Launch Mission Execution Forecast

Mission: Falcon 9 Starlink 6-88
Issued: 3 Jan 2026 / 1200L (1700Z)
Valid: 4 Jan 2026 / 0000 – 0317L (0500 – 0817Z)

Forecast Discussion: An upper-level trough and surface low will drag through the Deep South today and emerge into the western Atlantic off the Carolina/Georgia coastline by nighttime. The associated cold front will unfortunately move through Central Florida during the launch window. Model solutions have great agreement on timing with the worst weather likely occurring at the front of the window, as band of showers (that likely triggers the Cumulus Cloud Rule) moves through around midnight. There is also good model agreement for improvement into the window, with lingering thick clouds being the main concern by the end. POVs on both ends of the window have been adjusted accordingly as a result. Winds will also be gusty but likely below threshold.

For the backup launch opportunity Sunday night, the Space Coast will be post-frontal, but lingering mid-level clouds from the Atlantic may drift onshore with the north-northeasterly wind flow. This may trigger a thick cloud threat, though clouds will be scattered in nature.

Launch Day

Probability of Violating Weather Constraints[1]

70→30% | **Primary Concerns**: Cumulus Cloud Rule, Thick Cloud Layers Rule

Weather Conditions

Weather/Visibility:	Sct Showers / 7 mi.
Temp/Humidity:	62°F / 90%
Liftoff Winds (200'):	240° 22 - 27 mph

Clouds

Type	Coverage	Base (ft)	Tops (ft)
Cumulus	Broken	2,500	16,000
Cirrostratus	Scattered	21,000	25,000

Additional Risk Criteria[2]

Upper-Level Wind Shear:	Low-Mod
Booster Recovery Weather:	Low
Solar Activity:	Low

24-Hour Delay

Probability of Violating Weather Constraints

25% | **Primary Concerns**: Thick Cloud Layers Rule

Weather Conditions

Weather/Visibility:	None / 7 mi.
Temp/Humidity:	61°F / 80%
Liftoff Winds (200'):	030° 10 - 15 mph

Clouds

Type	Coverage	Base (ft)	Tops (ft)
Cirrostratus	Scattered	20,000	25,000

Additional Risk Criteria

Upper-Level Wind Shear:	Low
Booster Recovery Weather:	Low
Solar Activity:	Low

Notes

1. *The Probability of Violation (PoV) is the chance of a local safety or customer constraint violation occurring any random time during the launch window.*
2. *Additional Risk Criteria, which are not included in the PoV, are mission-specific constraints that may not include all phenomena within each risk factor.*

See Launch FAQ https://45thweathersquadron.nebula.spaceforce.mil/pages/launchForecastSupport.html ***for more information***

Next Forecast Will Be Issued	As Required