WEEKLY REPORT
7/05/2011

- The high pressure system that has been sitting over the state this past holiday weekend will begin to move away from the state and this will allow our rain chances to gradually increase each day as a surge of tropical moisture moves into our area.

- Rain chances will stay near-normal today and will be around 30-40% across the entire state. These showers will likely develop along the coast throughout the morning and will become more widespread during the afternoon as the sea breezes move inland and collide. By tomorrow, our rain chances will begin to increase across South Florida as that tropical moisture begins to move towards our state.

- On Thursday and Friday, we will being to see rain chances reach above-normal statewide as numerous afternoon showers and storms develop along the sea breeze boundaries. The greatest threat with any afternoon storm is frequent lightning, but some of the strongest storms may also contain gusty winds and small hail. Also, slow movement of the storms may cause brief, heavy rainfall to produce ponding on roadways and low-lying areas.

- With the surge of tropical moisture toward the Sunshine State later this week, some much needed rainfall will come our way. Forecast rainfall amounts are up to four inches across South Florida today through Sunday morning! Central Florida will likely see between 1-2 inches.

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- Although the summer-like rainfall pattern we’ve seen across most of the state these past couple of weeks, especially over the Peninsula, has decreased our “short-term” drought we are still in a significant “long-term” drought. Most of the State of Florida is in some category of long-term drought, ranging from abnormally dry to exceptional drought over Northwest Florida and coastal areas of the Treasure Coast and Southeast Florida. The elevated rain chances we will see this week will greatly help our drought situation since right now we still need between nine to fifteen inches of rain statewide to relieve us from this drought.

- Because of this drought, our wildfire threat will remain elevated this week. It is important to remember to make sure your home and business is safe from wildfires before one threatens your area.

- Our temperatures this week will stay rather warm and in the mid to upper 90s across North Florida and the low to mid 90s in Central and South Florida through Friday. The increased cloud cover due to the increased rain chances later this week may keep our daytime highs a couple of degrees cooler as we move into Thursday and Friday.

- We will also continue to see warm and muggy overnight low temperatures this week with lows forecast to stay in the 70s statewide.

- If you’re heading out to the beach this week we want to remind everyone to look for warning signs and flags posted by local officials since onshore winds will put the entire Atlantic Coast under a moderate rip current risk through mid week. Shifting winds will also elevate the rip current risk along the Panhandle coastline later this week. For more information on rip currents and rip current safety, you can go to www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov.

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Looking into the tropics, everything is pretty quiet right now other than tropical waves in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and tropical development is not expected through the end of this week.

For daily weather updates and to learn more about wildfire safety and our current drought situation, you can come right back here to www.FloridaDisaster.org and click on the Division’s homepage.

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