

Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

**Marginal Risk of Damaging Wind Gusts and Hail Today
Minor Coastal Flooding Possible This Evening – Windy Today through Tuesday Night
Issued: February 5, 2024 – 9:00 am EST**

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

MARGINAL RISK FOR SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS TODAY

Bottom Line:

Isolated severe thunderstorms are possible over the Florida Keys today, with a marginal (Level 1 out of 5) threat for a tornado, damaging thunderstorm wind gusts near 60 mph and large hail of 1-inch in diameter.

Strong west winds will increase to 20 to 25 mph today with frequent gusts near 35 mph. However, as bouts of showers and a few thunderstorms will pass through the Keys through the afternoon hours, many of these showers may easily produce brief 40 to 50 mph wind gusts.

The level of possible coastal flood impacts this evening has decreased for the evening, and levels similar to a typical king tide (up to about 1.3 feet Mean Higher High Water) are now expected.

Situation Overview:

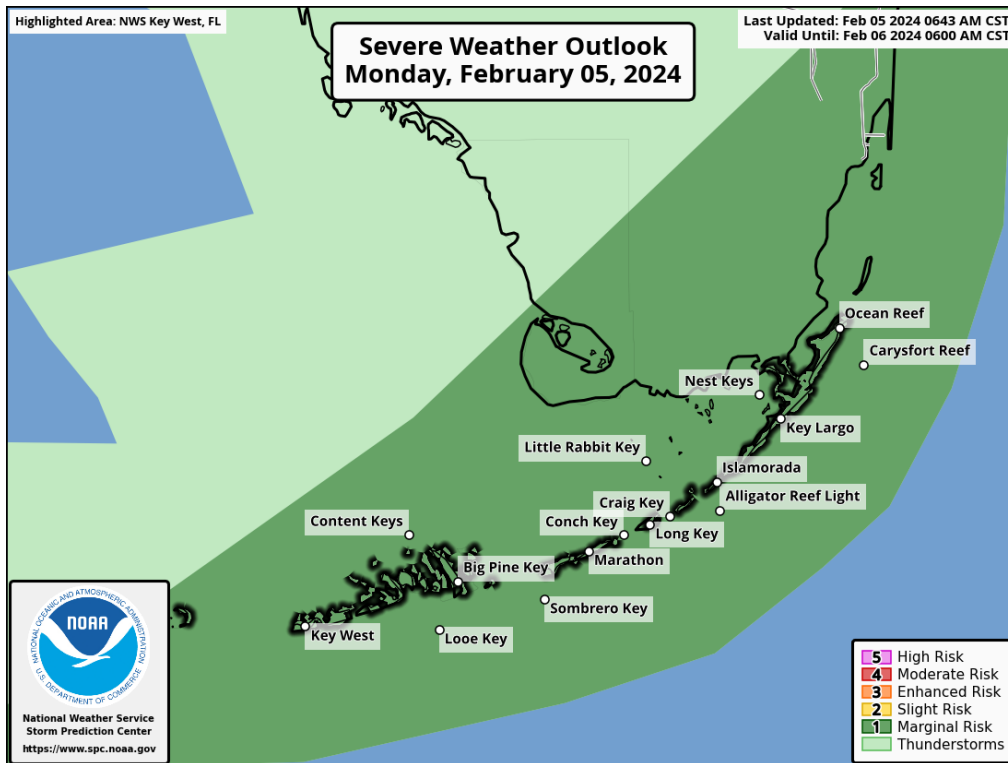
Low pressure over the northeast Gulf of Mexico is expected to dive southeast toward central Florida today, then move east of the Florida Peninsula late tonight. Bands of moisture around the low and unusually cold temperatures aloft will contribute to the repeated formation of showers and thunderstorms. A few may become severe with damaging thunderstorm wind gusts near 60 mph, possibly a tornado, and even the potential for large hail around 1-inch in diameter.

Outside of any showers and thunderstorms, west winds sustained 20 to 25 mph with frequent gusts near 35 mph are expected to begin over the next few hours, and gradually become northwest tonight and Tuesday. The wind direction becomes more northwesterly tonight, increasing crosswinds may cause hazardous driving conditions for high-profile vehicles on the more elevated, longer bridges. The winds are expected to decrease Wednesday.

The strong westerly winds today will cause rising water levels along the Gulf side and Bayside of the Florida Keys, and minor coastal flooding is possible this evening around the time of high tide. Water levels may reach up to around 1.3 feet above mean higher high water. **These levels would be similar to a typical autumn season King Tide.** Shallow flooding or seepage onto low lying streets, docks and yards typically impacted by high autumn King Tides is possible. Overall, the level of impact of the potential coastal flooding has decreased.

Large seas of 7 to 10 feet moving into the Straits of Florida from the west later today through Tuesday will bend around the reef, causing unusual breaking waves along the oceanside of the Florida Keys. There is the

potential for beach wave runup and with minor beach erosion, and occasional wave splashing over seawalls and onto some oceanfront streets. While tide-related coastal flooding is not expected along the oceanside, there will be noticeable wave action.



Chance of Severe Weather Hazards Monday			
	Damaging Wind Gusts (Near 60 mph and higher)	Tornadoes	Large Hail (1" diameter or larger)
Florida Keys	5 to 14%	2 to 4%	5 to 14%

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

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is scheduled for Tuesday morning around 9:00 am EST. Updates will be provided sooner if there are significant changes in the expected weather impacts on the Florida Keys.

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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