



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



October 2000

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

CAZ091

Sw Sj Valley

09 1730PST
2000PST

0 0

Dust Storm

Gusty wind just ahead of frontal passage through the Central San Joaquin Valley raised dust in many areas of the west side...including Kings County where visibility dropped to only 200 feet in a few locations. Some areas of blowing dust were also reported in Fresno County but visibilities were not reported as low.

Fresno County

8.7 N Fresno

09 1950PST
2025PST

0 0

Lightning

Kings County

4 NE Hanford to
4 N Hanford

09 2045PST
2110PST

0 0

Thunderstorm

Fresno County

10 NE Reedley to
20 NE Reedley

09 2140PST
2210PST

0 0

Thunderstorm

Late evening convection brought numerous reports of locally heavy thundershowers beginning on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and then moved northeast toward the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada. One cell along the south border of Fresno County generated a severe thunderstorm warning with a high reflectivity value but a lack of spotter reports due to time-of-day could not give verification of a severe event. A subsequent report of 4" of snow was received at Huntington Lake at the 7200-foot elevation of Fresno County overnight due to the thunder-snowshower activity. Another report of 4" of snow was received as well from Lodgepole in the Tulare County Mountains.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

09 2000PST
10 2000PST

0 0

Winter Storm

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

10 0100PST
1500PST

0 0

Snow

The first winter storm of the season affected the Interior Central California mountain areas beginning very late on the 9th and early on the 10th. Huntington Lake received 5" of new snow, Tuolumne Meadows 4", Mt. Tom Lookout 8", Lodgepole 10", and 5" on the Manter Fire Burn area of southeast Tulare County. The Kern County Mountain areas received snow above the 6000-foot elevation with 0.58" of rain at Mountain Mesa, 1.03" at Glennville.

Tulare County

5.5 S Earlimart

10 1222PST
1230PST

0 0

Lightning

Fresno County

Fresno

10 1300PST
1600PST

0 0

Urban/Sml Stream Fld

Tulare County

Tulare to
Farmersville

10 1400PST
1600PST

0 0

30K

Urban/Sml Stream Fld

Fresno County

11.5 NE Coalinga to
9 SW Huron

10 1507PST
1520PST

0 0

4M

Hail (0.75)

Kings County

8 N Avenal to
8 NE Avenal

10 1550PST
1600PST

0 0

500K

Hail (1.00)

An early season convective rain event did economic damage to the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Frontal passage with embedded and post-frontal thunderstorms swept through the Central and South San Joaquin Valley beginning around 0900 PST on the 10th. Hanford received 1/3" rain in an hour from a heavy thundershower from 1150 to 1250 PST. Severe weather hail damage occurred on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in the Fresno and Kings County areas. Additionally, a 1-mile long, small hail swath in Central Fresno County near Malaga did agricultural damage. Crops impacted by the hail were lettuce, alfalfa, beans,



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

broccoli, persimmons, raisin, pomegranates, and cotton. Going back through at least 1922, no Fresno Fair closures had been noted due to adverse weather but the heavy rain on the 10th closed the fair leading to an estimated revenue loss of \$200K. Over the 3-day period from the 9th through the 11th, Fresno received 1.22" of rain including a record breaking 0.76" on the 10th. Pondered water caused numerous flooding problems in and around the City of Fresno. In the Tulare area 0.67" was received during the afternoon of the 10th. The unusually significant, early rain caused damage in the form of ceiling collapses and water damage

CAZ089>090

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley

12	0525PST 0700PST			0	0		Fog
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On the heels of an early rain in the San Joaquin Valley, the first dense fog episode of the cool season occurred in Merced County in the early morning hours of October 12th. Visibilities lowered to below 500 feet on Merced County roads for a couple of hour.

CAZ089-091-093-098>099 **W Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - S Sierra Foothills - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**

21	0600PST			0	0		Wind
22	0300PST						

Frontal passage through Interior Central California provided gusty wind along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley where wind speed up to 41 MPH was reported at Kettleman Hills and 37 MPH at Navy Lemoore. Other reports were received regarding gusty wind that felled some trees in the Madera County foothills around Bass Lake with speeds to 61 MPH at Crane Flat Lookout at 1200 PST. In the SE Kern Desert, Mojave had localized gusts to 58 MPH along with Edwards AFB gusts in excess of 45 MPH. Wind lingered longer in the Indian Wells Valley of Kern County with local gusts to near 60 MPH at Laural Mountain at 1713 PST

CAZ098

Indian Wells Vly

22	0930PST 1440PST			0	0		Wind
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Post-frontal wind again plagued the Indian Wells Valley area with Laural Mountain reporting early morning wind locally up to 62 MPH. Many locations in the Kern Desert, including that near Cantil, had wind gusts to near 50 MPH with some blowing dust.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

26	1400PST			0	0		Snow
27	0300PST						

By 1800 PST Tuolumne Meadows had received 6" of new snow and ultimately 11" of new snow was reported from the overnight event.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

28	2000PST			0	0		Winter Storm
29	2200PST						

Tulare County

Tulare

29	1450PST 1700PST			0	0		Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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A major weather system provided major snow accumulations for the higher terrain; over 8 inches of snow within 12 hours at Tuolumne Meadows and 18" inside 24 hours at Big Meadows in the Tulare County Mountains. Subsequent atmospheric instability on the 29th lead to not only several reports of large hail and numerous reports of funnel clouds, but urban flooding from heavy convective rain showers. Minor street flooding was reported in Visalia but major street flooding reported by the Tulare County Sheriff. Spotter storm total precipitation reports indicated Lemoore 0.75", Fresno 0.81", Clovis 1.01", Merced 1.03", 1.44" Visalia, and 3.25 inches at Fish Camp in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Kings County

5 S Hanford

29	1330PST 1345PST			0	0		Funnel Cloud
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Tulare County

**2 W Visalia Arpt to
1.5 W Visalia Arpt**

29	1338PST 1340PST			0	0		Funnel Cloud
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Tulare County

**5 NE Pixley to
6 NE Pixley**

29	1440PST 1442PST			0	0		Funnel Cloud
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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Merced County

9 SE Merced Arpt to 12 SE Merced Arpt	29	1850PST 1910PST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Madera County

7 W Chowchilla	29	1910PST 1915PST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
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A major weather system, especially considering the time of year, moved over interior Central California late on the 28th providing major snow accumulations for the higher terrain. Subsequent atmospheric instability on the 29th lead to several reports of large hail and numerous reports of funnel clouds. A north-south line of convection formed over the San Joaquin Valley upon passing Kings County by 1330 PST on the 29th. Two large cells threatened Visalia/Tulare and Corcoran, respectively, and a Severe Thunderstorm Warning and a Tornado Warning were issued due to the threat. HNX 88D reported TVS east of Corcoran. However no verification in the rural area could be obtained. Large hail occurred in Visalia with several reports of funnel clouds through the early to mid afternoon hours.