



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 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

Kern County

10 N Taft	16 20	1600PST 0645PST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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The Lokern fire between McKittrick and Tupman in Kern County burned 47,350 acres from the time it was set by lightning on May 16 until contained on May 20. While no damage was done to the threatened petroleum fields and structures, one tractor-trailer was destroyed in the fire. No injuries or other damage reported. NWS HNX supported suppression efforts by weather forecast support from the office.

Fresno County

15 NNE Fresno	19	1430PST 1900PST			0	0	1.5M	300K	Lightning
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Lightning spawned and wind driven fire destroyed 600 acres of grassland and 3 upscale homes north-northeast of Fresno. Wind from the thunderstorm provided the driving force pushing the fire through fire-breaks and into expensive homes and through dry pastures.

Fresno County

3 NW Selma	19	1540PST 1600PST			0	15	150K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G30)
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A large thunderstorm north of Fresno developing at 1400 PST provided an outflow with winds raising loose dust along Highway 99 southeast of the city after 1500 PST. Blowing dust lowered visibility to such an extent that 30 cars/trucks were involved in a chain-reaction crash injuring 15. Spotter reports gave wind speeds only as high as 35 MPH with measured wind at the Fresno Air Terminal ASOS at 31 MPH as the gust front crossed the airport.