

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2013

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
CALIFORNIA, South Central				
(CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS				
	08/01/13 00:00 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/31/13 23:59 PST		0	
<p>The Aspen Fire was in the Sierra NF and the ignition was on 7/22/13. The cause was lightning and the location was 7 Miles North-Northwest of Big Creek (Fresno County) and the size was 22,992 acres. Containment was reached on 9/8/13 and the cost to containment was \$32,289,100.</p>				
(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS				
	08/18/13 00:00 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/22/13 00:00 PST		0	
<p>The Shirley wildfire occurred in the Sequoia NF and the ignition occurred on 8/18/13 due to lightning strikes. The location was Democrat and Alta Sierra (Kern County). The size was 794 acres and containment was reached on 8/22/13. The cost to containment was \$1.9 Million.</p>				
(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS				
	08/18/13 00:00 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/22/13 00:00 PST		0	
<p>The Tenant wildfire was in the Sequoia NF and the ignition date was 8/18 caused by lightning. The location was near Democrat (Kern County) and the size was 411 acres. Containment was reached on 8/22 and the cost to containment was \$950,000.</p>				
KERN COUNTY --- BORON [35.00, -117.65], 1.6 SSE BORON [34.98, -117.64], 1.1 S BORON AIRSTRIP [34.98, -117.60], 1.3 NNW BORON AIRSTRIP [35.02, -117.60]				
	08/18/13 14:56 PST		50K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/18/13 15:56 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
<p>Flash Flood on Highway 58 near Boron. The local CHP reported rock and flood debris.</p>				
KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 NW GARLOCK [35.41, -117.79], 2.3 SSW GARLOCK [35.37, -117.79], 1.0 ESE JOHANNESBURG [35.36, -117.61], 1.0 SW SEALERS [35.47, -117.64]				
	08/19/13 05:18 PST		0.10M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/19/13 07:18 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
<p>A flash flood caused road closures at US 395 and Garlock/Redrock Randsburg Roads. State Highway 14 also closed.</p>				
KERN COUNTY --- 5.6 SSW RIDGECREST [35.55, -117.70], 5.9 SW RIDGECREST [35.56, -117.75], 3.0 W SEALERS [35.48, -117.68], 1.6 SSE SEALERS [35.46, -117.62]				
	08/19/13 07:39 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/19/13 08:39 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
<p>Roads were closed in Ridgecrest due to flooding near the Intersection of US 395 and Brown Road.</p>				
KERN COUNTY --- 7.6 WSW DEMOCRAT SPGS [35.48, -118.79], 7.4 NW BENA [35.43, -118.77], 4.3 S DEMOCRAT SPGS [35.47, -118.67], 1.9 W DEMOCRAT SPGS [35.53, -118.70]				
	08/19/13 16:46 PST		0.10M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/19/13 17:46 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
<p>Local CHP reported rocks and mudslides blocking Highway 178 at the Mouth of the Kern Canyon. The road was shut down for several hours. Several vehicles were stuck in the canyon.</p>				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.5 NNW DUNLAP [36.75, -119.13]				
	08/19/13 17:00 PST		20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
	08/19/13 17:00 PST		0	Source: Public
<p>In the town of Dunlap thunderstorms caused gusty winds around 50 mph. Damage was reported to fences.</p>				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.8 ENE WILDFLOWER [36.51, -119.65]				

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	08/19/13 17:45 PST		0.20M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	08/19/13 17:55 PST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A NWS official storm survey was conducted on wind damage caused by severe thunderstorms. Minor roof damage was evident to a house, three utility poles were topped or damaged, several small trees and one large tree were downed, in addition to an extensive amount of tree and trash debris in the area. Winds were estimated at 60 mph based on the damage survey indicators.

KERN COUNTY --- 3.5 S ALTA SIERRA [35.68, -118.54]

08/19/13 18:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
08/19/13 18:00 PST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Broadcast media reported some small hail and heavy rain. The rainfall total was 2 inches.

MADERA COUNTY --- 3.5 NE DAIRYLAND [37.06, -120.28]

08/19/13 19:27 PST	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 48 kt)
08/19/13 19:27 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A pine tree was downed.

(CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS

08/19/13 19:36 PST	55K	High Wind (MAX 50 kt)
08/19/13 22:00 PST	0	

High pressure had strengthened by the third week of August and lasted for the remainder of the month over much of the western states and even into the Midwest. August 18th saw the return of monsoonal moisture to the region as a warm, moist airmass wrapped around the upper-level ridge. This airmass brought thunderstorms to the mountains and deserts, especially in Kern and southern Tulare Counties. A strong thunderstorm near Boron produced ½-inch hail during the afternoon of the 18th, and caused flooding near the Boron rest area on Highway 58.

An upper-level low approached the California coast on the 19th, drawing very warm air into the central California interior from the south. Temperatures climbed to their highest readings of the month, with Fresno reaching 110 degrees, and Bakersfield hitting 108. Thunderstorms developed over the mountains and deserts, with some drifting into the San Joaquin Valley during the afternoon and evening hours. Garlock and Red-Rock-Randsburg Road in the eastern Kern County desert was closed due to flooding around sunrise, with flooding on U.S. 395 reported a couple of hours later. Quarter-inch hail fell near Lake Isabella during the early afternoon, and mud and debris flows blocked Highway 178 in the Kern River Canyon. There was a media report of a 1.90 inch storm total rainfall in the Lake Isabella area.

An early evening thunderstorm on the 19th dropped quarter-inch hail on Fresno. Outflow winds from collapsing thunderstorms caused roof damage east-southeast of Lemon Cove, and a 30-foot flag pole was blown over. Trees and utility lines were downed in Woodlake. In the Southern Sierra Nevada foothills, winds damaged fences in the town of Dunlap, northeast of Squaw Valley, and downed trees and utility lines in Springville. High winds also brought down a 30 foot flag pole and caused roof damage 2 miles ESE of Lemon Cove.

Clouds persisted over the region through August 20th, keeping night-time temperatures warm. Fresno set back-to-back record high minimum temperatures on the 19th and 20th, as well as a record high on the 19th of the aforementioned 110 degrees. The previous record high for August 19th had been 108 degrees, set more than a century ago in 1892.

The upper-level low remained off the coast, resulting in a deepening of the marine layer. The influx of marine air into the San Joaquin Valley brought cooler temperature to the region on August 23rd. Fresno had a high of 96 degrees, snapping the string of 100-degree days, and would not see 100 again until the 28th.

The weather for the last 10 days of the month was dominated by a combination of monsoonal moisture and tropical moisture from the remnants of back-to-back tropical storms—Ivo and Juliette—that formed off the southern tip of Baja California. Thunderstorms that formed over the Kern and Tulare County mountains brought locally heavy rainfall, resulting in some flash flooding. There was a bit of a respite from convective activity on August 28th-30th as the upper-level ridge briefly strengthened, but thunderstorms returned to close out the month.

A mix of clouds and wildfire smoke kept the morning of August 31st warm, with both Fresno and Bakersfield coming within a degree of their record high minimum temperatures for the date. The clouds also heralded thunderstorm development, with activity beginning during the morning hours. Of particular concern were thunderstorms that developed over northeastern Ventura County and moved northward toward Frazier Park. By early afternoon, road flooding was reported in the Frazier Park area, with mud and debris flows subsequently reported in the Frazier Park and Lake of the Woods area. One thunderstorm near Lake of the Woods produced dime-size hail. Thunderstorms also developed over the Sierra Nevada in southeastern Tulare County that produced locally heavy rains. By late afternoon, the thunderstorm activity had diminished, ending the threat of flash flooding.

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Wildfire activity due to lightning increased significantly in August compared to the previous month, especially due to the thunderstorms of August 18th-19th. Smoke from wildfires was a persistent problem through the month of August. At the beginning of the month, night-time drainage winds carried smoke from the Aspen fire into the San Joaquin Valley. For the latter half of the month, smoke from the massive Rim fire near Yosemite, and to a lesser extent the Fish fire in Tulare County, was a major concern for interior central California, as high pressure moved well into central California. The nearly calm surface and mid-level winds were too light to scour the smoke and haze that was trapped over much of the San Joaquin Valley.

Fresno had 13 triple-digit days in August—giving it the 15th warmest August on record—while Bakersfield only experienced four triple digit days in August. For the year through August 31st, Fresno had 46 days with highs of 100 degrees or higher, while Bakersfield had 33 such days. Fresno had its warmest “meteorological summer” (June 1st to August 31st) on record, while Bakersfield tied its seventh warmest “meteorological summer”.

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

08/23/13 00:00 PST		0		Wildfire
08/31/13 23:59 PST		0		

The Fish wildfire was in the Sequoia NF and the ignition date was 8/23/13. The cause was lightning and the location was 25 Miles Northeast of Springville (Tulare County). The size was 2060 acres and containment was reached on 9/5/13. The cost to containment was \$4.52 Million.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

08/23/13 00:00 PST		0		Wildfire
08/31/13 23:59 PST		0		

The Windy Peak wildfire was in Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP and the ignition was 8/23/13 and the cause was from lightning strikes. The location was 14 Miles North of Cedar Grove (Fresno County). The size was 681 acres and containment was finally reached on 10/20/13. The cost to containment was \$80,000.