



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2001

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

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ093-096>097 **S Sierra Foothills - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**
01 **1800PST** **0** **0** **Winter Storm**
03 **0400PST**

CAZ095 **Kern Cty Mtns**
02 **1200PST** **0** **0** **Snow**
2300PST

A major winter storm provided significant snowfall amounts to relatively low levels in the Southern Sierra Nevada of Interior Central California: Yosemite Valley received 7" of snow in less than 10 hours; Gin Flat at 7000' in the South Sierra had 50" in 34 hours with other reported amounts varying from 32-53"; Big Meadows at 7600' in the Tulare County Mountains received 31" in 20 hours with other amounts ranging from 17 to 31." Alta Sierra in the Kern Mountains received 7" during the episode. Valley rainfall included 0.54" at Merced. Bass Lake had 1.27" of rain with Shaver Lake receiving 1.79" during the event at lower mountain elevations. Gusty wind accompanying the front downed some power lines for customers in the Oakhurst and Fish Camp areas of the S.Sierra.

CAZ089>091 **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley**
02 **0730PST** **0** **0** **Wind**
1730PST

Gusty south wind on the San Joaquin Valley was measured to 50 MPH at the Los Banos RAWs, 30 KTS at the Merced ASOS, and to 48 MPH at the Kettleman RAWs prior to frontal passage (FROPA) on the 2nd. Wind to 30 KTS occurred with FROPA at Merced around 1700 PST as wind switched from south to west (and eventually northwest)

CAZ089>092 **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**
07 **2300PST** **0** **0** **Fog**
08 **1200PST**

Rather persistent fog formed around midnight in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley leading to widespread visibilities less than 1/4mile and locally as low as 200 feet

CAZ095-098>099 **Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**
10 **0900PST** **0** **0** **Wind**
2030PST

Within Kern County Mountains and Deserts northwest wind reached speeds of 55 KTS at Mojave, 50 MPH at Indian Wells Canyon, and 32 KTS at the Tehachapi Gliderport around mid-day on the 10th

CAZ089>092 **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**
11 **0400PST** **0** **0** **Frost**
12 **0800PST**

Two consecutive mornings of frost on the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley floor saw minimum temperatures generally around 30F with outlying areas at 28F and only the coldest, small pockets briefly touching 27F. No damage to the area citrus

CAZ096>097 **S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**
14 **0000PST** **0** **0** **Winter Storm**
1600PST

CAZ098>099 **Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**
14 **0713PST** **0** **0** **High Wind (G80)^M**
2315PST

CAZ095 **Kern Cty Mtns**
14 **0953PST** **0** **0** **Wind**
2359PST

A classic winter storm moved through Central California on the 14th marked by substantial snowfall and high wind. In the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Ostrander Lake received 23" of snow in 16 hours, while Chagoopa Plateau had 13" in less than 10 hours. Indian Wells Canyon recorded wind gusts to 63 KTS while Mojave Airport reached 80 KTS in the Kern County Deserts. Sandberg Weather Station had wind to 45 MPH in the Tehachapi Mountains.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley		16	0200PST 0800PST	0	0			Frost
	Following the morning of the 15th when a few minimum temperatures were reported around 30 degrees, temperatures were rather consistent on the Central and South San Joaquin Valley floor on the morning of the 16th as minimums ranged from 28-32F with only a few isolated areas dropping lower than that range. No damage on the local citrus reported. Durations below 32F were close to 10 hours.								
CAZ089>090	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley		18	0530PST 0930PST	0	0			Fog
	California Highway Patrol reported visibilities of 200-500 feet in Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley		18 19	1921PST 1135PST	0	0			Fog
	Particularly dense and early-forming fog was noted on the evening of the 18th through much of the morning of the 19th. Visibilities were less than 1/4 mile throughout the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley.								
CAZ093>094-096>097	S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns		19 21	2200PST 1000PST	0	0			Winter Storm
CAZ098>099	Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert		20	1021PST 1840PST	0	0			Wind
	Lodgepole reported 15" and Giant Forest with 16" of new snow in the Tulare County Mountains while Upper Burnt Corral in the Southern Sierra had 20." Park Service reported 9" new snow in Yosemite Valley and 8" from Sequoia Dispatch with snow levels as low as 2500 feet MSL in the foothills in Mariposa County and 3000 feet in the Tulare County foothills. With the episode, gusty wind was reported in the Kern County Desert areas with Government Peak measuring 54 MPH during the afternoon of the 20th								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley		24 26	0236PST 1100PST	0	0			Fog
	Consecutive mornings from the 24th through the 26th had reports of widespread dense fog in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Visibility was described as "critical" on the morning of the 25th and as low as 100 feet on the 26th in the South Valley in the vicinity of Bakersfield.								
CAZ096>097	S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns		28 29	1600PST 1400PST	0	0			Winter Storm
	Although snow levels were quite high (above 8500 feet MSL), snow amounts were quite significant such as the 36" of new snow at Wet Meadows in Tulare County and 31" at West Woodchuck Meadow in the Southern Sierra.								
CAZ096>097	S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns		30 31	1600PST 0300PST	0	0			Winter Storm
	A fast moving winter frontal passage deposited significant amounts of snow in less than 12 hours at only the high elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada. Mitchell Meadow in the S.Sierra had 19" of new snow in 9 hours while Wet Meadows in Tulare County had 28" in 11 hours. Lodgepole received 0.94" of rain on Sunday the 30th (right at the snow line). Valley rainfall amounts: Exeter 1.44", Visalia 1.08", Fresno 0.63", and Porterville 0.43". While November and December were much above normal in precipitation for Interior Central California, Northern California indices showed rainfall at 152% of average-to-date								