



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Fresno County

17 WSW Mendota	22	1525PST 1540PST			0	0	20K	1.6M	Hail (0.75)
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Severe thunderstorms developed over Central California during the afternoon hours. Two distinct bands of thunderstorms moved from the southwest to northeast during this day affecting the Kings/Fresno County area with one band and the Kern County area with the other. Not only did the storms produce numerous incidents of hail and one tornado, but locally heavy rain from one thunderstorm led to local flooding in downtown Bakersfield, Kern County. Hail damage for Fresno and Kings Counties for this day is summarized in this report as ag commissioner figures did not differentiate damage by location within the counties. There were reports that cars were dented by the hail along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley as reported by ag-aviation operators

Kern County

Bakersfield	22	1630PST 1635PST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Thunderstorm activity in the Bakersfield area brought hail and locally heavy rain during the late afternoon hours of 3/22/97

Kern County

2 SE Bakersfield	22	1630PST			0	0	50K	0	Lightning
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Lightning struck the Kern County Ag Commissioner's Office causing extensive damage to sprinkler, power conveyance, and internal office computer equipment.

Kern County

10 W McFarland to 9.8 W McFarland	22	1637PST 1642PST	0.2	10	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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Doppler Radar strongly supported meso/tornadic activity west of McFarland and a subsequent report of a tornado was made through the California Highway Patrol Office. However, no damage could be verified in this very rural area of the county.

Fresno County

11 N Coalinga	22	1640PST 1650PST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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Spotter report of 3/4 inch hail in western Fresno County.

Kern County

Wasco	22	1651PST			0	0			Lightning
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During afternoon thunderstorm activity across the South San Joaquin Valley lightning struck quite often...including a house in Wasco. Minimal damage reported by the Sheriff's office.

Kern County

Bakersfield	22	1715PST 1745PST			0	0	150K	0	Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Rainfall amounts reported with the afternoon thunderstorms in the Fresno County area indicated 2.2 inches of rain fell inside an hour. Similar heavy rain (0.85 inch in 1/2 hour) in the Bakersfield area of Kern County overcame the storm drain system and street flooding caused several businesses to become inundated. Damage occurred to business inventory and buildings.

Fresno County

9 N Avenal	22	1752PST 1800PST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Spotter report of 1 inch hail...no damage reports directly but again crop damage summarized in earlier report

Kings County

6 W Stratford	22	1804PST 1814PST			0	0	0	20K	Hail (1.50)
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Spotter reports of 1.5 inch hail in rural areas of western Kings County. Despite the size of the hail no reports of damage were received. However, it is likely some field crops (grains) did sustain damage but an amount is unable to be assessed.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ025

31	0945PST 1900PST				0	0			High Wind (G75)
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Sustained wind speed of 40 Kts / gust to 50 Kts at 0945 PST with the maximum sustained wind of 50 Kts and gusts to 75 Kts at Mojave Airport occurring at 1245 PST. Mountain wave activity affecting the area during the day but no damage sustained.

CAZ025

31	1145PST 1900PST				0	0	0	0	High Wind (G70)
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Strong northwest to north wind pushed speeds locally high in the Kern County desert on Monday, March 31. As reported by anemometer readings at Mojave Airport speeds reached 70 knots with sustained wind of 50 knots. No damage reported.