The “Sunshine State” will live up to its name as high pressure will remain in the region all the way through the holiday weekend to bring us plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures.

Daytime high temperatures will be above normal, with very warm and pleasant afternoon temperatures reaching the upper 70s to near 80 degrees statewide Friday through Monday.

In addition to an increase in temperatures will also be an increase in the wildfire danger. Just remember to keep these fire safety tips in mind:

- Take the opportunity this weekend to water your lawn. It only needs about 1” per week to stay healthy.
- Also take one of the gorgeous days this weekend to clean any pine needles, pine cones, palm fronds or tree limbs that may be on the ground.
- If your weekend plans include grilling, just make sure that your propane tank is turned off or any charcoal is completely extinguished when you finish.
- Finally, always have a family fire plan, which includes having the proper fire suppression equipment and having a working smoke detector.

Our overnight temperatures will also be above average and quite mild. Most of the Florida Peninsula and coastal portions of the Florida Panhandle will see lows in the 50s each night, but portions of southern Florida may only dip as low as the 60s each night. Normally colder locations in the Florida Big Bend (MORE)
and inland Florida Panhandle will be in the 40s Friday and Saturday night before warming into the 50s by Sunday and Monday night.

- The big issue for the next few days will be widespread areas of fog. Fog is expected statewide Friday morning and may persist all the way through Monday. Some of the fog could be dense, especially across North and Central Florida.

When driving in morning fog, remember these safety tips:
  - During the morning hours when fog is heavier, slow down and allow for extra space between vehicles.
  - Use low-beam headlights and be prepared to stop on short notice.
  - Avoid driving distractions such as mobile phones and music devices.
  - Monitor local road conditions for possible road closures.
  - Use extreme caution and allow extra time to reach your destination.

- The fog should lift by mid-morning, but if your weekend plans include a trip to the beach, be aware that there is an increased threat for rip currents along the entire Florida East Coast Friday through Monday.

- Before heading to the beach, make sure to read the rip current outlook for your area by going to http://ripcurrents.noaa.gov/forecasts.shtml. If heading into the water, swim within sight of a lifeguard. If there is no lifeguard nearby, look for warning flags. If the flag is yellow or orange, use extra caution as rip currents may be present. Swimming is discouraged if red flags are posted as strong and frequent rip currents are likely.

- For more safety tips and the most up-to-date information on the forecast for your area, keep checking back at www.FloridaDisaster.org and click on the Division’s homepage.