



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

Multi-Hazard Weather Event:

**Locally heavy rainfall, strong wind gusts, minor coastal flooding tonight through Saturday night
An increasing threat of severe thunderstorms with damaging wind gusts and
a possible tornado or two Saturday afternoon and evening**

Issued: Friday December 15, 2023 – 11:00 am EST

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

A Wind Advisory is in effect for all of the Florida Keys.

A Gale Warning is in effect for all Florida Keys coastal waters.

A Flood Watch is in effect for all of Florida Keys through late Saturday Night.

Bottom Line:

A multi-hazard weather event related to a developing non-tropical low pressure system over the Gulf of Mexico has begun across the eastern Gulf of Mexico and Florida region.

1. Locally heavy rainfall from early Friday morning through Saturday evening. Rainfall totals now through Saturday evening likely to be 2 to 4 inches, with a few isolated maximum amounts around 5 inches. Brief street and poor drainage area flooding could result, especially around the times of the late evening high tides.
2. Windy conditions developing with sustained northeast winds near 25 mph with gusts 30 to 35 mph, gradually turning southeast by Saturday and south to southwest Saturday night. A few thundery squalls as early as later today may easily produce wind gusts near 50 mph.
3. A potential for severe, damaging wind gusts near 60 mph in thundery squalls and an isolated tornado or two Saturday afternoon (after 12:00 pm “noon”) through Saturday evening. The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked the Florida Keys for a MARGINAL RISK (Level 1 out of 5) for severe thunderstorms for Saturday and Saturday night.
4. Coastal Flooding Potential with three potential events:
 - a. Minor to moderate coastal flooding in the Card/Sound/Barnes Sound areas through tonight, as strong northeast to east winds pile water from the Atlantic into the backcountry of the northeastern-most Upper Keys. Water levels may peak within 1 foot of the elevation of Card Sound Road.
 - b. Minor to moderate oceanside coastal flooding is possible Saturday evening and Saturday night throughout the Florida Keys as winds become more southeasterly, then shift to the south and southwest. Water levels may reach between 1.0 and 1.5 feet above normal high tides. Heavy

wave action will likely cause significant overwash of seawalls, docks, with wave runup into exposed oceanside streets and yards Saturday evening and into the night.

- c. As winds shift from the southwest during the early morning hours Sunday, there is the potential for minor to moderate Gulfside and Bayside flooding, with water levels reaching near 1.5 feet above normal high tides. The most likely times for this flooding would be during the early morning hours Sunday along the Lower Keys and Middle Keys, and possibly along the Bayside Upper Keys late Sunday into Monday.

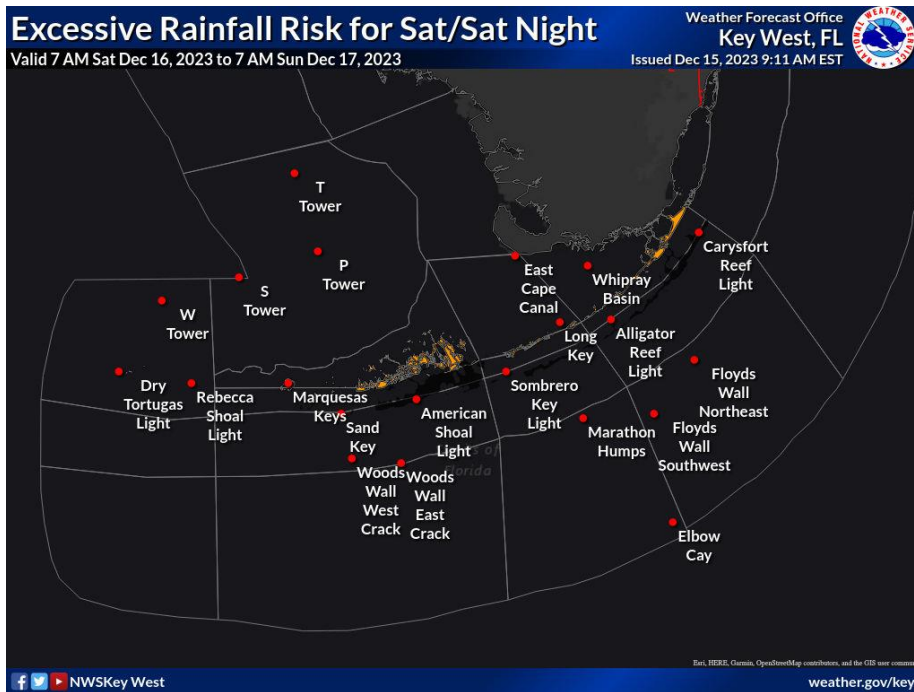
Situation Overview:

Strong high pressure across the eastern United States and a nearby stationary front will maintain windy conditions with frequent rain showers today. Low pressure is expected to develop later today over the central Gulf of Mexico, then strengthen rapidly as it moves northeast tonight and through the weekend. The low is forecast to cross the Florida Peninsula early Sunday. As it does, showers and thunderstorms, some possibly severe, are expected to develop and move through the Florida Keys Saturday afternoon and evening. Locally damaging winds and a possible tornado or two may occur. The gradual shifting of the winds from northeast to east tonight, then southeast to south during Saturday and Saturday evening may cause minor coastal flooding along the oceanside. Later, Saturday night, southwest winds may cause minor coastal flooding along the Gulfside and Bayside of the Florida Keys continuing into Sunday morning.

Improving weather is forecast for Sunday, although scattered light rain showers may continue through the day. Except for possible lingering coastal flooding near the east end of Florida Bay and Blackwater Sound, dry, breezy and cooler conditions are expected by Monday.

Risk for excessive rainfall in the Florida Keys

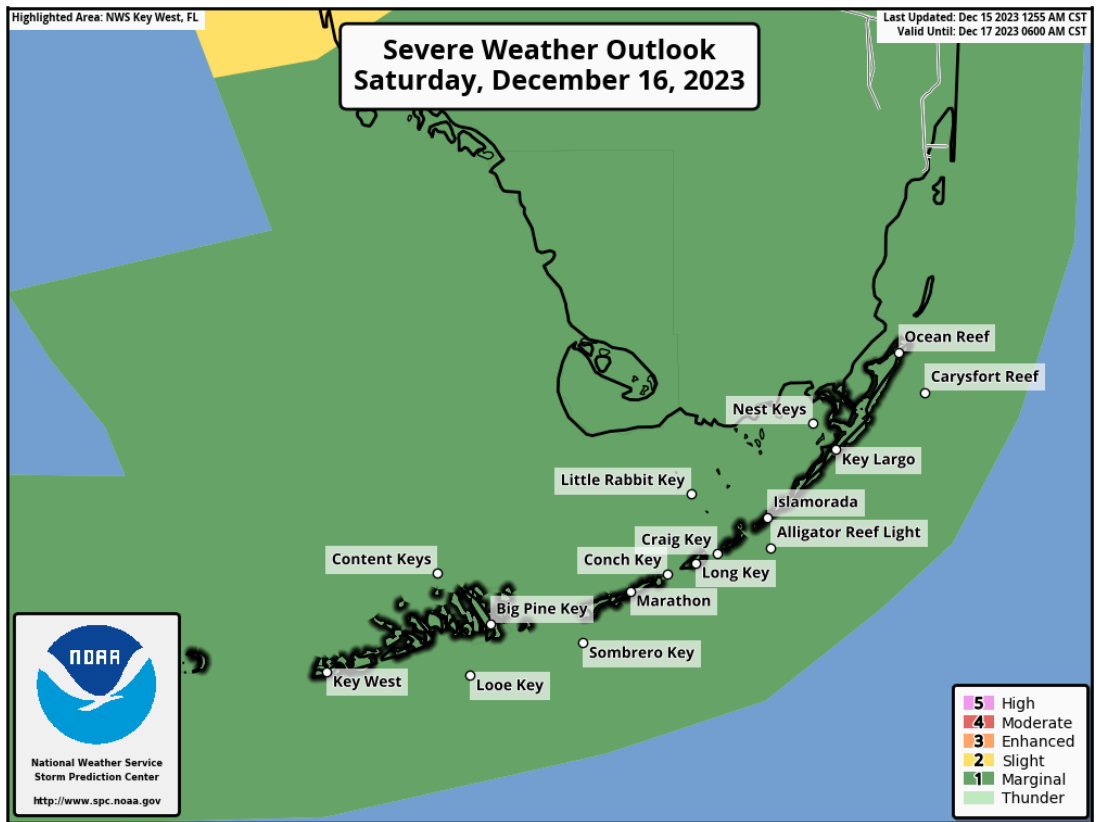
Saturday: Elevated Risk (Level 2 out of 4) for all of the Florida Keys



General rainfall totals through Saturday evening of 3 to 6 inches with isolated locations receiving near 8 inches is forecast.

Severe Weather Outlook

Saturday/Saturday night: MARGINAL RISK (Level 1 out of 5) for severe thunderstorms with damaging wind gusts and possible tornado or two throughout the Florida Keys and adjacent coastal waters.



Chance of Severe Weather Hazards Saturday/Saturday Night			
	Damaging Wind Gusts (Near 60 mph and higher)	Tornadoes	Large Hail (1" diameter or larger)
All of the Florida Keys	At least 5%	At Least 2%	Less than 5%

Table indicating the chance of each severe thunderstorm hazard type occurring within 25 nautical miles of a single location within the Florida Keys

Impact Confidence Summary:

Relatively High Confidence:

Minor rainfall flooding potential Friday night through Saturday Night. Strong northeast to east winds sustained near 25 mph with gusts 30 to 35 mph, gradually becoming southeast Saturday and south to southwest Saturday night. A few thundery squalls beginning later today are likely produce brief wind gusts near 50 mph.

Low to Medium Confidence:

Severe thunderstorm damaging wind and/or isolated tornado potential Saturday afternoon (after 12:00 pm "noon") through Saturday evening.

Minor to moderate coastal flooding potential Barnes/Card Sound Tonight and Friday, and along the oceanside of the Florida Keys Saturday evening and night.

Minor to moderate coastal flooding potential Gulfside and Bayside Sunday.

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is scheduled for release by 5:00 pm EST this Friday evening.

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.



For additional information, visit our webpage at:

<http://www.weather.gov/key>

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