



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

Strong to Marginally Severe Thunderstorm Potential for the Florida Keys Sunday

Issued: April 28, 2023 – 1:30 pm EDT

This weather briefing is for emergency management and critical infrastructure core partners serving the Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Bottom Line:

Strong to marginally severe, thundery squalls are possible Sunday, with the main threat consisting of strong and potentially damaging straight-line wind gusts. Windy conditions are also expected in the Florida Keys Sunday morning through at least early afternoon with sustained south to southwest winds 20 to 25 mph and frequent gusts to near 35 mph.

Situation Overview:

Low pressure developing along the northern Gulf coast early Saturday will move rapidly east-northeast into the southern Appalachians Sunday. A cold front accompanied by a squall line will move into the southeast Gulf of Mexico and approach the Florida Keys Sunday morning. While there remains uncertainty how solid the squall line may remain intact as it moves near the Florida Keys, stronger storms within the squall line as well as in advance of the squall line may produce brief gusts of 50 to 60 mph. The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked the Florida Keys for a **marginal risk** (Level 1 out of 5, where 5 is the highest risk) Sunday for severe thunderstorms, with damaging wind gusts the primary threat.

In addition, south to southwest winds will increase rapidly early Sunday morning, to sustained 20 to 25 mph with frequent gusts to near 35 mph. The winds will continue into early afternoon and decrease after any potential squall line passes.

At this time, forecast rainfall is not expected to cause any more than temporary street and poor drainage area flooding, and tides are sufficiently low not to expose the oceanside to coastal flooding. However, the strong south to southwest breezes are expected to produce wave action which may loft the plentiful sargassum over bulkheads, seawalls and docks.

Impact Summary:

WHAT:

Thunderstorms with the potential for brief 50 to 60 mph wind gusts.

Sustained south to southwest winds outside of thunderstorms of 20 to 25 mph, frequently gusting near 35 mph over the islands.

WHEN:

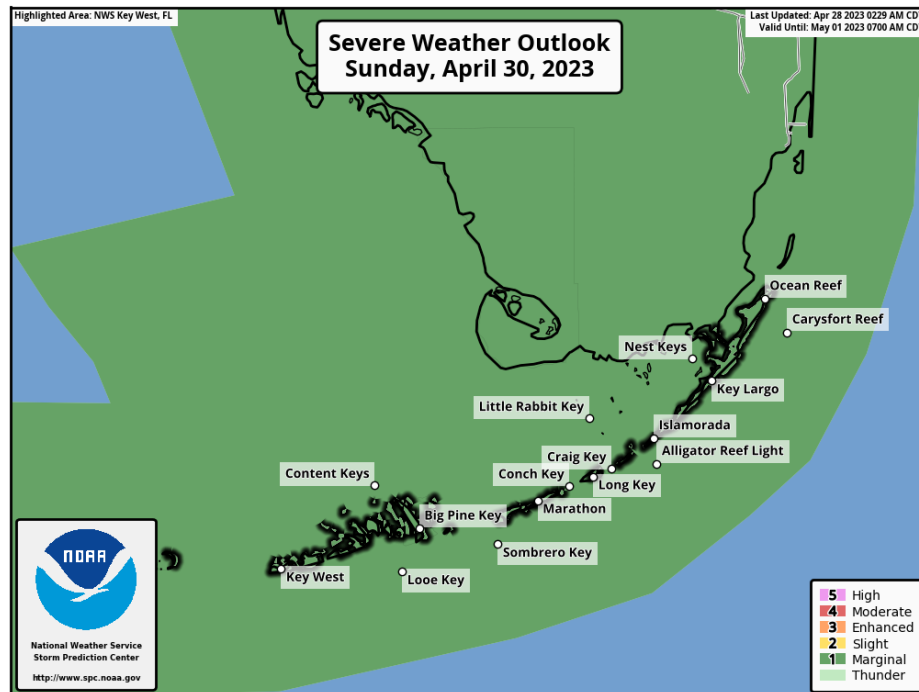
Isolated threat Sunday morning, more likely midday through mid afternoon with the potential for a squall line passage.

UNCERTAINTY:

Higher than usual for 2 days in advance, concerning how solid the squall line may be as it approaches the Florida Keys.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

- Isolated tree and utility line damage, with localized power outages
- Seaweed lofted atop seawalls, bulkheads and docks, especially near the oceanside high tide Sunday morning.



The risk of severe weather for the far Upper Florida Keys for Sunday is marginal (level 1 out of 5)

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is expected late Saturday morning.

You may contact the NWS Key West at (305) 295-1316 extension 3 to speak with a meteorologist 24/7. Please contact us anytime if you need specific information (as best as the science allows) for critical hazardous weather information for decision support in your department's activities.



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