



National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida



In this update:

- Cold front approaches the area on Thursday and moves completely through the forecast area by Friday morning.
- Expect 1-2 inches of rain with this weather system with higher amounts possible near the coast.
- It is marginal severe weather event. The possibility of severe storms will be mainly south of I-10 where a strong storm could come ashore from the Gulf of Mexico.
- Timing shows weather beginning Thursday afternoon in the eastern Florida Big Bend; near sunset in the Apalachicola vicinity, and early evening to after midnight in the Florida Big Bend.

Good afternoon everyone! Just wanted to update you on the weather system coming through the area Thursday afternoon and overnight Thursday into Friday morning.

Synopsis:

A large upper trough is currently moving across the central and southern Rockies, and will track eastward over the next few days along with a strong cold front.

Figure 1 depicts the low pressure and associated fronts in the southern Mississippi Valley tomorrow morning.

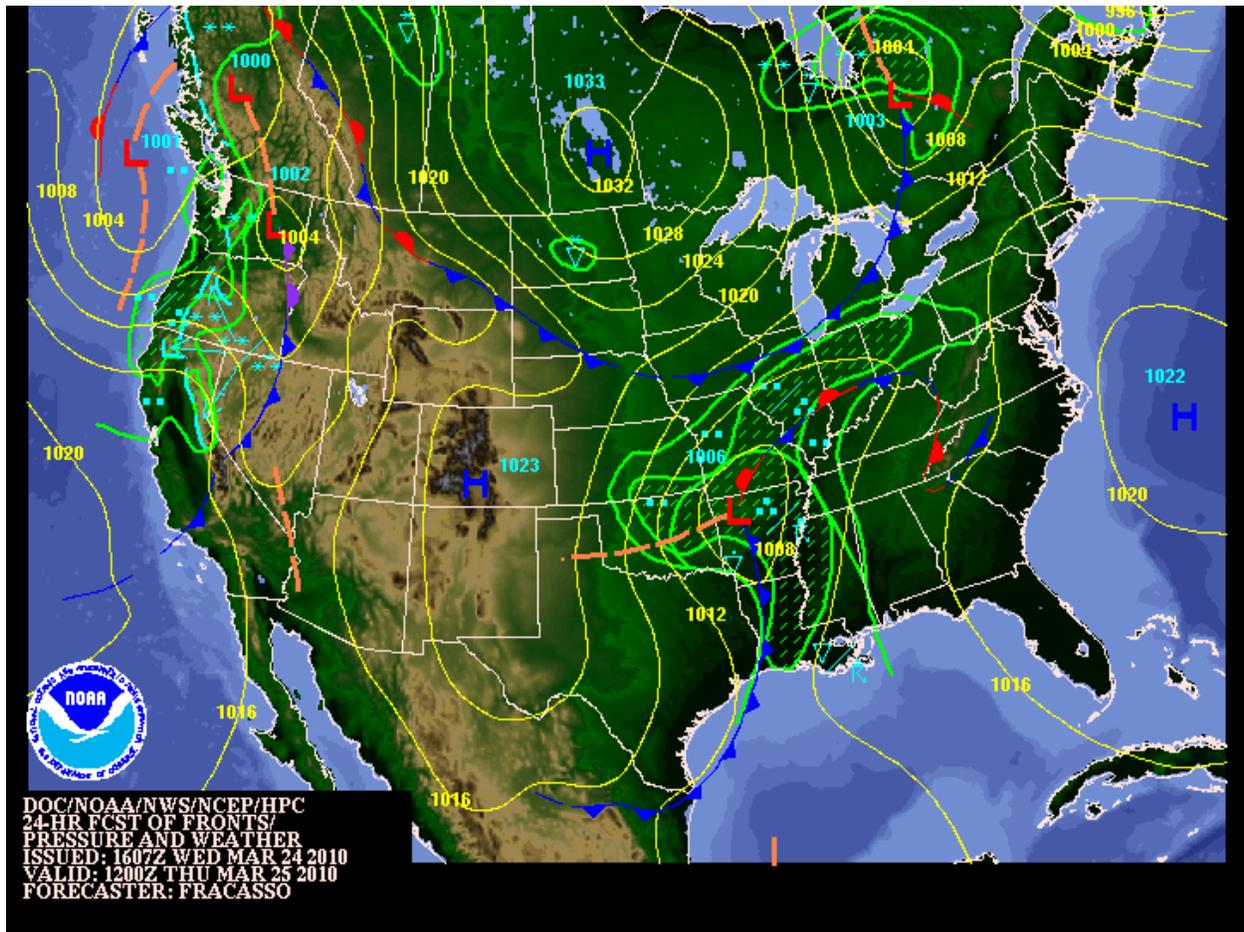


Figure 1. Weather Map for early Thursday.

Severe Weather:

Currently the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) does not show us in any severe weather (Fig. 2), but does show us in a “SEE TEXT”. The upper winds (shear) are strong, but instability is marginal. The possibility exists for one or two strong storms to become severe, especially near the coast...in the Eastern Florida Panhandle in late afternoon, Apalachicola and vicinity around sunset, and the Big Bend in the early evening to after midnight. The farther away you are from the coast, the less the chance for any severe weather.

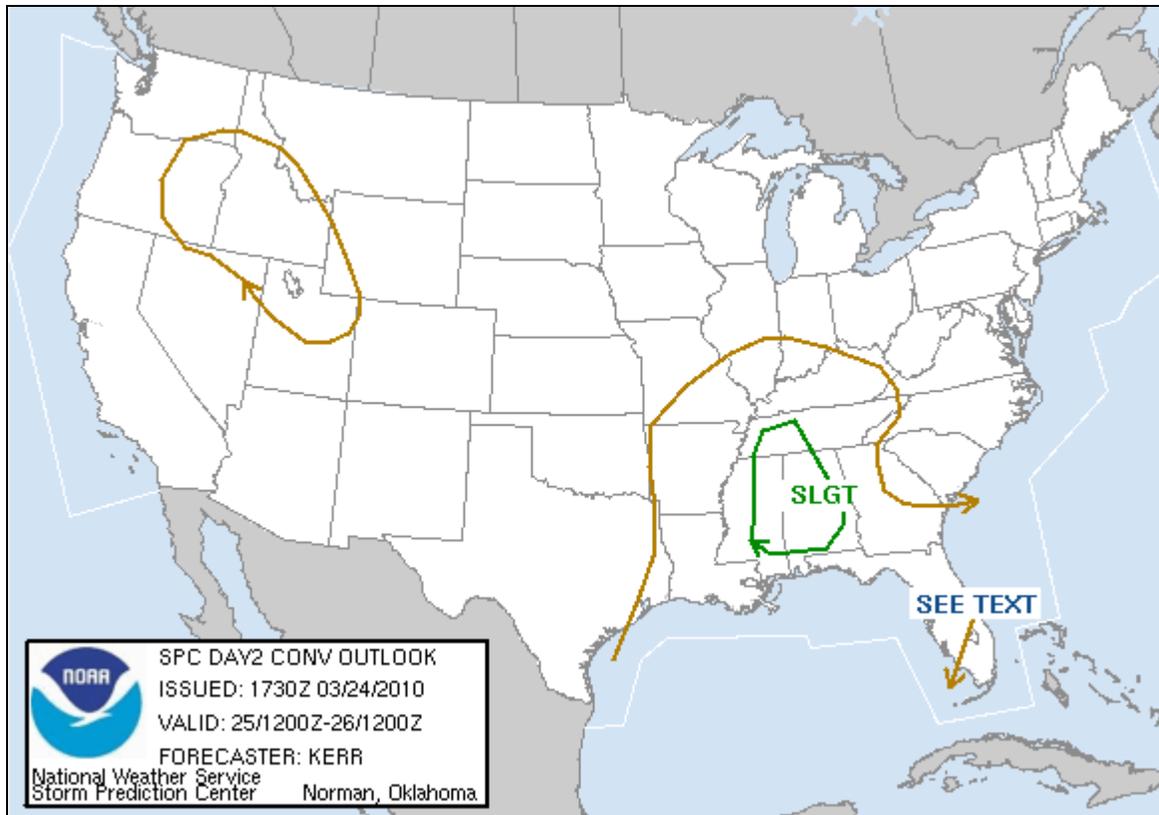


Figure 2. SPC outlook for Day2 (Thursday).

Timing:

Check out Figs. 3 through 7 for timing of the weather. These figures will use our in house WRF model, which we run twice per day. It has performed excellently this winter. Therefore, why not share our good fortune with our partners? Figures 3 and 4 show the weather beginning to move into our western zones during the afternoon hours. During this period, especially along the coastal sections of the eastern Florida Panhandle, some stronger storms could come ashore from the Gulf of Mexico. Looking at Fig. 5, the warmer colors show that the stronger thunderstorms will come ashore between 5 pm EDT/4 pm CDT (Fig, 4) and 8 pm EDT/7 pm CDT (Fig. 5). The approaching cold front can be seen approaching the forecast area moving through northern Alabama and southeast Mississippi.

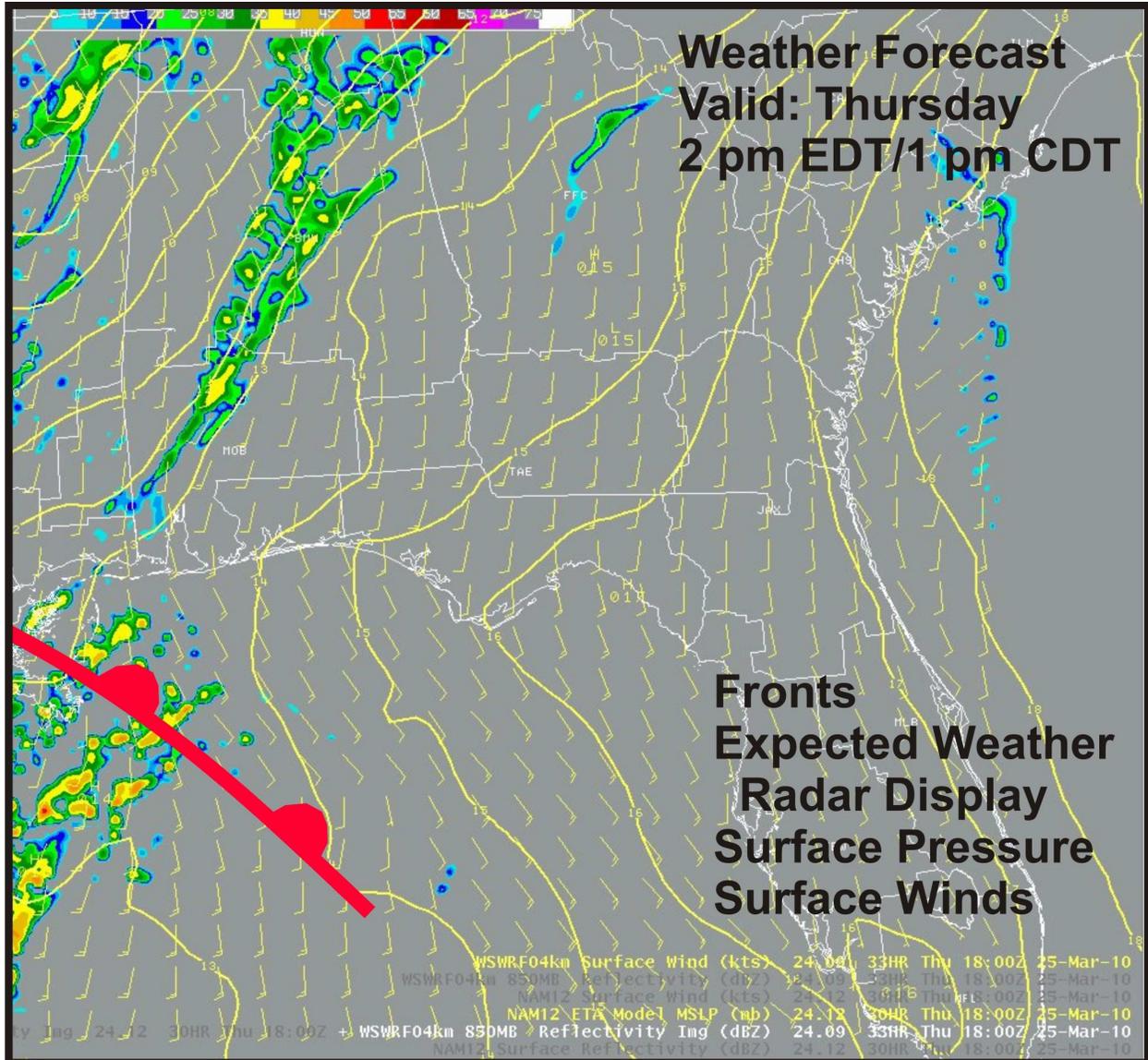


Figure 3. Weather for Thursday afternoon at 2 pm EDT/1 pm CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

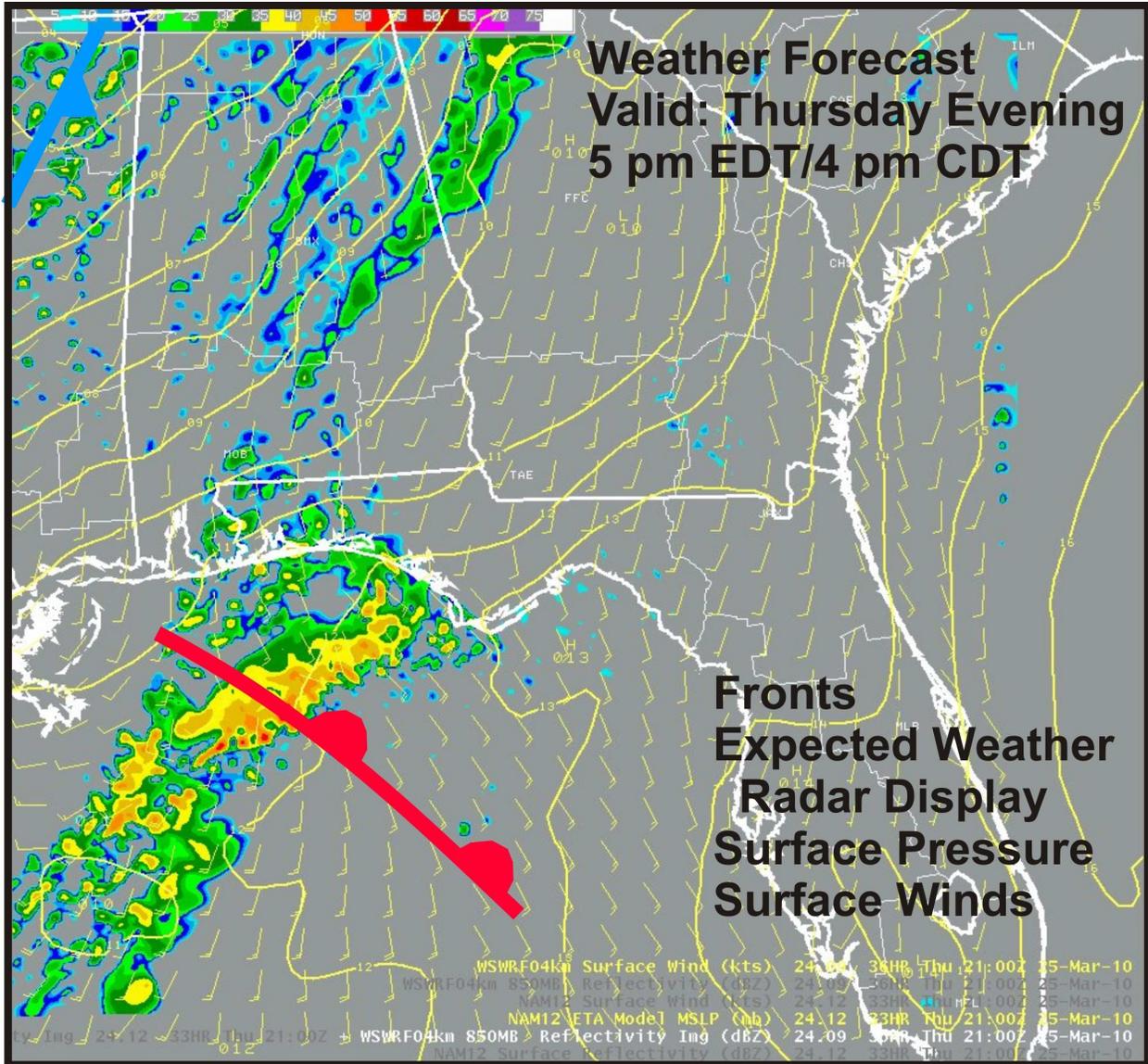


Figure 4. Weather for late Thursday afternoon at 5 pm EDT/4 pm CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

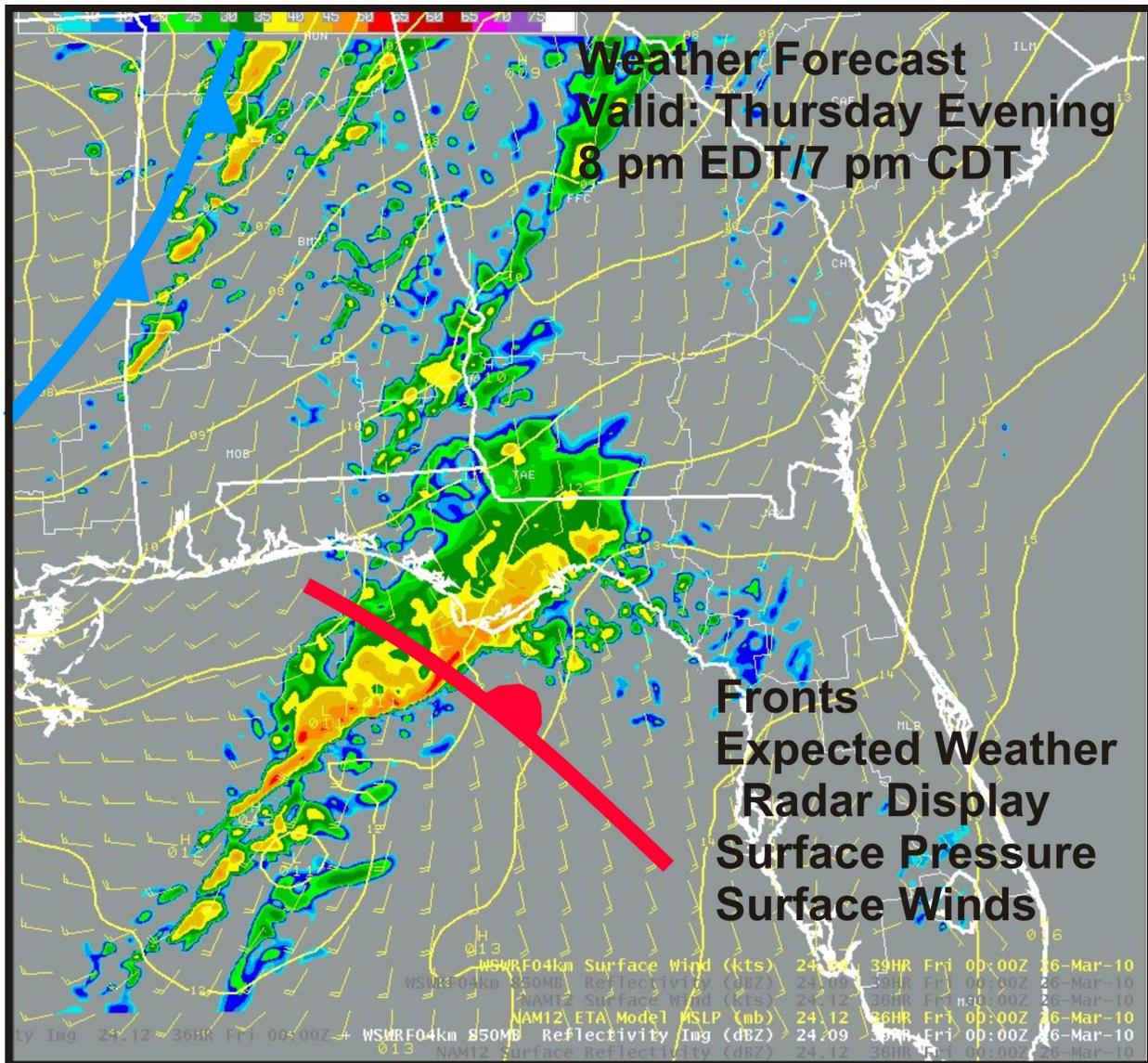


Figure 5. Weather for early Thursday evening at 8 pm EDT/7 pm CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

Figure 6, on the next page, shows the weather for Thursday evening at 11 pm EDT/10 pm CDT. The strongest weather is now in the Florida Big Bend, and possibly even in extreme south central Georgia. For the next six hours or so, the possibility exists for strong to severe storms to come ashore in the southeast Big Bend. A limiting factor continues to be the cold sea surface temperatures in Apalachee Bay, which could stabilize the environment and reduce the threat of severe weather.

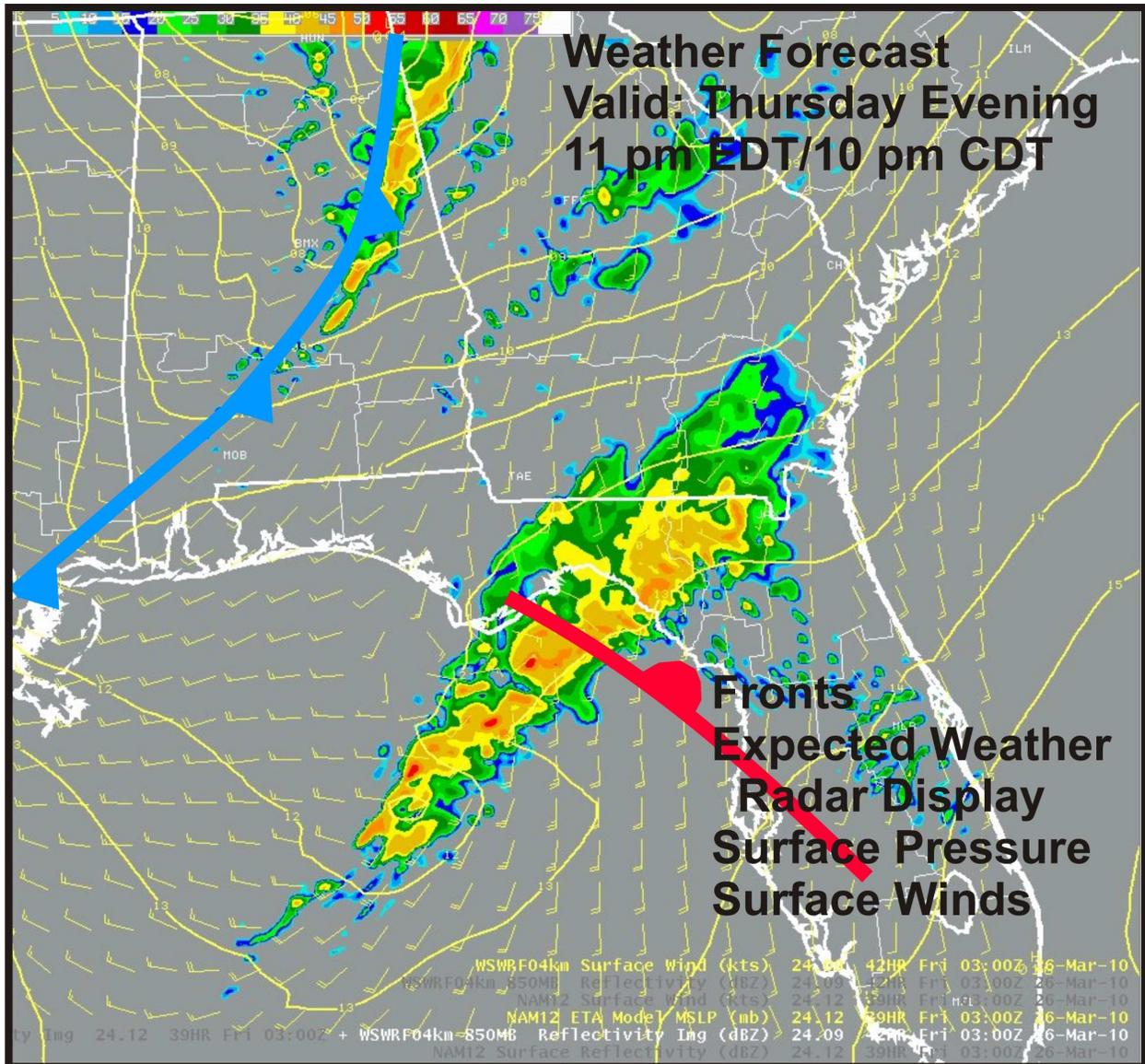


Figure 6. Weather for Thursday evening at 11 pm EDT/10 pm CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

By 2 am EDT/1 am CDT (Fig. 7), thunderstorms are on their way out of the extreme southeast Big Bend, and the cold front is approaching extreme southeast Alabama. Notice that the weather directly associated with the cold front is not as intense as the weather out ahead of the front in north Florida.

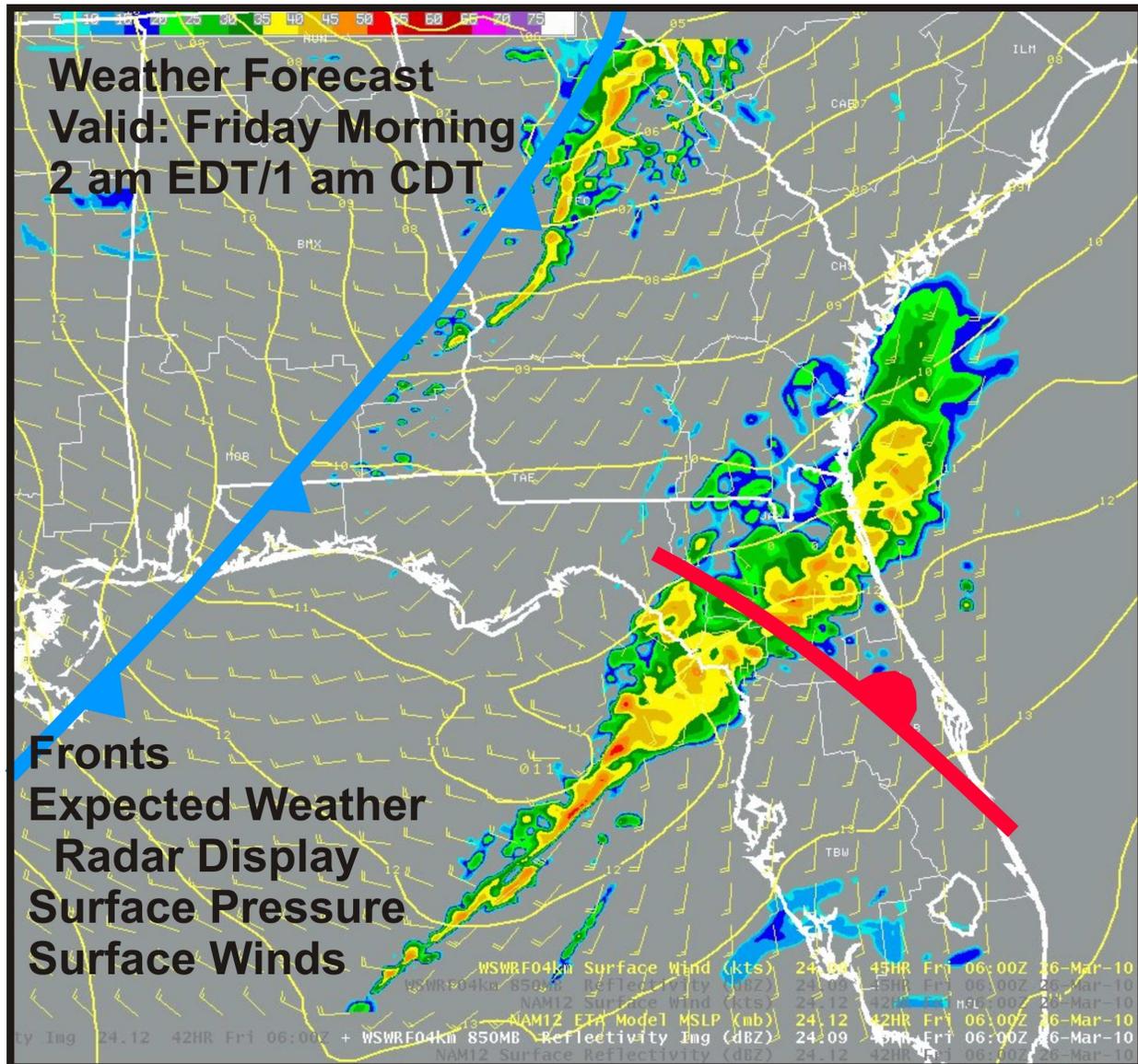


Figure 7. Weather for Thursday evening at 2 am EDT/1 am CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

Finally, in Fig 8 (5 am EDT/4 am CDT), the most intense weather is now moving into the Tampa area. The cold front continues to push through the forecast area with little or no weather, except for some showers and/or sprinkles.

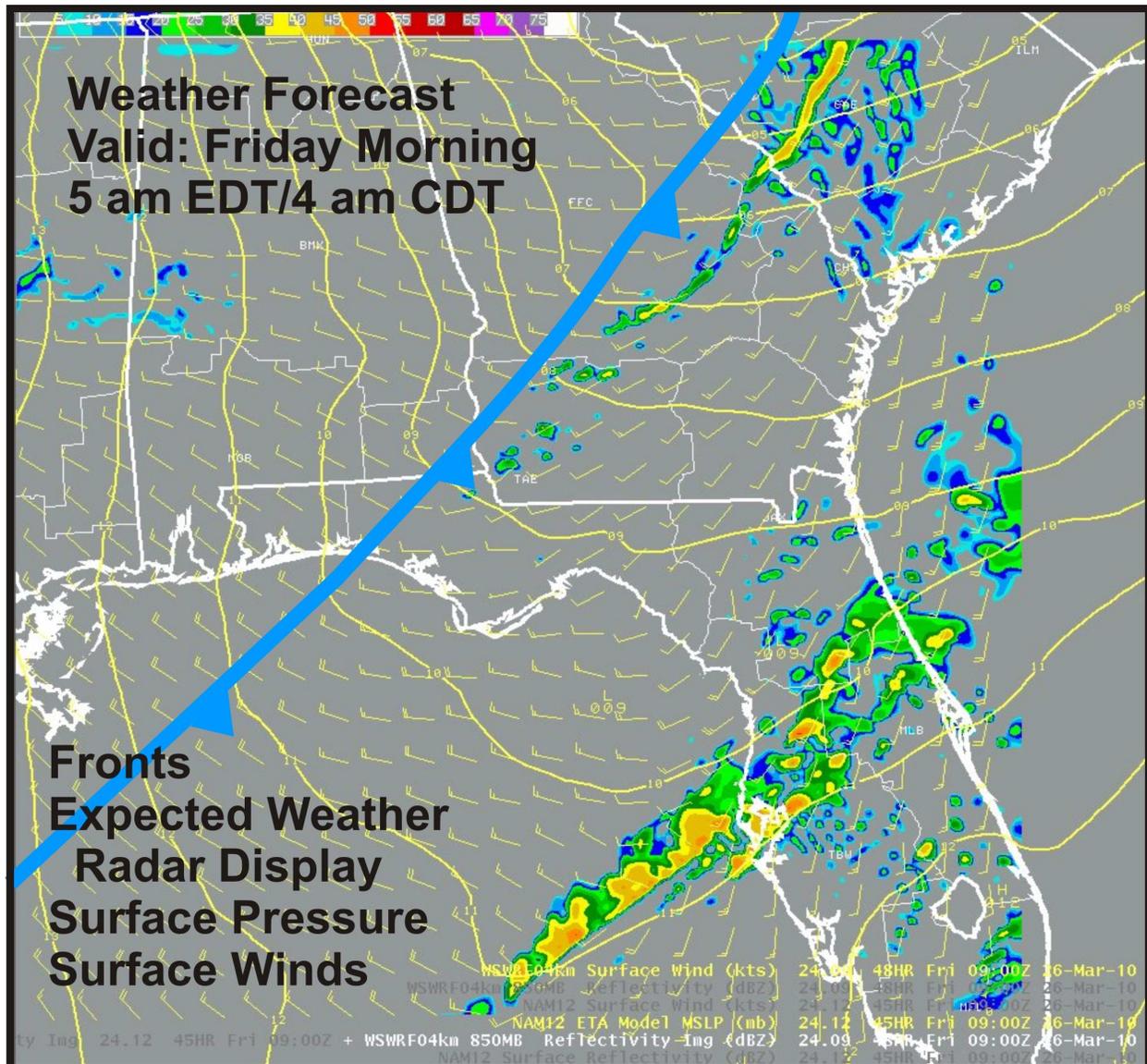


Figure 8. Weather for early Friday morning at 5 am EDT/4 am CDT. Included in the weather depiction are Fronts, Forecast Radar Display, Surface Pressure and Surface Winds.

Rainfall:

The Total Rainfall forecast is for 1-2 inches mainly in Florida with some isolated higher amounts associated with the stronger storms coming ashore from the Gulf of Mexico. In Alabama and Georgia, expect rainfall amounts to be one inch or less.

Summary:

In summary, a cold front approaches the area on Thursday and moves completely through the forecast area by Friday morning.

Expect 1-2 inches of rain with this weather system with higher amounts possible near the coast.

It is a marginal severe weather event. The possibility of severe storms will be mainly south of I-10 where a strong storm could come ashore from the Gulf of Mexico.

Timing shows weather beginning Thursday afternoon in the eastern Florida Big Bend, near sunset in the Apalachicola vicinity, and early evening to after midnight in the Florida Big Bend.

For more information, please check out our website at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh>

Or check out our 24-hr graphical hazardous weather outlook at:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tae/?n=ghwo_lightning

If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 850-942-8833 or on our toll free line at 800-598-4562 and ask to speak to a meteorologist.