



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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WEEKLY REPORT 12/30/2011

- The New Year will bring with it a big drop in temperatures. We'll start out the holiday weekend comfortably mild through Saturday, then be well below normal as an arctic airmass moves in early next week.
- On Friday, the tail end of a weak cold front will move through North Florida. Although an isolated sprinkle or two is possible along the Panhandle as the front moves eastward, a mostly dry frontal passage is expected, with only a slight increase in clouds as the front passes by.
- The front will move eastward into the Atlantic Friday evening and high pressure will quickly move back into the region to bring sunny and dry conditions through Saturday with comfortable temperatures in the low to mid 70s statewide Friday afternoon.
- On Saturday, highs will remain in the low to mid 70s across North Florida but will increase into the upper 70s to near 80 across Central and South Florida.
- Overnight, mostly clear skies, calm winds, slightly higher moisture and mild lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s will lead to the development of patchy to locally dense fog across much of North and Central Florida, especially away from the coast. Patchy fog is also possible across portions of South Florida, mainly along the Treasure Coast, the northern shore of Lake Okeechobee, and near Ft. Myers and Port Charlotte.
- Anyone driving in morning fog should remember these fog safety tips:
 - o Use extreme caution and allow extra time to reach your destination.
 - o Slow down and allow for extra space between vehicles.
 - o Use low-beam headlights and be prepared to stop on short notice.
 - o Avoid driving distractions such as mobile phones and music devices.
 - o Monitor local road conditions for possible road closures.

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- On Sunday, another cold front will move into the region and pass through the state Sunday afternoon through Monday afternoon.
- This frontal passage will also be dry and though isolated showers are possible, only expect an increase in cloud cover. Behind the front, also expect a noticeable drop in temperatures as north winds bring down a very cold arctic airmass into the state to start out our New Year.
- Highs in the 70s on Sunday will begin to drop dramatically Monday and Tuesday. Highs across North and Central Florida will drop 10-15 degrees, only reaching the mid 50s Monday afternoon across the Panhandle and Big Bend, barely reaching the 60 degree mark across Northeast Florida and only rising to the mid and upper 60s across Central Florida.
- Areas still ahead of the front across South Florida will remain mild in the low to mid 70s, but will drop to the low and mid 60s Tuesday afternoon.
- Further north, daytime highs on Tuesday will be even colder than Monday, struggling to reach the 60 degree mark across Central Florida and barely getting into the low 50s across North Florida.
- Overnight lows will also take a plunge beginning Sunday night and getting colder each night through Tuesday.
- Lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s across North Florida and low 50s to low 60s across Central and South Florida will drop into the 40s across Central and South Florida and into the 20s and 30s across North Florida.
- By Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, lows will again fall below freezing and bottom out in the low 20s to low 30s across much of North Florida and the Nature Coast.

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- Lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s are forecast for coastal Northeast Florida, all of Central Florida and northern inland portions of South Florida along the Treasure Coast and near Lake Okeechobee. Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida areas south of Alligator Alley will dip into the upper 40s to low 50s.
- Freeze Warnings will likely be issued for a large portion of North Florida both Monday and Tuesday night, and a few Hard Freeze Warnings are possible for inland counties.
- Though it will be above freezing over Central and South Florida, north winds Tuesday and Wednesday night will produce very cold wind chills in the 30s, especially north of Lake Okeechobee and Wind Chill Advisories may be issued.
- Across North Florida, morning temperatures could feel as cold as the upper teens to upper 20s.
- With these bitterly cold temperatures and wind chills, all Floridians should remember the “5 P’s” of cold weather safety: Protect People, Protect Plants, Protect Pets, Protect Pipes, and Practice Fire Safety.
- Make sure children, the elderly and pets are bundled up since they can feel the effects of cold weather faster than adults. If you have sensitive vegetation, place a blanket or tarp over your plants. Exposed outdoor pipes can be covered or place a slow drip on faucets during hard freeze conditions.
- If you use your fireplace or space heater, remember to practice fire safety by keeping the heat source away from anything flammable such as furniture, curtains and electrical equipment.
- Happy New Year and for daily updates on the weather forecast for your area, go to www.FloridaDisaster.org and click on the Division’s homepage.

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