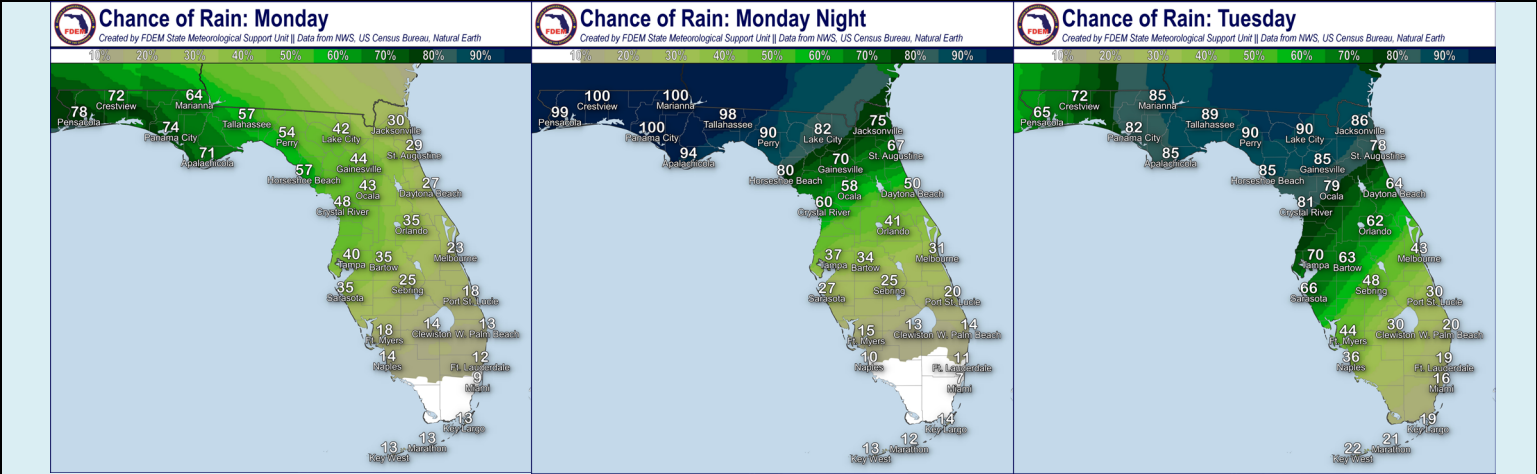
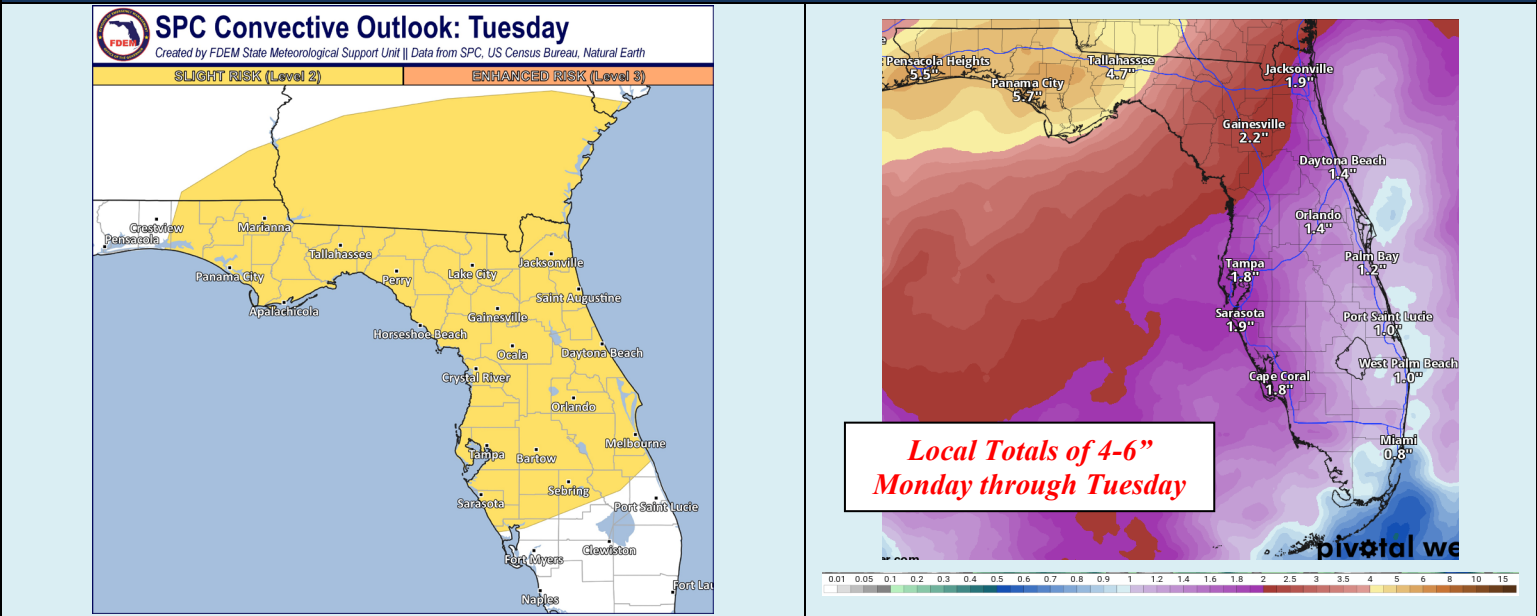


Thursday, January 4, 2023					5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook			
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	River Flooding	Rip Currents
Thu								Panhandle & Gulf Coast Statewide
Fri	FL Panhandle NW Peninsula	Panhandle & W Big Bend	Panhandle & W Big Bend		Panhandle & E-Big Bend		Locally Iso. North FL	Statewide Locally
Sat	Peninsula & Big Bend	Peninsula & Big Bend	Peninsula & Big Bend		Locally Iso. N & Central Peninsula		Locally Iso. North FL	Statewide Locally
Sun							Locally Iso. North FL	Panhandle Statewide Iso. Gulf Coast
Mon	Panhandle North Florida	FL Panhandle North Florida	Panhandle North Florida	Locally Panhandle	FL Panhandle	Locally Apalachee Bay Iso. Statewide	North Florida	Statewide Locally Iso. Gulf Coast
Tue	North Florida Central Florida	N & Central FL	N & Central FL	Locally N & Central FL	Big Bend & N-Peninsula	Locally Apalachee Bay Iso. Statewide	North Florida	Statewide Locally



Chance of Rain: Monday, Monday Night, & Tuesday



SPC Severe Weather Outlook: Tuesday      Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Wednesday Night

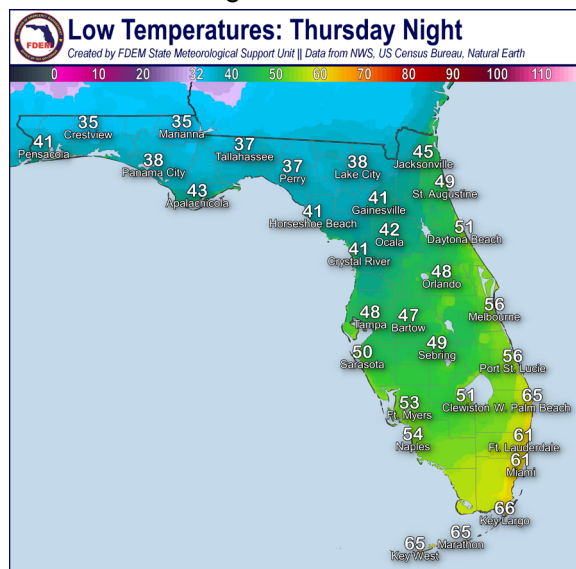


**...Isolated to Scattered Showers Persist In South and Central Florida Today As A Weak Cold Front Progresses Southward...Next System Expected to Bring Marginal Risk of Severe Weather To The Panhandle Friday and To the Peninsula and Big Bend Saturday...Damaging Wind Gusts and A Brief Tornado or Two Possible...Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding Along the Florida Panhandle Friday...Third and Strongest System Of the Period Anticipated Early Next Week...15% Probability (Slight Risk) of Severe Weather Currently Outlooked Along the Panhandle Monday and Much of the State Tuesday...Damaging Wind Gusts, Tornadoes, and Hail May All Be Possible...Slight Risk for Flash Flooding In the Panhandle With a Marginal Risk across the Big Bend Monday...Breezy, And At Times Gusty, Winds Expected Into the Weekend, Strengthening Early Next Week With Winds Likely Reaching Around 20-30 MPH and Higher Gusts Tuesday...Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Statewide...Ocean Swells, Gale Force Winds, and Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Forecast to Develop Nearly Statewide...At Least Minor Coastal Flooding Currently Anticipated Along Vulnerable Apalachee Bay Shorelines...Minor Riverine Flooding May Be Possible Along North Florida Rivers Later This Weekend or Early Next Week...**

#### Thursday:

Isolated to scattered showers can be expected across Central and South Florida this afternoon as a weak cold front continues to sink southward through the region (15-40% chance of rain). High pressure briefly filling in behind the cold front will keep the rest of the state dry throughout the day (near 0-10% chance of rain). Decreasing cloud cover will allow mostly sunny skies to return nearly statewide this afternoon, yielding high temperatures in the upper 50s across the Florida Panhandle, upper 50s to low 60s in the Northern Peninsula, middle 60s to low 70s in Central Florida, and middle to upper 70s elsewhere this afternoon. Breezy conditions will continue throughout the day with gusts of 15-20 mph statewide and **locally higher gusts of 25-30 mph** possible along the immediate East coastline.

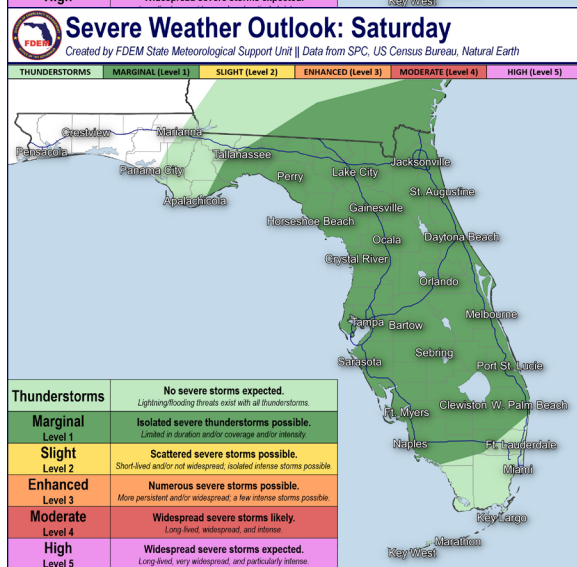
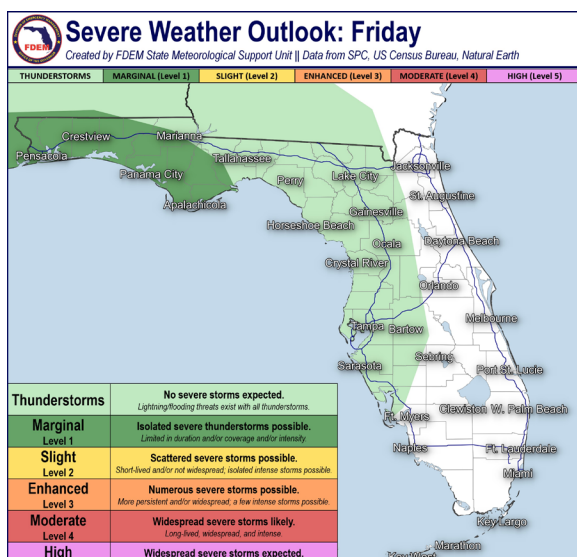
High pressure will continue to fill in behind the sinking cold front overnight, maintaining relatively dry conditions statewide (near 0-10% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the middle 30s to low 40s across the Florida Panhandle and Northwestern Peninsula tonight with low to middle 40s through the rest of the Northern Peninsula, upper 40s to low 50s across Central Florida, low 50s to low 60s across South Florida, and middle 60s along the Keys. Localized areas along and north of the I-10 corridor in the Panhandle and portions of the Suwannee Valley may see **sub-freezing temperatures (28-32)**. With breezy winds across the state, widespread **frost formation** is not expected; however, localized areas of **frost** cannot be ruled out in the Northern Panhandle and Suwannee River Valley in areas that see weaker winds overnight. Breezy conditions will create **feels like temperatures** in the **upper 20s to middle 30s** across the Florida Panhandle and Northwestern Peninsula overnight and into Friday Morning. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** may be possible across the state overnight and into Friday morning, especially along the Florida Panhandle and West-Central Florida.



#### Friday – Sunday:

Relatively dry conditions will persist for one more day across much of the state as high pressure lingers Friday (0-15% chance of rain). The next frontal system will begin to approach the Panhandle Friday afternoon, allowing abundant moisture to return and isolated to scattered showers





to develop along the Panhandle (20-50% chance of rain). The cold front associated with the system will move into the Florida Panhandle and towards the Big Bend overnight Friday, creating more numerous and widespread showers and thunderstorms along the entire Florida Panhandle and into the Northern Peninsula (65-100% chance of rain). Isolated to scattered showers will also begin to make their way into Central Florida as the frontal boundary progresses eastward (20-45% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend Friday as **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), a brief tornado or two, and heavy downpours may be possible Friday evening through Saturday morning. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is also outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** Friday along the Florida Panhandle and Northwestern Peninsula as heavy downpours may give way to instances of **localized flooding** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Shower and thunderstorm activity will shift eastward with the system during the day Saturday, with scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms expected along much of the Peninsula (65-95% chance of rain). Scattered showers will also linger behind the cold front across the Big Bend (30-75% chance of rain). SPC is outlooking a Marginal Risk for Severe Weather across much of the Peninsula and the Eastern Big Bend Saturday as **strong to severe thunderstorms** will continue to be possible. While there is no organized risk for flash flooding, instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** over already

saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas cannot be ruled out. The cold front will progress southeastward through South Florida overnight, allowing high pressure to briefly build back in over the state and creating drier conditions across much of the state (5-25% chance of rain). A few isolated to scattered showers will linger along the frontal boundary through the overnight hours along South Florida and the Keys (35-50% chance of rain). Despite higher pressure rebuilding over the state, isolated to scattered showers will persist across the Peninsula Sunday as moisture lingers (20-50% chance of rain), drying back out Sunday night (near 0-10% chance of rain).

Conditions will gradually warm ahead of the approaching system over the next 2 days. High temperatures will rise into the middle 60s across the Florida Panhandle while the Northern Peninsula reaches the upper 60s to low 70s Friday. The rest of the state will remain in the middle to upper 70s Friday afternoon. By Saturday afternoon, the Panhandle will reach high temperatures in the middle to upper 60s with upper 60s to low 70s in the Big Bend, low 70s in the Northern Peninsula, middle to upper 70s in Central Florida, and upper 70s to low 80s along South Florida and the Keys. Temperatures will once again decrease Sunday following the passage of the next cold front. High temperatures in the low to middle 60s can be expected across North Florida with upper 60s in Central Florida, and 70s elsewhere. Breezy conditions will continue to develop into the weekend with **wind gusts of at least 15-25 mph** expected statewide Friday and **higher gusts of up to 25-40 mph**





possible in the Florida Panhandle and along the Forgotten Coast, Nature Coast, and immediate East coastline. Saturday, **wind gusts** will likely increase to **25-40 mph** across the Florida Panhandle, Nature Coast, West-Central Florida, and along the East Coast. A slight lull in breezy conditions will be possible Sunday in between systems with winds of around 10-15 mph and **higher gusts**.

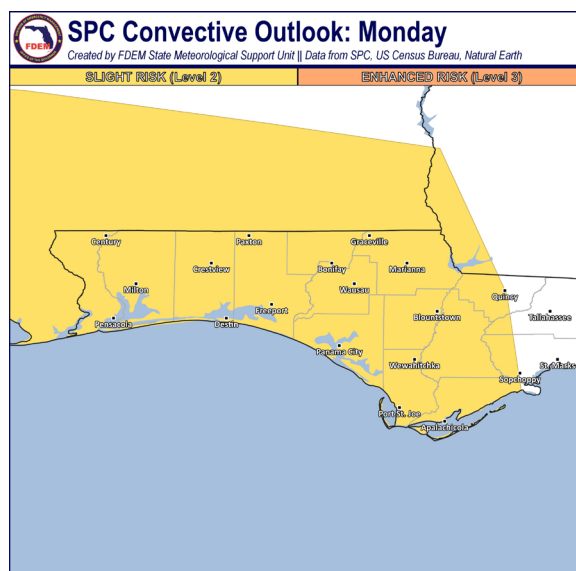
Low temperatures will remain warmer tonight with middle to upper 50s across North Florida, low to middle 60s across Central Florida, and upper 60s to low 70s across South Florida and the Keys. Conditions will gradually begin to cool again behind the cold front with low temperatures falling into the middle to upper 40s across the Florida Panhandle, upper 40s to low 50s in the Northern Peninsula, and upper 50s to low 60s in Central Florida Saturday night. **Feels like temperatures** will likely dip into the **upper 30s** to low 40s across the Florida Panhandle overnight into Sunday morning thanks to breezy conditions. Cool conditions will continue to press southward with the cold front Sunday night with low to middle 40s across the Florida Panhandle, middle to upper 40s in the Northern Peninsula, middle 50s in Central Florida, and upper 50s to upper 60s in South Florida and the Keys. Breezy winds will likely maintain brisk **feels like temperatures** in the **middle 30s** to low 40s across North Florida overnight into Monday morning. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** may be possible across the state overnight and into the following morning hours through the weekend.

### Monday – Tuesday:

The third and strongest system of the 6-day period will begin to yield scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms across the Florida Panhandle Monday as it moves towards the eastern U.S. (55-80% chance of rain). Isolated to scattered showers will also begin to develop along the Peninsula later in the day (20-45% chance of rain). The cold front associated with the system will approach the Panhandle Monday night, creating more widespread showers and thunderstorms across North Florida (60-100% chance of rain). While a categorical outlook has not yet been issued for severe weather, the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **15% probability**, or roughly a **slight risk (level 2 of 5)**, of **severe thunderstorms** along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend Monday. There is potential for **significant severe thunderstorms** producing all modes of severe weather, including

tornadoes, damaging wind gusts, and hail, as the system approaches. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle Monday with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending across the Big Bend into the Northwestern Peninsula as heavy downpours will likely give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** over already saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will persist across North Florida and into Central Florida Tuesday and Tuesday night as the cold front makes its way eastward across the state (65-95% chance of rain). Isolated to scattered showers can be expected to persist across the rest of the state Tuesday and statewide Tuesday night (30-60% chance of rain). SPC is also outlooking a **15% probability** of **severe thunderstorms** across much of the state Tuesday as the potential for **significant severe weather** persists with the advancing cold front. While a flash flood outlook has not yet been issued for Tuesday, additional heavy downpours will likely continue to give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** over already saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas.

Conditions will warm early next week ahead of the cold front. High temperatures will remain in the low to middle 60s across the Florida Panhandle Monday afternoon with middle to upper 60s across the Northern Peninsula, low to middle 70s across Central Florida, and middle to upper 70s elsewhere.

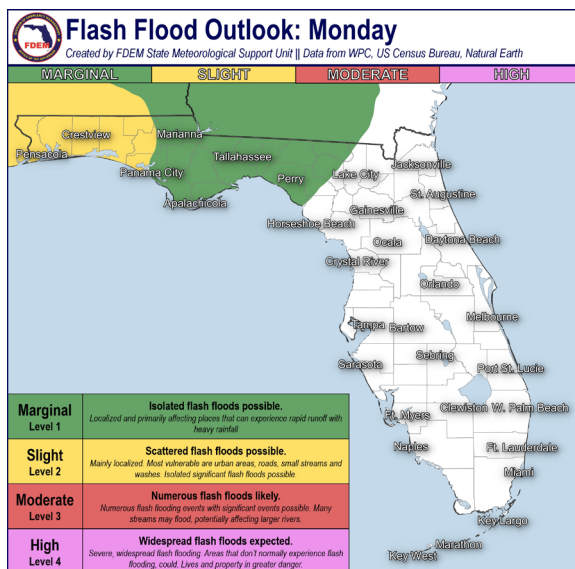


By Tuesday afternoon, high temperatures will rise into the upper 60s to low 70s across the Florida Panhandle, low to middle 70s across the Northern Peninsula, and upper 70s to low 80s elsewhere. Breezy conditions will redevelop early next week with winds of around 10-15 mph and **higher gusts** expected Monday and **winds of around 20-30 mph** with **higher gusts** anticipated Tuesday.

Slightly warmer overnight conditions will persist Monday, dropping back down Tuesday as a cooler and drier air mass filters in behind the cold front. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 50s across the Florida Panhandle, upper 50s to low 60s across the Northern Peninsula, middle 60s across Central Florida, and upper 60s to low 70s elsewhere Monday night. Tuesday night, low temperatures will fall back into in the **upper 30s** to low 40s across the Florida Panhandle, middle 40s to low 50s in the Northern Peninsula, middle 50s to low 60s in Central Florida, upper 50s to middle 60s in South Florida, and low 70s along the Keys. With breezy, and at times gusty, winds anticipated Tuesday, **feels like temperatures** will likely reach the **upper 20s to low 30s** across the Panhandle, **middle 30s** across the Big Bend, and **upper 30s** to middle 40s across North Florida overnight and into Wednesday morning.

## Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding today. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms capable of producing heavy downpours will develop along the Florida Panhandle Friday evening and overnight into Saturday morning as a cold front moves over the state. Widespread rainfall totals of 1-2" can be expected with locally higher totals of 2-4" possible. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** Friday across the Florida Panhandle and Northwestern Peninsula as heavy rainfall may give way to localized **instances of flooding** and **ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Despite no organized risk for flash flooding on Saturday, scattered to numerous showers will shift over the Peninsula as the



cold front continues eastward. Heavy downpours within these showers and isolated thunderstorms may continue to give way to isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas along the Northern and Central Peninsula. Relatively dry conditions will return behind the cold front as high pressure temporarily builds back in, and flash flooding is not anticipated Sunday. WPC is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle Monday with a **Marginal Risk** extending across the Big Bend into the Northwestern Peninsula as heavy downpours will likely give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** over already saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas as the third and strongest system on the period begins to impact the state. While a flash flood outlook has not yet been issued for Tuesday, instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** will likely

continue to be possible over already saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas as scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms shift eastward over North Florida and into Central Florida. As this system moves through Monday and Tuesday, additional widespread rainfall totals of 2-4" with **locally higher totals** of 4-6" is currently anticipated. For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/fl/).

All Florida rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways have fallen below flood stage, and there are no River Flood Warnings in effect. Several rivers across North Florida remain in Action Stage (bank-full); however, there are no additional riverine flooding concerns today. Rivers and waterways across North Florida will likely see water levels rise in response to heavy rainfall forecast over the region late



Friday into Saturday. Several rivers will reach action stage or get close to bank-full, and instances of **minor riverine flooding** cannot be ruled out along already elevated rivers that receive locally higher rainfall totals across the basin. Depending on how rivers respond to the rainfall event on Friday and Saturday, some rivers will likely already be elevated going into the beginning of the week. Heavy rainfall currently forecast to occur across North Florida Monday and Tuesday may introduce further water level rises and a few rivers could reach **minor flood stage**, including along portions of the Withlacoochee, Ochlocknee, and the along the Florida reach of the Choctawhatchee River. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

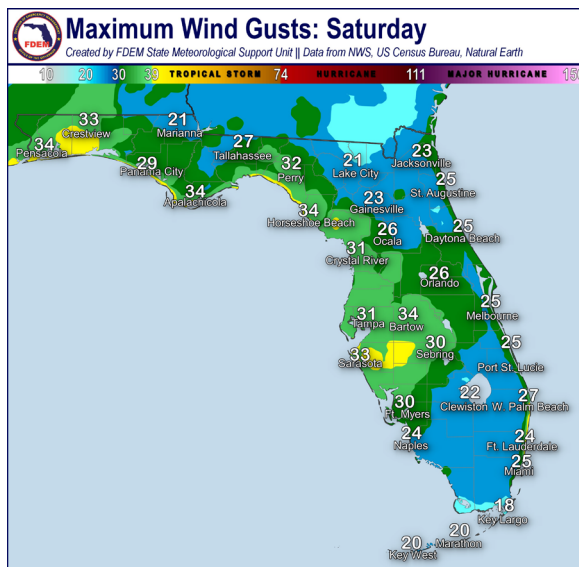
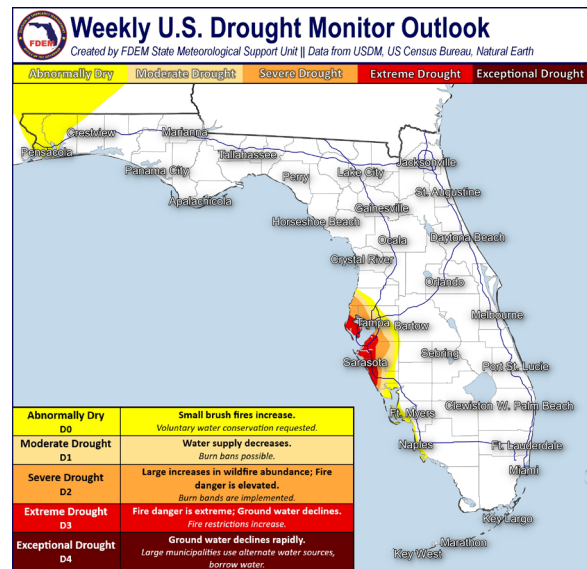
Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.95', which is within the operational band and 1.34' above normal. Lake elevations have fallen 0.01' over the past week. Limited rainfall across South Florida over the next 6 days may allow water levels to hold steady or continue decreasing.

## Drought & Fire Weather:

Minimal changes were made to this week's drought monitor update. The most noticeable differences are the expansion of Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions in the Panhandle and the addition of **moderate drought** conditions along the far Northwestern tip of the Panhandle due to little precipitation and decreasing streamflows. Ongoing **severe to extreme drought conditions** continue for West-Central Florida where year-to-date rainfall deficits are 20-22" below normal. The Ruskin, Sarasota-Bradenton and Venice areas continue to experience their **driest year-to-date** on record. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal chances for rainfall during the month of January across the Peninsula, which should help to slowly ease drought conditions.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **84 (-2)** 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).

Several weather systems moving through the state over the next 6 days will keep moisture elevated across the state, yielding relative humidity values above critical thresholds. Breezy winds will



generally persist statewide as well thanks to these systems. Northerly winds gusting to around 15-20 mph statewide with **locally higher gusts of 25-30 mph** possible along the immediate East coastline can be expected today. Breezy conditions will continue to develop into the weekend with easterly winds **gusting to at least 15-25 mph** expected statewide Friday and **higher gusts of up to 25-40 mph** possible in the Florida Panhandle and along the Forgotten Coast, Nature Coast, and immediate East coastline. Saturday, westerly to southwesterly winds will likely strengthen with **gusts of 25-40 mph** across the Florida Panhandle, Nature Coast, West-Central Florida, and along the East Coast. A slight lull in breezy conditions will be possible Sunday in between systems with northerly to northwesterly winds of around 10-15 mph and **higher gusts**. Breezy conditions will redevelop early next week with easterly





winds of around 10-15 mph and **higher gusts** expected Monday and southwesterly **winds of around 20-30 mph** with **higher gusts** anticipated Tuesday. Wind products will likely be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) as needed over the next 6 days as these strong winds develop. According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 7 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 129 acres (as of 2:55 PM EST).

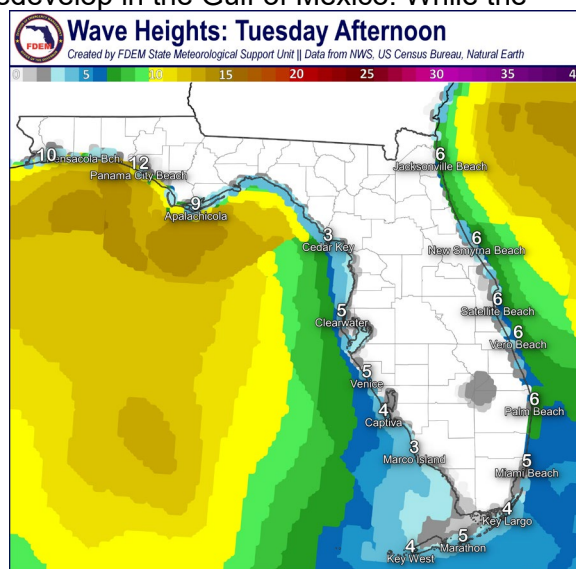
### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** can be expected statewide today as breezy winds strengthen along the coasts and a dangerous longshore current develops along the East Coast. Breezy, and at times **gale force**, winds and **ocean swells** will continue to develop across much of Florida over the next 6 days as weather systems move through, maintaining a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** statewide into early next week. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Wave heights** of around 2-4' can generally be expected along all Florida beaches this afternoon with **locally higher wave heights** of 5-6' possible in the surf along the Gulf Coast. **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** will be possible along the Panhandle, Gulf Coast, and East Coast throughout the day as breezy winds and ocean swells continue to develop. The Florida Keys will see wave heights remain at 1-2' with locally 3' possible. Wave heights will remain around 2-4' along the Atlantic Coast Friday afternoon with waves settling to 1-2' along the Gulf Coast. On the other hand, Panhandle beaches will see an increase in **wave heights** to 3-6' as the next system approaches. Swells will develop in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Florida East Coast Saturday as an incoming cold front creates breezy, and possibly **gale force**, winds. **Large breaking waves** of 5-6' are forecast to develop along the Florida Panhandle with **breaking waves** of around 3-6' along the East Coast Saturday afternoon. **High Surf Advisories** may be issued for portions of the Panhandle as swells begin to impact the coastlines and **dangerous beach and boating conditions** develop. Gulf Coast and Key beaches can also expect to see a rise in wave heights on Saturday with **breaking waves** of around 2-5' in the surf. Swells will quickly begin to dissipate with wave heights of around 1-3' expected statewide Sunday afternoon as winds temporarily calm. As the third and strongest system begins to approach the state Monday, ocean swells will redevelop in the Gulf of Mexico. While the majority of beaches will see wave heights of around 2-4' Monday afternoon, Panhandle beaches will see **wave heights** rise to 3-7'. Strong to **gale force** winds will further develop across the Sunshine State Tuesday, building swells across the Gulf of Mexico and along the Florida East Coast. **Dangerous large breaking waves of 10-15'** in the surf are currently forecast along the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend Tuesday afternoon. Further south along the Gulf Coast, wave heights will reach 4-7' in the surf with locally higher breaking waves possible. The East Coast is anticipated to see **wave heights** of around 6-9' develop while the Keys see **wave heights** of around 4-6'. **High Surf Advisories** will likely be issued along the Panhandle and may be necessary along portions of the Gulf and East Coast as these **large breaking waves** begin to impact the coast late Monday or early Tuesday.

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

Coastal flooding is not currently anticipated over the next 4 days. There remains uncertainty as to where and the extent of coastal flooding may occur along Florida coastlines Monday night and Tuesday as the third and strongest storm system moves through. **Gale force winds** and storm force wind gusts over the Gulf will likely push large waves and quite a bit of saltwater onto shorelines,



especially along the more vulnerable shorelines of Apalachee Bay. While the timing of the event in relation to the timing of the high tide cycle will be a main determining factor in the extent of coastal flooding to be received, there is an increasing likelihood that the event will overlap with a high tide. Therefore, there is a good chance that the Panhandle and Big Bend Coastlines will see instances of at least **minor coastal** flooding near or during times of high tide Monday night and Tuesday. Instances of **minor coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out along other vulnerable shorelines across the state as breezy and at times gusty conditions and ocean swells develop with the system. Coastal flood products will likely be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) later this weekend or early next week as necessary.

[Blue-Green Algae](#) has been observed via satellite at scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake Okeechobee, primarily in nearshore waters along the northwestern and southeastern shores of the lake. Lightly scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** has been observed on Lake George and on the mainstem of the St. Johns River down to Highway 295 Bridge. Very scattered low to moderate bloom potential has also been observed in both upper and lower reaches 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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**For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:**

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Have a wonderful and safe weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

