

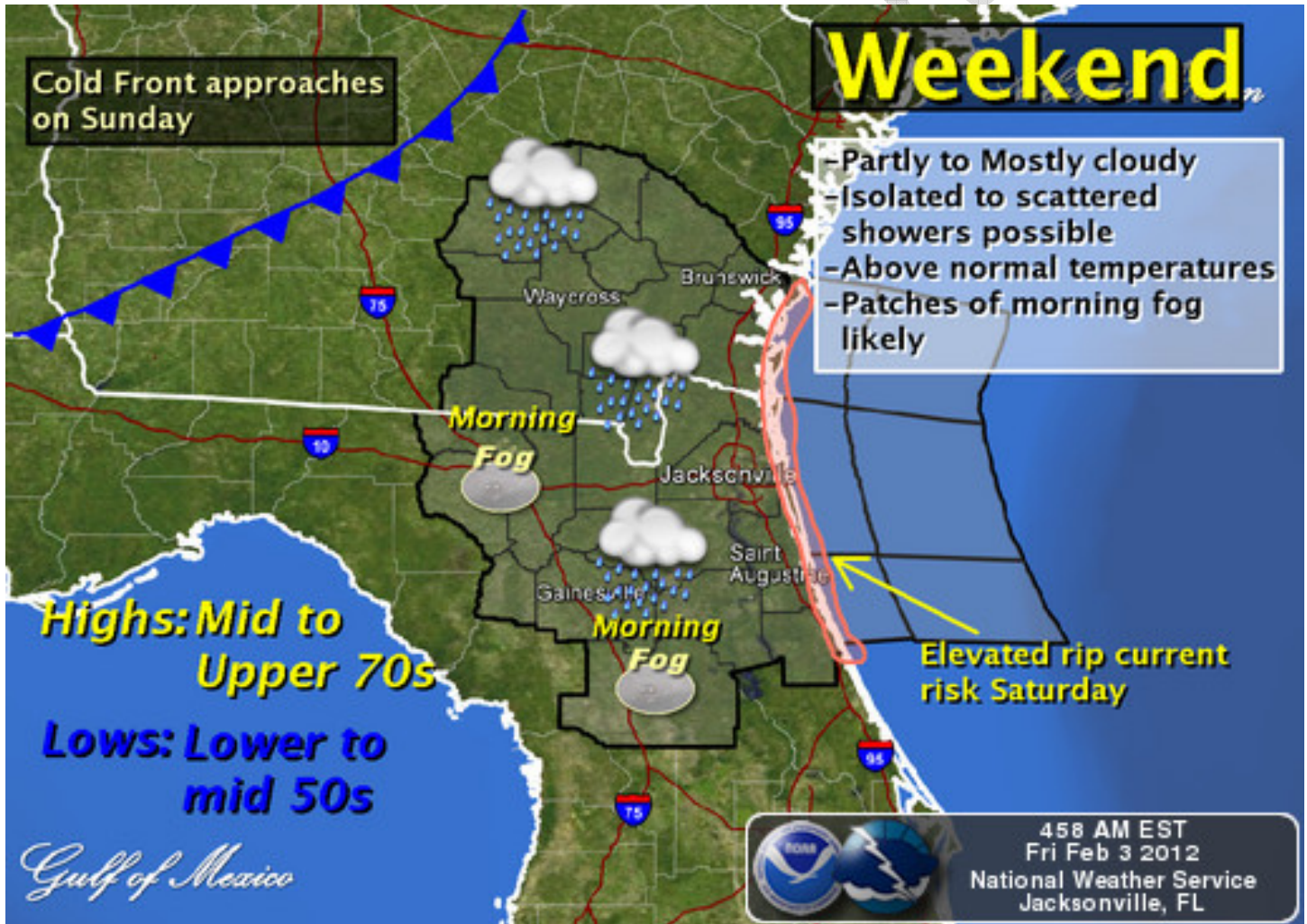


Emergency Management

Daily Situation Report for February 3, 2012

Current Putnam County EOC Status- LEVEL 3 - Monitoring Activation

Register your email to receive the Putnam County Emergency Management Daily Situation Report at www.putnamalert.com



HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JACKSONVILLE FL
500 AM EST FRI FEB 3 2012

ALTAMAHA SOUND GA TO FERNANDINA BEACH FL OUT 20 NM-FERNANDINA BEACH TO ST AUGUSTINE FL OUT 20 NM-ST AUGUSTINE TO FLAGLER BEACH FL OUT 20 NM-ALTAMAHA SOUND GA TO FERNANDINA BEACH FL 20 NM TO 60 NM OFFSHORE-FERNANDINA BEACH TO ST AUGUSTINE FL 20 NM TO 60 NM OFFSHORE-ST AUGUSTINE TO FLAGLER BEACH FL 20 NM TO 60 NM OFFSHORE-HAMILTON-SUWANNEE-COLUMBIA-BAKER-NASSAU-DUVAL-UNION-BRADFORD-CLAY-ST JOHNS-GILCHRIST-ALACHUA-**PUTNAM**-FLAGLER-MARION-COFFEE-JEFF DAVIS-BACON-APPLING-WAYNE-ATKINSON-WARE-PIERCE-BRANTLEY-INLAND GLYNN-COASTAL GLYNN-ECHOLS-CLINCH-CHARLTON-INLAND CAMDEN-COASTAL CAMDEN-

THIS OUTLOOK IS FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA AND THE ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS.

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY FOR OFFSHORE WATERS...
...MODERATE RISK OF RIP CURRENTS TODAY...

.Day one...today and tonight...

Patchy fog can be expected early this morning mainly over northeast Florida. Locally visibilities will be below 1 mile at times.

Increasing northeast winds and building seas can be expected over the coastal waters today and tonight. The increased winds and seas will also result in an elevated threat of rip currents at area beaches.

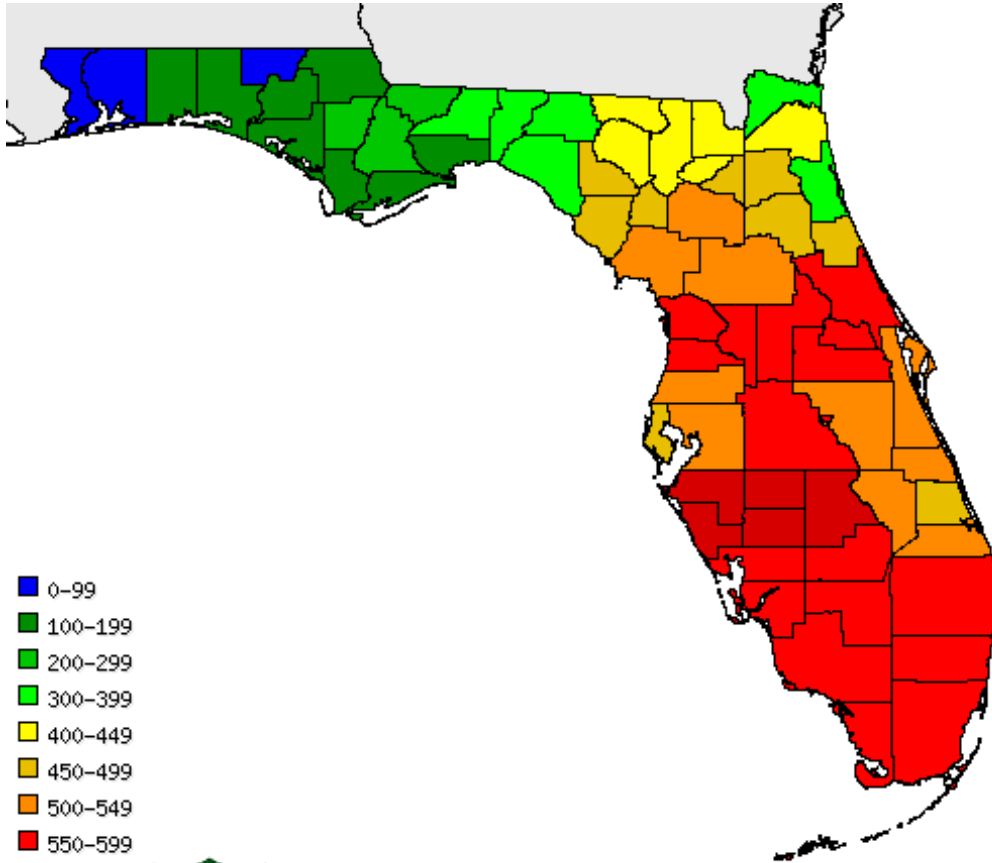
.days two through seven...Saturday through Thursday...

Fog can be expected Saturday and Sunday mornings with the best chance of fog early Sunday morning due to light winds and locally dense fog will be possible at times.

For additional information...visit the national weather service in Jacksonville website on the internet at weather.gov/jax.

FIRE WEATHER

KEETCH BYRAM DROUGHT INDEX (KBDI)



- 0-99
- 100-199
- 200-299
- 300-399
- 400-449
- 450-499
- 500-549
- 550-599
- 600-649
- 650-699
- 700-749
- 750+



Feb 2 2012

				Percent of Area in KBDI Range							
	Mean	Change	Min/Max	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-800
Statewide	460	-1	1 / 687	6	5	7	6	19	45	12	0
Putnam	499	+4	394 / 622	0	0	0	3	45	50	2	0

	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
VERY LOW	0-160	0-190	0-220	0-180
LOW	161-220	191-260	221-300	181-240
NORMAL	221-390	261-460	301-500	241-420
MODERATE	391-500	461-600	501-640	421-540
SEVERE	501-800	601-800	641-800	541-800

PUTNAM COUNTY WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night
 20% Slight Chc Showers Hi 72 °F	 20% Slight Chc Showers Lo 56 °F	 Partly Sunny Hi 73 °F	 Areas Fog Lo 56 °F	 20% Slight Chc Showers Hi 77 °F	 20% Slight Chc Showers Lo 58 °F	 30% Chance Showers Hi 74 °F	 20% Slight Chc Showers Lo 56 °F

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers after 3pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Breezy, with a east wind between 13 and 17 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers before 3am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. East wind between 8 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 73. East wind between 9 and 14 mph.

Saturday Night: Areas of fog after 4am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. East wind 6 to 9 mph becoming south.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Areas of fog before 7am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 77. West wind between 6 and 13 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

FLORIDA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Temperature Extremes and Wildfires

Florida's Severe Weather Awareness Week takes place from January 30 – February 3, 2012. Severe Weather Awareness Week is an opportunity for Floridians to learn about the various weather hazards that frequently impact the state and how families and businesses can prepare for these natural events.

Each day focuses on a specific weather event. **Friday's topic is temperature extremes and wildfires.**

Though Florida is known as the Sunshine State, it could also qualify as the "Hot State." Each summer, numerous tourists come from all over the world to enjoy the warm weather and sunny beaches, but most are unaware of just how hot it can get in Florida.

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the state is always influenced by tropical moisture, especially in the summer. When hot temperatures combine with high humidity, our bodies feel like it is hotter than it really is since the increased moisture in the air limits our body's ability to cool off through sweating. This is called the Heat Index. When the heat index reaches higher than 105 degrees F, conditions can become dangerous for both people and animals. A person can experience heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heatstroke that may result in death if exposed to these conditions for a long period of time. When the combination of heat and humidity causes the heat index to reach dangerous levels, the National Weather service will issue Heat Advisories and Warnings.

DID YOU KNOW??? The hottest temperature ever recorded in Florida was 109 degrees Fahrenheit on June 29, 1931, in Monticello. Also, in 2010, a heat index of 124 degrees was observed at the Apalachicola Airport.

To help protect yourself against the hot summer heat, make sure to wear lightweight and light-colored clothing. Try to avoid doing or scheduling outdoor events during the hottest parts of the day (usually 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.). Drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic beverages. Check on the elderly, young children and animals during periods of prolonged heat. Apply sunscreen before exposure to the sun.

Though many people head south to escape the cold temperatures in the winter, it isn't always warmer in Florida. There have been numerous severe cold outbreaks that have affected the state with below freezing temperatures and strong winds that produce bitterly cold wind chills. Strong winds can also make the air "feel" colder than it really is by removing the heat from our skin that our bodies generate. This is called the Wind Chill. Like high heat, very cold temperatures can also endanger humans. The National Weather Service will issue Wind Chill Advisories/ Watches/Warnings, Freeze Watches/ Warnings, Hard Freeze watches/warnings, and Frost Advisories if cold weather will threaten an area.

DID YOU KNOW??? The coldest temperature recorded in Florida was -2 degrees (2 degrees below 0) Fahrenheit in Tallahassee on Feb.13, 1899.

Floridians should remember the "**Five P's**" of cold weather safety. The "5 P's" are: **Protecting People, Protecting Plants, Protecting Pets, Protect Exposed Pipes, and Practice Fire Safety.**

To prepare yourself from the bitter cold, stay indoors and use a safe heating source. Make sure to use space heaters according to their instructions, and be attentive to open flames. Do not use charcoal or other fuel-burning devices, such as grills that produce carbon monoxide. When outdoors, stay dry and in wind protected areas and wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing.

Also, be aware of sensitive plants and animals. Bring in potted plants and drape a blanket, sheet or tarp over plants in the ground. Pets are just as susceptible to the cold as people are. Bring all domesticated pets indoors or at least provide shelter for animals with a closed door to keep out the wind. Make sure the shelter is clean, dry, and well insulated with straw, wood shavings or a blanket. Pet stores sell heated bowls to resist water freezing. Be sure to have extra food as outdoor animals require more calories in the winter to generate energy to ward off the cold. Horses and other livestock need a windbreak, cover, warm bedding, abundant high-quality feed, and fresh water, too.

Not only should practicing fire safety be considered when trying to heat your home during the winter, but residents and visitors should practice fire safety outdoors since wildfire season in Florida is considered to be 12 months long. While wildfires can start at any time of the year, the state sees a peak of activity during the early part of the year – beginning in January and continuing until the onset of more frequent rain, usually in early to mid-June. Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service to alert people and land managers to potentially hazardous burning conditions that may add to wildfire danger and lead to the loss of control of a fire.

DID YOU KNOW??? A typical year in Florida will see over 4,600 fires burn nearly 110,000 acres of land. While lightning is responsible for many fires, most wildfires are started by humans – the most common causes of human-started fires are arson and escaped burns of debris.

In 2011, Florida saw over 5,100 wildfires burn nearly 300,000 acres. This is a particularly high amount of wildfire activity compared to the past 30 years. Part of this reason is a La Niña event that was occurring in 2011. Winter La Niña events are frequently associated with warmer and drier conditions in Florida, which helps to increase wildfire activity. Florida is still seeing the impacts of a La Niña winter in 2012, and another significant wildfire year is possible. In contrast to La Niña, there are also events known as El Niño, which generally suppresses wildfire activity due to cooler and wetter winters in Florida.

DID YOU KNOW??? *An increased amount of wildfire activity is often the result of La Niña events. In fact, Florida's most severe bouts with wildfires occurred during La Niña events or during a quick transition to La Niña.*

To help control the spread of wildfires, residents across Florida are urged to be "Firewise". The Firewise program is designed to help homeowners reduce the threat of wildfire around their homes. Homeowners can make their yards fire resistant by planting specific types of vegetation and landscaping in a way that fire will not threaten their homes. Information and tips on this program can be found at www.firewise.org. Florida Wildfire Awareness Week is April 8-14, 2012. More information on temperature hazards and wildfires and what you can do to protect yourself and others can be found at www.weather.gov/om/heat/index.shtml, <http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/> and www.FloridaDisaster.org.

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