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○ Spring

○ 2026



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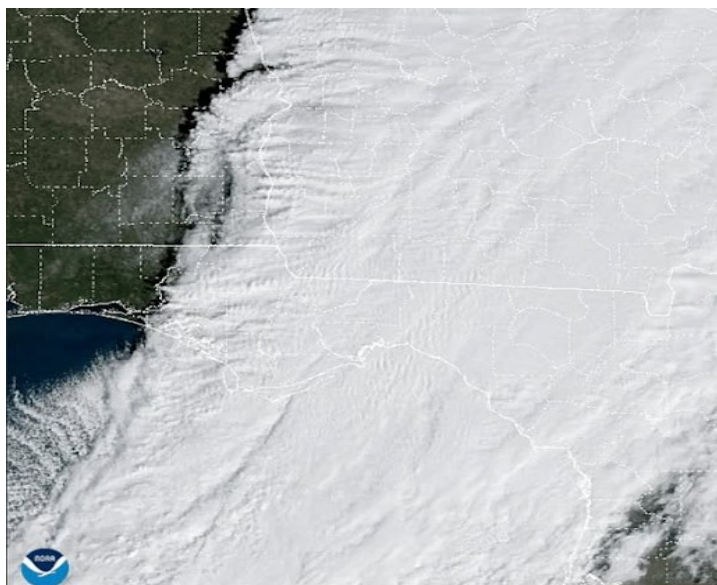
Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

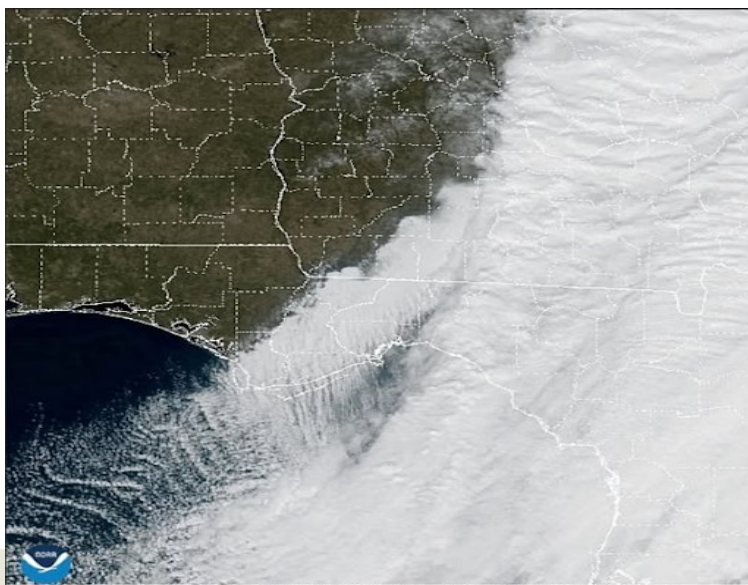
The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Winter Precipitation for the 2nd Straight Year

On January 18, 2026, a swath of a brief changeover from “cold rain” to snow affected portions of the FL Panhandle into SE AL and the Flint River Valley. Multiple reports of measurable snow were confirmed by the public with the highest amounts per state being 3 inches in Lee County, GA; 1.8 inches in Northern Dale County, AL; and 1.3 inches in Marianna, FL. Despite these numbers, little to no accumulation occurred on roadways, but rather, confined to grassy surfaces and rooftops thanks to marginally cold surface temperatures and mild antecedent conditions. Therefore, travel impacts were minimal. The snow took only a couple of hours to completely melt away (*pictures below*), per satellite, once skies cleared and temperatures warmed. Preceding this event, a rare Winter Weather Advisory overlaid with a Winter Storm Warning was issued mainly northwest of Tallahassee. This event is the 2nd consecutive year portions of the Tri-State area experienced snow, a rare feat! Widespread snow flurries were also reported from Southeast AL & SW Georgia all the way down the to the FL Big Bend on January 31st.



18 Jan 2026 15:10Z - NOAA/NESDIS/STAR - TAE - GEOCOLOR Composite



18 Jan 2026 17:20Z - NOAA/NESDIS/STAR - TAE - GEOCOLOR Composite

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Winter Highlights

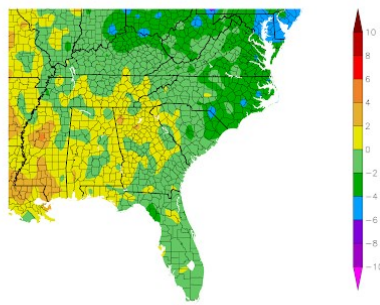
Drought, winter weather, extreme cold, a couple severe events

December was highlighted by a much-needed, multi-day rainfall event that spanned from the 4th-8th when nearly continuous light to moderate rain swept through the drought-stricken region. Cooler conditions temporarily followed the departure of the rain-making system. Dry weather ensued with intermittent cold snaps mid to late month. Christmas week then ushered anomalous warmth and foggy weather while New Years week was met with a much more notable cooldown.

January was highlighted by two instances of winter weather, hard freezes, and a severe weather event. On the 18th, minor accumulations of snow fell from the Flint River Valley down to Southeast AL and parts of the FL Panhandle. On January 25th, a severe squall line pushed through the Tri-State area and produced [4 survey-confirmed tornadoes](#) (1 significant), numerous storm damage reports, and 2 explicitly severe gusts of 60+ mph in SE AL. An impending Arctic outbreak at the end of the month prompted the issuance of an Extreme Cold Warning in addition to a (Hard) Freeze Warning on the 31st. Numerous light snow flurries were reported from SE AL down into South-Central GA, and the FL Big Bend (including Tallahassee) that same day. There were no snow accumulations, just a trace, or less than a tenth of an inch.

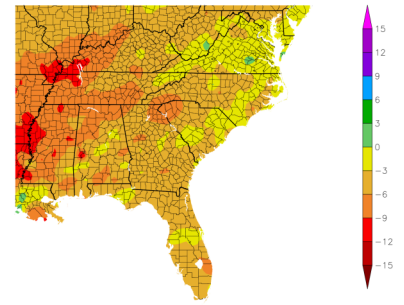
Very cold conditions ushered in **February** with widespread [minimum low teens to single-digit wind chills](#). A severe weather event on the 15th was characterized by multiple storm-damage reports concentrated in the FL Big Bend into adjacent portions of SW GA. Numerous 40-mph wind gusts were measured by various stations, in addition to the Emerald Coast. Anomalously warm conditions prevailed late month with record/near record highs and warm lows. Windy conditions on the 22nd prompted a Wind Advisory and rare Red Flag Warnings (RFW) on the 22nd-23rd. The majority of our local climate sites measured the highest monthly wind gust (40+ mph) on that date while the ongoing severe to extreme drought contributed to the RFW issuance. The likely last (Hard) Freeze Warning of the cool season was issued north of the FL state line on the 23rd thanks to a brief bout of widespread sub-freezing temperatures/wind chills. Local Frost/Freeze products are re-issued without restriction when applicable starting mid-March to accommodate the typical growing season.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2025 - 2/28/2026



Generated 3/2/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2025 - 2/28/2026



ACIS Web Services

Generated 3/10/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Winter Climate Summary: Tallahassee experienced a very dry winter with near-normal temperatures. The average mean seasonal temperature was 53.9°. The highest/lowest temperatures were 84°/18°, both set new [daily records](#) in February. There were 28 total freezing days (most since 2010-2011) and 8 hard freezes of at least 25°. From January 27-February 3, 2026, TLH reported 8 consecutive days of temperatures at or below 26°—tied for the most on record with December 31, 2000 to January 7, 2001. The 8 consecutive freezing days during that same time period is tied for 8th most on record, and tied for 3rd most since 2000. On January 16th, TLH reported the 1st 19° temperature since December 26, 2022. For precipitation, there were only 19 days of measurable rain, tied for 6th fewest on record with 1980-1981 & 1954-1955. Totals this season were 8.34 inches, or 4.63 inches below normal. The greatest single-day accumulation was 1.74 inches on January 3rd. Lastly, snow flurries were observed on January 31st.

Spring Climate Normals: Average mean springtime (March-May) temperatures at Tallahassee is 68.1° based on the current 30-yr climate normal period from 1991-2020. The normal high/low temperatures are 81.2°/55° with the first 90° day typically in late April. Seasonal rainfall amounts are usually just over 12 inches. Frontal systems and areas of low pressure are the primary springtime rain-makers. Severe weather frequency also climatologically increases. Heavy rain events from March-May tend to be driven by stalled fronts and/or low pressure systems that could allow multiple waves of rain to develop over the course of up to a few days. Slugs of tropical moisture advecting from the Gulf, Caribbean, Atlantic can also be contributors, but are more likely to be a greater factor deeper into the warm season.

Annual 2025 Climate Summary and Local Weather Events

IS THERE A TOPIC YOU'D LIKE US TO COVER? SEND US AN E-MAIL:

sr-tae.webmaster@noaa.gov

Historic snow, bouts of severe weather, significant drought, no tropical impacts

Last year was most notable for its record snowfall event on January 21-22, 2025 from a historic Gulf winter storm, bouts of severe weather, well below-normal rainfall contributing to significant drought in the Fall, and a much-welcomed absence from the Tropics.

Temperatures—near to slightly above normal. Tallahassee's average mean annual temperature was 69.3° with the highest/lowest reading of 98°/20°. The total number of 90° days was 109 (1st on April 23rd, last on October 8th), and 27 freezing days (1st on November 11th, last on February 21st). There were no 100° days for the first time since 2021.

Precipitation—much below normal. Tallahassee's annual rainfall amount was only 45.41 inches, good for 13th driest year on record. There were 102 days of measurable rain, or about 28% of the 365 possible days. The greatest single-day rainfall was 4.25 inches on March 9th. Such a dearth in rain led to rapid onset or flash drought in late September, which worsened deeper into the autumn months. Tallahassee was briefly given the rare [D4 Exceptional Drought designation](#) in late November for the first time in 14 years! From January 21st-22nd, nearly 2 inches of snow/sleet was measured at the NWS Tallahassee office on FSU's campus, the 2nd highest two-day total on record behind 2.8 inches from February 12-13, 1958!

Severe weather—At least 12 tornadoes were confirmed across the Tri-State area with one significant tornado (EF-2 in Holmes-Geneva County, 115 mph, 1 injury on May 10th). The other notable dates that saw multiple tornadoes were March 31st, April 7th, and October 27th. The latter was responsible for 10 injuries at an RV Park near Mexico Beach, FL. Another notable tornado injured 5 at a Dothan Prep School on March 31st (EF-1, 105 mph).

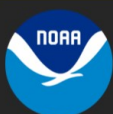
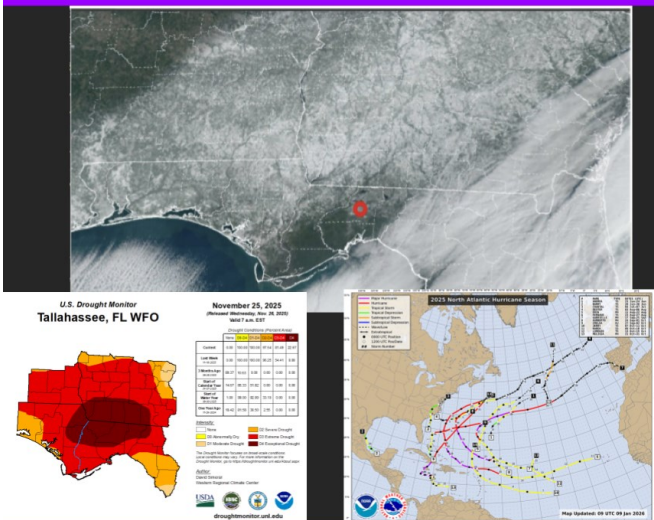
Other highlights—No local impacts from tropical systems thanks to there being no Gulf hurricanes for the first time in 2014. The region experienced a widespread early season "killing" freeze November 10th-11th. It was the foggiest year in our office's history in terms of Dense Fog Advisories issued (58) dating back to 2005.

Notable 2025 Local Weather Highlights



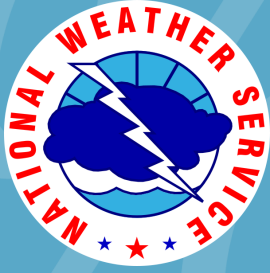
NWS Tallahassee Forecast Area

- Historic winter storm - January 21-22.
- Notable severe weather: Feb 16, Mar 16/31, Apr 7, May 10, Jun 25, Jul 22, Oct 27, Nov 9
- EF-1 tornado injures 5 at Dothan Prep School - March 31.
- Rapid onset, or flash drought - September 28.
- EF-1 tornado injures 10 at RV Park near Mexico Beach - October 27.
- Exceptional Drought in Tallahassee for the first time in 14 years - November 18-25.
- Widespread early season freeze - November 10-11.
- Foggiest year in terms of advisories issued (58) dating back to 2005.
- No direct impacts from hurricanes or tropical systems!



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Tallahassee Florida
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Updated: January, 9 2026



Management-Admin Team

Meteorologist-In-Charge
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Science & Operations Officer
Electronic Systems Analyst
Information Technology Officer
Administrative Assistant
Senior Service Hydrologist
Observation Program Leader

Operational Team

Lead Forecasters (5)
General Forecasters (6)
Electronic Technicians (2)

Winter Outreach

On January 7th, Bay County, FL Emergency Management visited our office for a tour, led by the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM). The former went on to renew their StormReady certification later that month. On January 12th, our WCM and Science and Operations Officer conducted an Outreach Event at the Challenger Center with its Executive Director. On February 7th, Lead Meteorologist and Fire Weather Focal Point participated in the Red Hills Fire and Nature Festival at Tall Timbers. Local meteorologists also participated in the Festival of Creative Arts at the Tallahassee Challenger Learning Center. On February 21st, the WCM set up a booth at the Mag Lab Open House with one of our FSU Student Volunteers. On February 19th & 25th, we offered SKYWARN Spotter Classes teaching students about severe weather to help us with future storm reports when requested upon.

This past February also featured two important awareness weeks - Severe Weather (2nd-6th, SWAW) and Rip Currents (23rd-27th, RCAW):

During SWAW, our social media accounts featured daily posts covering specific related topics: thunderstorms, tornado drills for FL/GA/AL, hurricanes, extreme heat/cold, wildfires. Each of these hazards are relevant to be in tune with year around, to foster the appropriate preparedness, especially heading into severe weather, wildfire, summer, and hurricane season. For more information, visit: [weather.gov/tae/Severe Weather Awareness](https://www.weather.gov/tae/Severe_Weather_Awareness).

During the 6th annual RCAW, our social media accounts featured multiple daily posts covering important rip current information ahead of the Spring Break/beginning of beach season. These posts were also collaborated with coastal and inland offices to help spread the message about the hazards rip currents present to beach visitors, especially those from out of town or state who may not be as aware compared to those living closer to the coast.

As a reminder, rip currents are the #1 weather-related killer at the beaches along the northern Gulf Coast (*figure below*). Here is a breakdown of the daily themes:

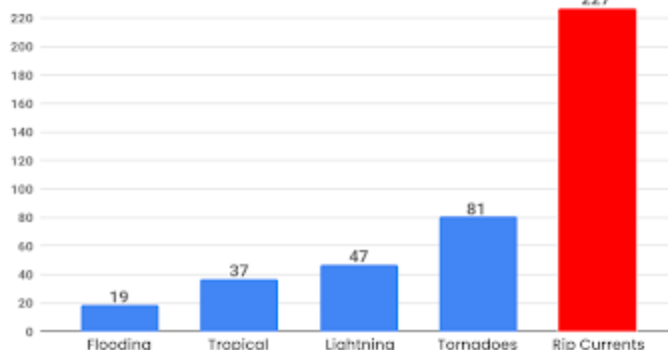
- Monday: All About Rip Currents
- Tuesday: Spot A Rip Current
- Wednesday: Survive A Rip Current
- Thursday: Beach Forecasts
- Friday: Beach Flags/Resources

Additional rounds of rip current awareness are planned for the Memorial Day Weekend, Fourth of July and Labor Day Weekend. For more information, visit: www.weather.gov/tae/ripcurrentawareness.



Rip Currents: The Basics

Fatalities 2002-2025
Alabama/Florida Panhandle Gulf Coast



State of ENSO, Mid-2026 Seasonal Climate & Drought Outlook, Year-to-Date Climate

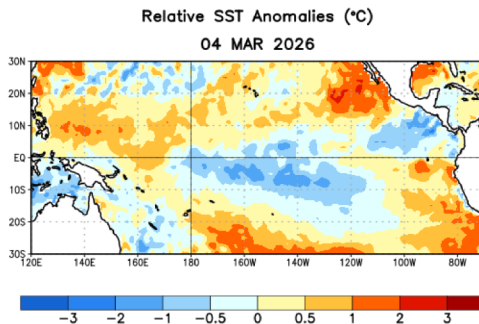


Figure 1. Average relative sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week on 4 March 2026. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means.

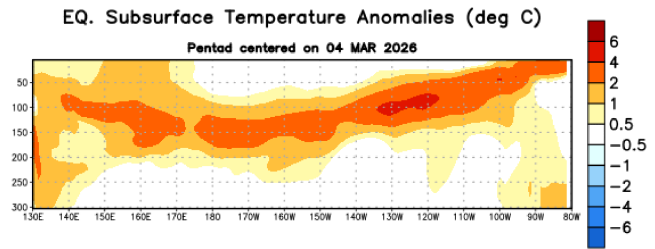
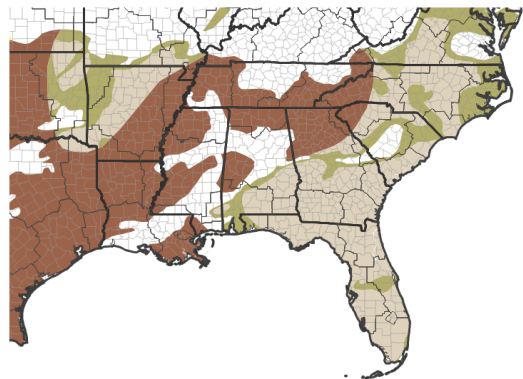


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies (°C) centered on the pentad of 4 March 2026. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

La Niña on the Way Out: As of March 12th, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows a 55% chance of La Niña conditions transitioning to ENSO-neutral through May-July. The emergence of El Niño is then likely some time this summer (62% chance) and persists through the end of year. These projections are supported by above-average sub-surface temperatures across the Pacific (*upper-right figure*) despite cool sea-surface temperature anomalies over much of the Equatorial Pacific (*upper-left figure*)—valid March 4th. If El Niño were to develop during the 2nd half of 2026, then the shift could act to suppress Atlantic tropical activity. A transition to El Niño sooner than predicted may enhance local summertime severe weather prospects if the subtropical jet amplifies and its high wind shear overlaps with naturally high warm-season instability—i.e., June 2023. There is also 1 in 3 chance of a “strong” El Niño during October-December, which could enhance the prospects for a wet & cool winter pattern in the Southeast US.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026

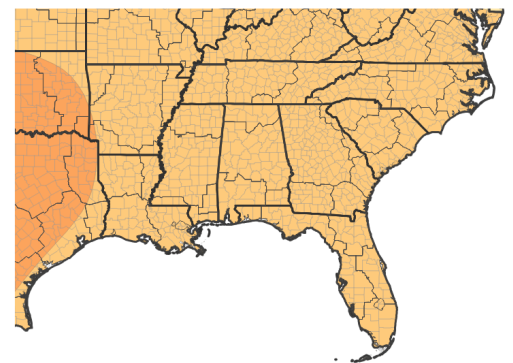


Drought is Predicted To...
 Persist Improve End Develop No Drought
 Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26

Warm & Wet Early Spring into Summer? On March 20th, the CPC released their [US Spring 2026 Outlook](#). Projections show probabilities favoring above-normal temperatures (40-50%, *middle-right figure*) and precipitation (33-50%, *lower-right figure*) from April through June. The latter is most noteworthy given the ongoing significant drought across the Tri-State area. If wetter-than-normal conditions manifest over the next 3 months, then drought may show some improvement, but likely persists areawide (*middle-left figure*).

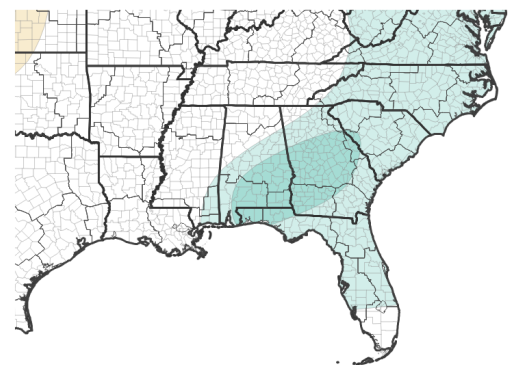
Year-To-Date Climate Through the Winter Solstice: Warmer and much drier than normal based on the current 30-yr climatology (1991-2020). Since January 1, 2026 until the end of the Winter Solstice, the average mean temperature in Tallahassee was 56.1°, or 0.7° above normal. Only 6.5 inches of rain was reported at the airport, TLH, which is nearly 6 inches below normal. Continued rainfall deficits dating back to Fall 2025 maintained Extreme (D3) Drought. The Spring Equinox began on March 20th and drought conditions are poised to worsen or continue before (hopefully) improving some time later this year.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures
 33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures
 33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures
 33% 40% 50%
 Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation
 33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation
 33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation
 33% 40% 50%
 Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26