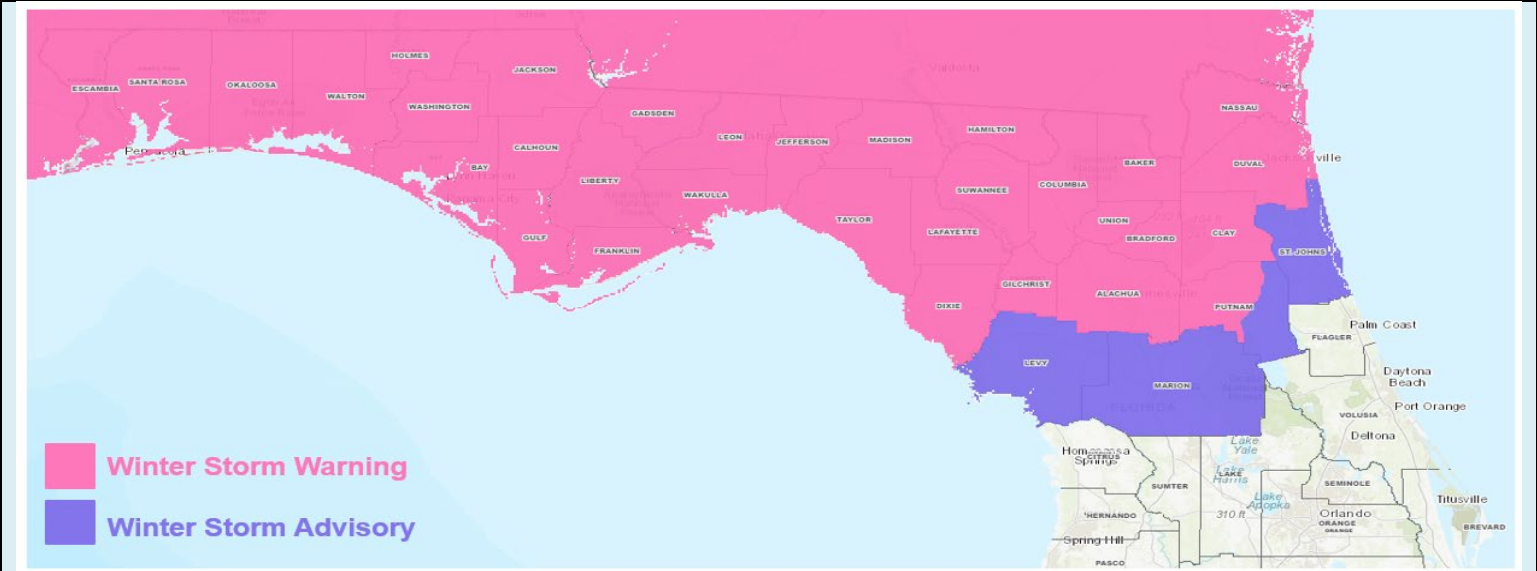
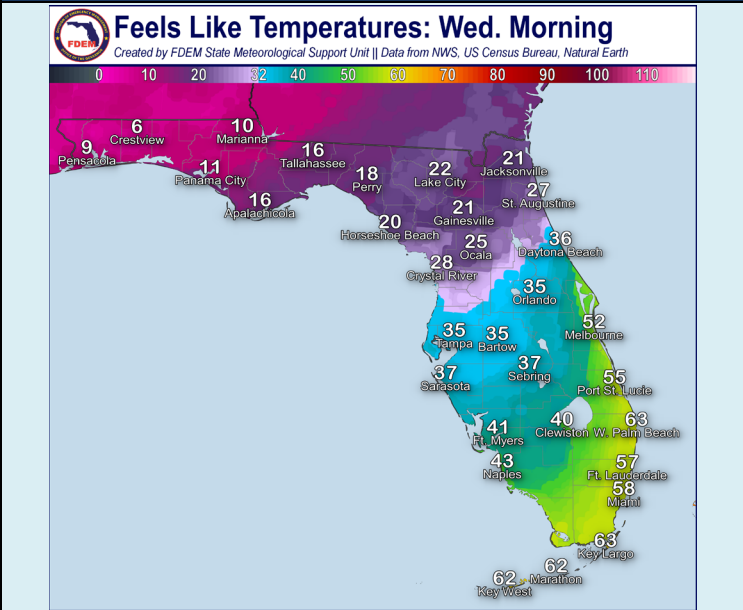


Tuesday, January 21, 2025				5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook				
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Damaging/ Wind Hail	Snow & Sleet	Freezing Rain/Ice	Freezing (Overnight)	Wind Chill (Overnight)	Coastal Flooding	Rip Currents
Tue			Panhandle Big Bend North-Central	Suwannee Big Bend E Panhandle	North Florida Nature Coast North-Central	Panhandle North FL Central FL		Statewide
Wed			Panhandle Big Bend North-Central	Suwannee Big Bend E Panhandle	North Florida Big Bend North-Central	Panhandle North FL Nature Coast	Locally Northeast Florida & Space Coast	Statewide
Thu					North Florida Northeast FL Nature Coast	North Florida Central FL Int. South FL	Locally Northeast Florida & Space Coast	Florida East Coast Elsewhere
Fri					North Florida Nature Coast Central FL	Suwannee Valley North & Central Peninsula	Locally Northeast Florida & Space Coast	Statewide Florida Panhandle
Sat					North I-10 North Florida		Locally Northeast Florida & Space Coast	Florida East Coast Elsewhere



Winter Storm Warnings (Pink) & Winter Weather Advisories (Violet) in Effect



Feels-Like Temperatures: Tonight

Heavy, Blowing Snow Possible

Dangerous, Potentially Life-Threatening Conditions on Roadways During the Next Few Hours

Key Points:

- A zone of better lift is taking shape over southeast AL and the FL Panhandle, which could lead to potentially heavy snow as it moves eastward.
- Gusty winds of 25-30 mph combined with the heavy snow may lead to blowing snow and near whiteout conditions during the next few hours.
- This could quickly become a very dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation if out driving, especially if you get stranded without protection from the cold or a winter survival kit.

Potential Impacts

- Extremely Dangerous Driving Conditions
- Road Closures Possible
- Some Blowing Snow Possible

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Tallahassee, Florida
weather.gov/tallahassee
@NWS_Tallahassee

Updated: 2:15 pm ET Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Hazardous Winter Driving Developing: North Florida



...Significant and Highly Impactful Winter Storm Unfolding Along the Gulf Coast...Historic and Record-Breaking Snowfall Possible for Florida Panhandle Locations...All Modes of Winter Weather Possible Along the I-10 Corridor Including Snow, Sleet, and Freezing Rain...Potentially Significant Ice Accretions Possible for Eastern Florida Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley...Winter Storm Warnings in Effect Until Wednesday...Extremely Dangerous Cold Temperatures and Wind Chills Expected For Much of Work Week...

Tuesday & Wednesday:

A winter storm will continue to unfold along the northern Gulf Coast today into Wednesday, bringing the risk of all modes of wintry precipitation including snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the North Florida I-10 corridor. This could be a historic and record-breaking wintertime weather event for several Florida Panhandle locations; observing the latest traffic cameras along the I-10 corridor, heavy snow bands are occurring with gusty winds of 25-30 mph causing **blowing snow and near whiteout conditions**. While everywhere could see a mixture of winter precipitation this afternoon and tonight, areas further north and west in the system are more likely to get snow and areas further south and east in the system are more likely to get sleet and/or freezing rain. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches are forecast across portions of the Florida Panhandle, with computer forecast models showing the potential for a localized heavier band of snowfall possible over portions of the Florida Panhandle. **Locally enhanced snowfall amounts in excess of 4 to 6 inches** cannot be ruled out. Widespread ice accretions of 0.1 to 0.25 inch is currently forecast from the eastern Florida Big Bend and into Northeast Florida; there is a chance for **significant and very impactful ice accumulation** across portions of the Florida Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley exceeding 0.5 inch possible. If realized, significant impacts to trees, powerlines, and roadways would be likely.

Winter Storm Warnings remain in effect for North Florida this afternoon into Wednesday, with **Winter Weather Advisories** now in effect for the southern Florida Big Bend, North-Central Florida, and the southern St. Johns River Valley. While wintry precipitation will generally taper off from west to east later tonight into Wednesday morning; **hazardous roadway and driving conditions** can be expected to linger well throughout the Wednesday daytime hours as temperatures struggle to rise above freezing. Any untreated roadway, bridge/overpass, or elevated surface will likely experience dangerous conditions into Wednesday afternoon.

Regardless of wintry precipitation, **extremely cold and dangerous wind chills** are expected overnight. Forecast **wind chills or feels like temperatures** look to reach the **single digits to lower 10s** along the Florida Panhandle and eastern Florida Big Bend. **Extreme Cold Warnings** are in effect for the Florida Panhandle through Wednesday morning, with **Freeze Warnings** in effect for North-Central and Northeast Florida. If there is more snow and ice accumulation, temperatures may fall faster and reach even colder temperatures than currently forecast. We urge all North Florida residents to take this winter system seriously; cold weather preparations east of the US-231 corridor should be **ruined to completion** this afternoon and be prepared to lose power and avoid travel for a couple days. Be sure to check on your neighbors, family, and friends; especially the elderly or the other vulnerable populations. Practice the 5 Ps of cold weather safety including pipes, pets, plants, people, and practice fire safety. Playing in the snow is **FUN** but also make sure you are dressed warmly in loose fitting layers and change into warm/dry clothing as soon as you come back inside to avoid developing symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite.

Thursday – Saturday:

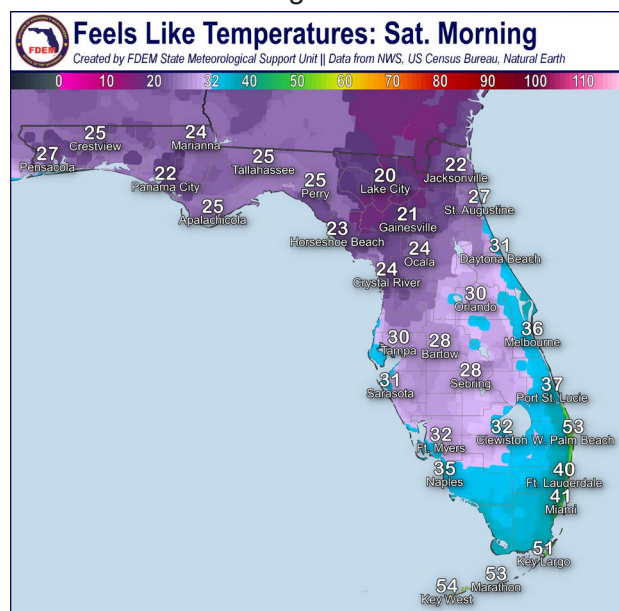
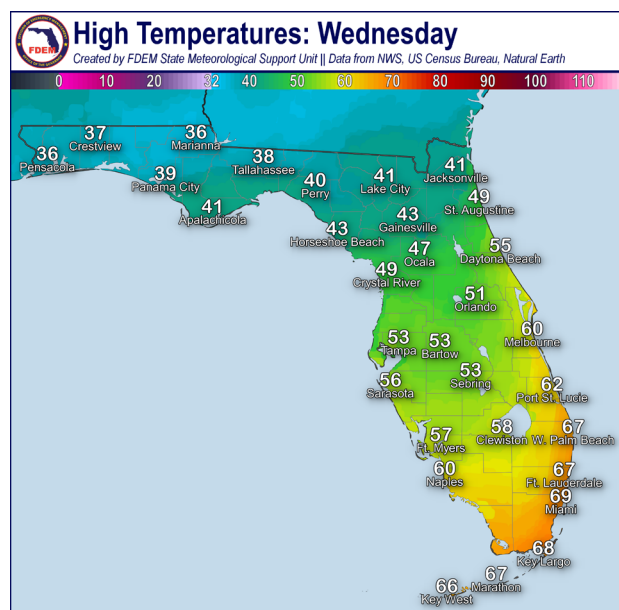
Black ice will be possible early Thursday morning across portions of North Florida, especially in any shady spots that did not fully dry out Wednesday and were able to **re-freeze** overnight. Partly cloudy skies can be expected on Thursday throughout the state as the low pressure system off the Southeast U.S coast continues to move away. From Northeast Florida and throughout the Peninsula, mostly along the I-95 corridor, isolated to widely scattered showers will continue on Thursday with the help of the low off the coast and an upper-level feature moving overhead as a cold front moving through



(20-50% chance of rain). Localized instances of **patchy black ice** cannot be ruled out across portions of Northeast Florida for any rainfall that occurs during the daytime, then freezes overnight Thursday and into Friday morning. As the low pressure system continues to move away from the U.S. eastern seaboard, strong, arctic high pressure will move in across the Southeast U.S. and into Florida. A few showers may linger Friday morning across South Florida, but drier air will be moving southward (10-20% chance of rain). Mostly sunny conditions can be expected to return across the Sunshine State by Friday, with a few passing clouds on Friday and persist into Saturday. However, despite the increasing sunshine later in the week temperatures will still remain below and well-below normal for the time of year.

Increasing sunshine across North Florida will allow for slightly warmer temperatures in the 40s Thursday afternoon. Afternoon feels-like temperatures will only keep to the middle to upper 30s across North Florida, with isolated instances of in the low 30s along the Panhandle. Throughout Central Florida high temperatures will reach the upper 40s to low 50s, while South Florida will see high temperatures in the 60s and low 70s. High temperatures on Friday will gradually increase across North Florida reaching the middle to upper 40s, low to middle 50s across Central Florida and upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida. By Saturday, high temperatures will reach the upper 40s to low 50s across North Florida, middle 50s to low 60s across Central Florida and 60s to low 70s across South Florida.

Widespread freeze can be expected overnight each night Thursday and into Saturday across North Florida and expect **Cold Weather Advisories** and **Freeze Warning**. Low temperatures Thursday will fall into the **low 20s** across the Panhandle, **middle 20s** across the Big Bend, and **upper 20s to low 30s** across Northeast Florida and Nature Coast. While mostly dry conditions should be expected, any shaded areas that have not been allowed to dry out may create instances of **patchy black ice** early Friday morning. Feel-like temperatures will fall into the **teens and 20s** early Friday morning throughout North Florida and **upper 20s to low 30s** through the I-4 corridor. Throughout Central Florida low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 30s and low 40s, while South Florida can expect low temperatures in the middle to upper 40s and low 50s. Cold air will sink southward deep into Florida overnight Friday and into Saturday morning. **Low temperatures in the 20s** can be expected across interior North Florida towards the I-95 corridor and **upper 20s to low 30s** across the coastal Panhandle and Northeast Florida. Throughout the Suwannee Valley and Nature Coast low temperatures will fall into the **upper 20s to middle 30s**. Interior Central Florida can expect low temperatures in the middle 30s, with coastal areas in the upper 30s to low 40s. South Florida can also expect to see low temperatures in the 40s to low 50s. Another round of dangerous wind chills can be expected early Saturday morning throughout North Florida with **feels-like temperatures in the upper teens to 20s**.



Feels-like temperatures in the middle to upper 20s can be expected through interior Central Florida towards Lake Okeechobee, with coastal areas having **feel-like temperatures in the low to middle 30s**. South Florida can expect to see feel-like temperatures in to **middle to upper 30s** across interior portions of South Florida. Widespread freeze can be expected, and Cold Weather Advisories will likely extend well into the I-4 corridor for Saturday morning. Temperatures will finally begin to gradually increase Saturday night, but the I-10 corridor can still expect to see **low temperatures near or below freezing (28-33-degrees)**. Throughout the rest of North Florida and into Nature Coast, low temperatures will be in the middle to upper 30s. Across Central Florida low temperatures will fall into the 40s and low 50s closer towards the coast. South Florida can expect to see low temperatures return back into the upper 40s to upper 50s, with low to middle 60s across Southeast Florida and the Keys. Feels-like temperatures Sunday morning across the I-10 corridor will remain **near and below freezing (29-33-degrees)** and in the middle to upper 30s throughout North Florida and into Nature Coast.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk of flash flooding across Florida during the next 5 days. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There is currently no river flooding concerns throughout Florida. A few quicker-response river basins over Northeast and North-Central Florida are currently running or are forecast to reach Action Stage (bank-full) throughout the forecast period; however, precipitation amounts associated with the rainfall ahead and the liquid-equivalent precipitation during the winter weather system will not significantly raise water levels. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 14.56 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.15 feet below normal for this time of year.

Fire Weather:

Some improvements to ongoing drought conditions have been noted along the Florida Panhandle with the latest [Drought Monitor](#) (1/16) in response to widespread rainfall totals upwards of 1.5" and improved soil moisture. **Moderate drought** conditions have been removed from the Florida Panhandle; however, *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* conditions persist across portions of the Northern Panhandle, Central Florida Panhandle and western Forgotten Coastline. On the other hand, **moderate drought** across the Northern Peninsula were expanded further southward towards the I-4 corridor on last week's Drought Monitor update where 90-day precipitation deficits exceed 5". *Abnormally Dry* conditions remain in place elsewhere through nearly all of Central and South Florida. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal rainfall and below normal temperatures over the next week or so which may allow for marginal improvements to ongoing drought conditions.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **281** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **10** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Manatee, Palm Beach, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Relative humidity values are forecast to remain well above critical thresholds over the next 5 days, courtesy of the active weather pattern. Wind speeds and gusts, largely out of the north, will yield breezy to gusty conditions nearly statewide; locally greater wind gusts near and along the immediate coastlines can be expected. The overall wildfire threat across Florida remains low during the forecast period, with relative humidity values only dropping into the 40s throughout interior North-Central Florida Friday and Saturday. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 12 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 80 acres.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

An **elevated risk of rip currents** can be expected for all Florida beaches during the next 5 days. A **high risk of rip currents** can be expected statewide today and Wednesday, courtesy of our



advancing wintertime Gulf Low. Periods of **moderate risk** conditions return to the Florida Panhandle and West Florida Coast Thursday and into the weekend; however, quick escalations back to **high risk** conditions cannot be ruled out. A **high risk of rip currents** continues along the Florida East Coast well into the weekend, due to persistent strong northerly winds. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

The active winter weather pattern will maintain **elevated wave heights** along many Florida coastlines throughout the forecast period. Breakers of 2-4' today along the Gulf and Atlantic coastlines will be building through the overnight hours into Wednesday, courtesy of our wintertime Gulf Low. By Wednesday, **wave heights** of 5-7' can be expected along the Florida East Coast, with **localized breakers** reaching 8-9' possible nearshore the Treasure Coast. **Elevated wave heights** of 4-6' continue for the Atlantic Coast on Thursday, with isolated **breakers in the surf zone** of 7' likely. Seas over the adjacent Gulf waters will begin to subside Friday and Saturday, with **wave heights** returning to 3-5' (locally 6') for the eastern Florida coastline.

Organized coastal flooding is not forecast over the next 5 days, at this time; however, **Coastal Flood Watches, Warnings, or Advisories** may be warranted for portions of the Northeast Florida coastline and into the northern Space Coast as strong northerly winds bring long-period swell to vulnerable beaches and coastlines. **Minor tidal flooding** will be possible near or around times of high tide along St. Johns and Flagler County beaches, with instances of **minor to moderate coastal flooding** and beach erosion likely primarily south of St. Augustine to the Cape.

Red Tide has been observed in **98** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast as of 1/15/2025. Background to **low concentrations** were observed along Pinellas County, with background to **medium concentrations** in Manatee, Lee, Collier. And offshore Monroe Counties and background to **high concentrations** in Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. Very low concentrations were observed in one sample from Levy County. Forecasts predict a variable movement of surface and subsurface waters over the next 3.5 days. Fish kills and respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide were reported over the past week along Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Monroe, and Collier Counties.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** report shows algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at 3 sites. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows sparsely **scattered low to moderate bloom potential** along the shoreline on the western half of the lake. Sparsely **scattered low to moderate bloom potential** was also observed throughout the lower half of the Caloosahatchee Estuary as well as on Lake George and mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Jacksonville. There was no bloom potential observed throughout 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](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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[Orlando](#) [Tampa](#) [Fort Myers](#) [West Palm Beach](#) [Miami](#) [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful rest of the week!

Stay safe & warm!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist
Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

