



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1998

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

CAZ020-023-025

04	1200PST								
06	1800PST			1	3				Excessive Heat

Temperatures in the Kern County Deserts soared to greater than 110 degrees in several locations during the period of August 4th through 6th. The China Lake/Ridgecrest/Inyokern area climbed to 111 degrees F. on August 4th and 112 on the 5th. California City 30 miles away reached 116 degs F. on the 5th. One heat-related fatality was reported for the 4th in the Inyokern/Ridgecrest area. One-heat related illness was reported at Millerton Lake where a ranger was treated in the course of a shore rescue on the 4th. Friant reported a high temperature of 111 deg F. this day. In West Fresno County, a firefighter suffered heat exhaustion while battling a structure fire in Mendota. In The Tulare County Mountains near Badger a hiker suffered a heat-related illness on the 4th. M470U

Kern County

**14 E Rosamond to
Rosamond**

11	1700PST								
	1730PST			0	0				Flood

Spotter reports indicated that up to 0.91 inches of rain fell in a 40-minute time period from 1740 PDT until 1830 PDT ... another spotter reported 1.74" in about the same time period. A late report received indicated 2.07" of rain fell in just over an hour ending at 1830 PDT at Rosamond. Wind gusts measured up to 48 MPH with, again, another estimate of 60 MPH for winds, occurred with the widespread thunderstorms in the Kern Deserts. Easterly flow aloft and at the surface interacted with the Tehachapi/Mojave shear line to explode in late afternoon convective activity. Heavy rain brought tire deep water in Rosamond as well as flooding Rosamond Boulevard between Rosamond and Edwards AFB. A strong wind gust was measured at 77 MPH at a RAWS site at El Mirage just to the south of the county/CWFA line.

Fresno County

Helm

14	0550PST								
	0555PST			0	0	10K			Dry Microburst

NWS HNX WSR-88D detected no cell activity but high based cumulus evidently supported a weak microburst. A small indication was present on the radar at the time of occurrence but was already dissipated by the completion of the volume scan. This dry microburst wind speed likely was less than 50 MPH but due to the decrepit condition of one of the small telephone poles in this rural area, one pole sustained damage and did fail. In so failing, 4 adjacent poles also snapped off. Again, this was NOT A SEVERE EVENT but more one of interest despite the minor damage.

CAZ020

27	1500PST								
	1700PST			1	0				Excessive Heat

While temperatures were only above normal, humidities continued to be much above normal for the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. A student athlete succumbed to heat exhaustion apparently from a Thursday afternoon football practice ... passing away during the night and discovered early on Friday morning the 28th. M160U

Kern County

3 WNW Inyokern Arpt

30	1435PST								
	1525PST			0	0	10K			Flash Flood

Worst cast hydro scenario with storm moving eastward at 3 MPH down the watershed of the steep Indian Wells Canyon. State Highway 14 affected by water over the roadway 1 mile north of State Highway 178. Small stream flood advisory issued for area at 1225 PST specifically mentioning Highway 14. Warning issued upon receipt of report at 1448 PST ... Initial report of 6 feet of water later confirmed that depth was something close to one foot. Damage limited to roadbed erosion

Kern County

**3 ENE Lake Isabella to
3 E Lake Isabella**

31	1430PST								
	2359PST			0	0	5K			Thunderstorm Wind



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Kern County

3 ENE Lake Isabella to 3 E Lake Isabella	31	1430PST 2359PST			0	1	1M		Wild/Forest Fire
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Thunderstorm wind at 45 knots from the east swept into the Paradise Cove area along the south shore of Lake Isabella. Downed powerlines sparked a grass fire (Yankee Fire) that subsequently burned 1,100 acres at a cost to suppress of \$1M. There was one injury due to smoke inhalation. Moored boats and jet skies were endangered by the high wind at docks along the south shore. Flash Flood Warning erroneously issued in conjunction with Severe Thunderstorm Warning ... no verification on the FFW. Blowing dust was observed by several trained spotters at points east of the lake and along the south side of the lake. The Yankee Fire was contained on 9/2/98.