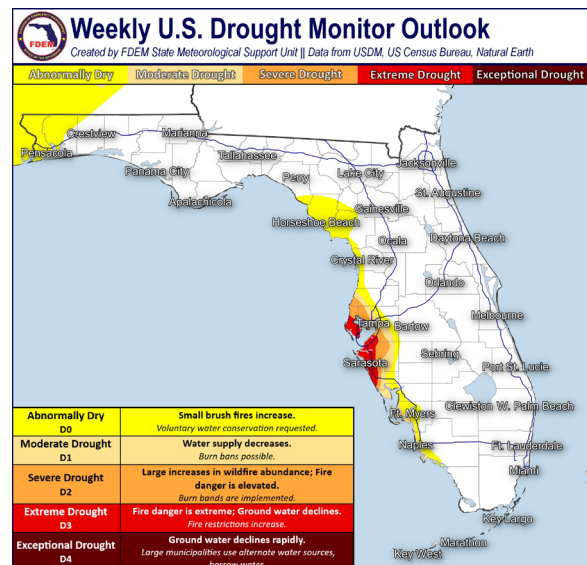
having already received several rounds of heavy rainfall over the last few days. Over the next 3 days, widespread rainfall totals of 2-4" are expected across much of Florida with locally higher rainfall totals of 4-8" possible. There remains uncertainty regarding the exact location of these heavier rainfall totals as this will be *highly dependent upon the eventual track of the Gulf Low*. Scattered showers will persist across much of the state Sunday as the Gulf low begins to move off the northeast. Despite no organized risk, additional heavy rainfall may be possible over already saturated grounds leading to isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water**. While there remains uncertainty regarding exactly where the heaviest rainfall occurs, any location that has received antecedent heavy rainfall may see a quicker onset to **flooding** and **ponding of water**. There is also no organized risk for flash flooding Monday and Tuesday as cooler and drier air will begin to move into the state, preventing showers and thunderstorms from developing.

A **River Flood Warning** is in effect for the [St. Johns at Astor](#) as water levels have reached **minor flood stage** and is expected to continue to see water level rises as elevated wave heights and breezy conditions cause tides to back up into the basin. A **River Flood Warning** also remains in effect for the [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) as water levels remain within **minor flood stage**, but the river is forecast to return to Action Stage (bank-full) today. The [St. Marks near Newport](#), and the [Econfina River near Perry](#) remain within Action Stage, but no additional riverine flooding is expected today. While many mainstem rivers will likely see water level rises in response to anticipated heavy rainfall this weekend, widespread river flooding is not currently expected. The Ochlockonee River, Aucilla River, and further upstream portions of the St. Johns River, as well as smaller basin and more vulnerable rivers and creeks like the Sopchoppy River, may see **minor flooding** over the weekend and into early next week. A **River Flood Warning** has been issued for the Alafia River at Riverview for late Saturday night through Sunday morning as water levels are forecast to reach **minor flood stage** in response to expected heavy rainfall. Rivers, creeks, and waterways across the Peninsula, especially quicker-response rivers and waterways, will likely see water level rises over the weekend and early next week in response to heavy rainfall. Instances of **minor to moderate flooding** cannot be ruled out along more vulnerable rivers and waterways that receive the locally higher rainfall totals across the basins. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.81', which is within the operational band and 1.08' above normal. Lake elevations have fallen approximately 0.08' over the last week. Heavy rainfall expected across the Peninsula over the next few days will likely lead to rises in the lake's elevation.

## Drought & Fire Weather:

Following heavy rainfall across portions of the state last week and over the weekend, drought conditions have further improved on this week's drought monitor update. Abnormally dry conditions remains in place along the Western Panhandle; however, **moderate drought** has been entirely removed from the Panhandle. 90-day rainfall deficits have decreased to 2-5" across the Panhandle. **Severe to extreme drought** has been maintained from Pasco County to Sarasota County, with abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions from Taylor County extending southward to Collier County. Year to date rainfall deficits for areas along the West Coastline from southwest Hillsborough southward through Monroe remain **upwards of 14-24"**. Several areas along the Southwest Florida Coast are continuing to see their **driest year-to-date ever recorded**. Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged, and one day a week watering restrictions remain in

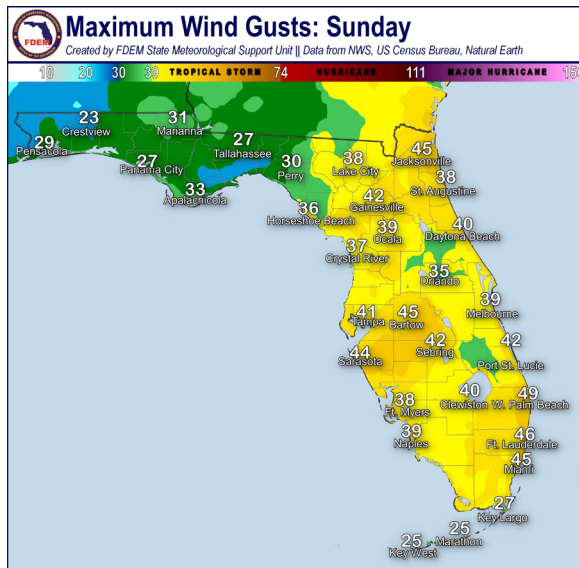


place for several counties. Heavy rainfall expected across the Peninsula this weekend may help to alleviate drought conditions in the Western Peninsula.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **185 (+1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds over the next 3 days as abundant tropical moisture returns thanks to onshore flow and the anticipated approaching Gulf low.

Northeasterly to easterly winds will reach near 15-25 mph through the weekend with portions of the Atlantic Coast reaching wind speeds of **up to 30 mph**. **Wind gusts** are expected to reach **upwards of 30-40 mph** along the Peninsula and coastal Panhandle today, strengthening to **30-45 mph**



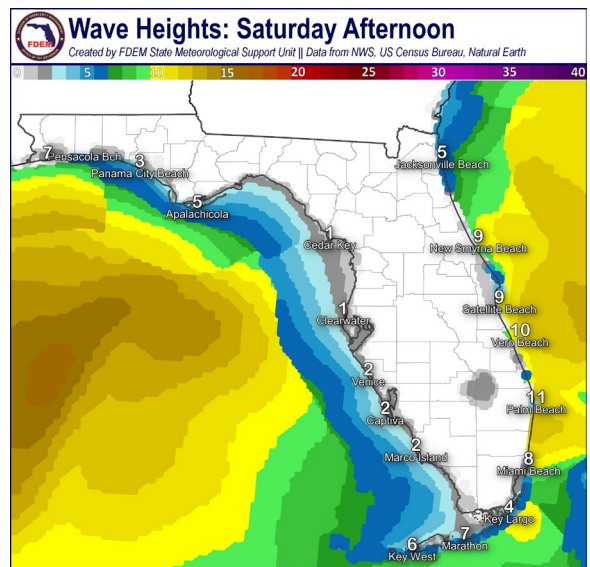
Saturday and Sunday. The Florida Panhandle will also see strengthen winds with **gusts upwards of 20-25 mph** today strengthening to **20-30 mph** Saturday and Sunday. Winds will begin to subside but remain somewhat breezy Monday and Tuesday with northerly to northwesterly winds of around 15 mph and **higher gusts** along the Peninsula and portions of the Florida Panhandle. Relative humidity values will begin to decrease early next week as cooler and drier air returns behind the Gulf low and minimum values dip into the low 30% to middle 40% at times in North Florida. While **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible in the Panhandle, heavy rainfall this weekend will likely keep the overall wildfire risk low statewide. According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 13 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 266 acres (as of 2:05 PM EST).

### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will generally persist statewide over the next 5 days as ocean swells and breezy to gusty conditions persist along the coasts. The Gulf Coast may see a **low to moderate risk** at times over the next 5 days where winds and swells will be somewhat weaker than the rest of the state at times. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Dangerous beach and boating conditions** can be expected statewide with **Gale Warnings**

in effect over coastal waters nearly statewide through Sunday morning and **High Surf Advisories** extending along the East Coast and Western Panhandle through Sunday. **Ocean swells** will continue to develop today as **large breaking waves of 5-12'** are expected in the surf along Southeast and Central-East Coast Florida Beaches with **6-9' wave heights** along the Northeast Coast and Atlantic-facing Key beaches. Panhandle beaches can expect **large breaking waves of 5-8'** in the surf while the Big Bend and Gulf Coast will see **wave heights** reach 2-5' along the immediate coastlines and **5-7'** further offshore within the surf zones. Swells will continue to build along the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf Saturday. **Large breaking waves** will reach **4-9'** in the surf along the Panhandle and Apalachicola while the rest of the Gulf Coast continues to see **wave heights** of around 2-5' along the



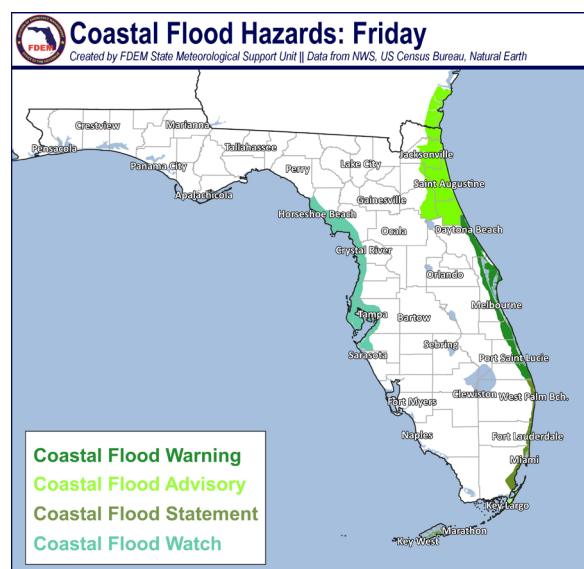


immediate coastline. The Central-East and Southeast Coast will continue to see **large breaking waves of 8-12'** while **wave heights of 6-10'** persist along the Northeast Coast with **4-8'** along the immediate coastline of the Atlantic facing Keys. Ocean swells will linger but shift to the northwest following the passage of the Gulf low Sunday. **Large breaking waves of 5-9'** are anticipated in the surf along all Panhandle and Gulf Coast beaches Sunday. The Northeast Coast will see an increase in wave heights with **6-11' waves** in the surf while the rest of the Atlantic Coast will return to **wave heights** of around **5-9'**. Ocean swells will begin to dissipate early next week as the Gulf low moves into the northeast U.S. and high pressure begins to rebuild over the state. **Wave heights** will generally subside to around 3-6' Monday and to around 1-4' Tuesday across most Florida beaches.

**Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Strong onshore winds will continue to create elevated wave heights and ocean swells along all Florida coastlines. The combination of strong onshore winds, elevated wave heights, and elevated astronomical tides will lead to instances of **coastal flooding** near and during time of high tide along the East Coast, Keys, Big Bend, and Gulf Coast into the weekend. Low-lying properties, roads, and infrastructure may be inundated, and **beach erosion** will be possible along the coastlines. **Coastal Flood Warnings** are in effect along the Central-East Coast into the weekend as strong onshore

winds, elevated tides and wave heights are expected to continue through Saturday during multiple high tide cycles. **Significant coastal flooding and beach erosion** is expected along the coastline through the weekend. Coastal roads may be closed, low lying property will likely be inundated, and **significant shoreline erosion** will be possible. **Coastal Flood Advisories** are in effect along the Florida Keys and Northeast Coast, including the St. Johns River Basin with **Coastal Flood Statements** along the Southeast Coast as **minor coastal flooding and coastal erosion** along low elevation streets, roads, and lots is anticipated near or during times of high tide. The coastal flood threat along the Florida Gulf Coast is entirely dependent upon the track of the Gulf Low. A track further north and west toward the Florida Panhandle would lead to greater coastal flood impacts across the region, whereas a track further south and

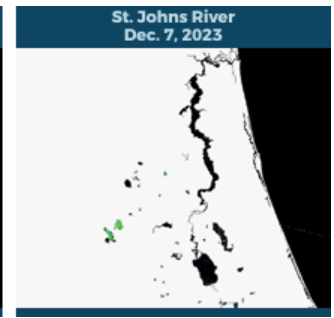
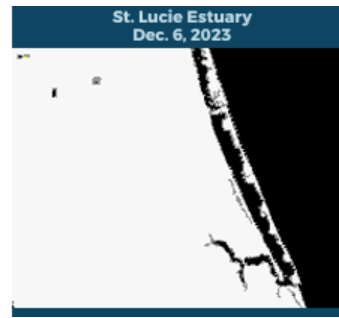
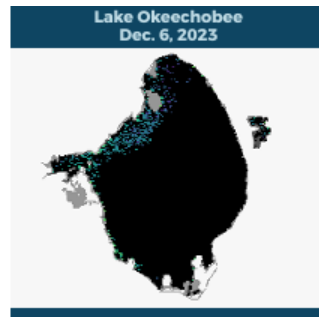
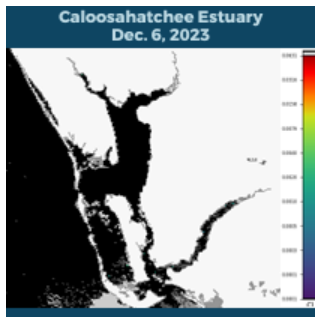


east toward Tampa would severely limit any coastal flooding concerns along the Gulf coastline.

**Coastal Flood Watches** have been issued along the Nature Coast for Saturday evening through Sunday afternoon as **minor to moderate coastal flooding and coastal erosion** may be possible, causing impacts to coastal roads and inundation of low-lying coastal buildings. *Additional coastal products may be issued today and tonight along the East Coast through today. Coastal flooding and beach erosion may further be enhanced with onset heavy rainfall along the beaches and coastlines.* Coastal flooding will likely begin to subside with the dissipating ocean swells early next week; however, **minor coastal flooding** may linger along the Atlantic Coast.

**Blue-Green Algae** has been observed via satellite at low to **moderate bloom potential** on approximately 5-10% of Lake Okeechobee, primarily in nearshore waters on the western half of the lake. Lightly scattered low bloom potential has been observed on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River down to Doctors Lake. Very scattered **moderate bloom potential** has also been observed on visible portions of the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Blue-Green Algae has not been observed on the St. Lucie Estuary.





[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

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Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe!  
Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)



FDEM Statewide 5-Day Weather Outlook  
12.15.23

