



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2001

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

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

01	0000PST								
07	0900PST			0	0				Frost

Continued high pressure in proximity to the West Coast provided for little mid and upper level moisture over Interior Central California on into the the first week of January 2001. Minimum temperatures on the Central and South San Joaquin Valley floor varied generally from 26 deg F to 32F in several locations. The citrus crop was essentially not bothered by the "routine" cool weather although the very coldest locations may have needed some protection with readings around 26 deg F. The coldest mornings of this stretch were the 1st when temperatures dropped to 27 at Merced and Visalia ... and on the 6th when temperatures dropped to 26 deg F at Lemoore, Collins Corner, and Riverbend, and 27 deg F at Hanford, Navelencia, and Sanger River Bottom. Temperature durations less than 28F varied from 4-6 hours and less than 32F from 10-12 hours at the very coldest locations.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

01	0000PST								
31	2359PST			0	0				Dry

The months of November and December were essentially dry for the area and January's rainfall/snowfall was still struggling to overcome the water year deficit. The month ended with still less than 60% of the seasonal precipitation average to date for Northern and Central California. Effectively significant rains did not start until January 8th with precipitation activity primarily centered from the 8th to the 12th and the 23rd through the 26th.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

01	0001PST								
04	1100PST			0	0				Fog

Along with low temperature below freezing dense fog formed during the wee hours of the morning from the 1st through the 4th. Visibilities were reported at times as low as 85 feet.

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

08	0000PST								
	2200PST			1	0				Snow

Light snow amounts occurred that in a more normal month should have been substantially larger. Abnormally dry conditions continued into the month of January from the dry months of November and December for Interior Central California. Lodgepole received 6" of new snow in the Tulare County Mountains and Pine Mountain Club 5" in the Kern Mountains. Mariposa received 0.74" of rain at lower elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. M53VE

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

10	1500PST								
11	1000PST			0	0				Winter Storm

CAZ089>090

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley

10	1600PST								
	1900PST			0	4	20K			Wind

The west side of the Central San Joaquin Valley had measured wind to 37 MPH at Los Banos in a pre-frontal environment while the east side of the Central San Joaquin Valley had reports of gust to 39 MPH at Merced and 37 MPH at Madera. Valley portions of Interior Central California picked up 0.70" to 1.50" of rain on the 10th and 11th (24 hour amounts from the 10th through early 11th; Fresno got 1.06", Porterville 0.99", Bakersfield 0.62", and Merced 0.57"). Rain and Wind on the valley floor...after minimal occurrences the previous 2 months...did lead to a 6-vehicle pileup in Fresno at noon PST. Mountain areas accumulated snowfall verifying Winter Storm Warnings (snow pillows indicated 2-3" of liquid water). In the Kern Mountains, Tehachapi got 6" of snow, Frazier Peak 60", Pine Mountain 10", and Cache Peak 12". In the Tulare County Mountains, Lodgepole received 27", Big Meadows 22", Bench Meadows 17", and Quaking Aspen 12". In the South Sierra Nevada, Fish Camp got 12", Hume Lake 18", Tuolumne Meadows 22", Mammoth Mountain 33", and Agnew Pass 39".



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Mariposa County

Yosemite Natl Park	10 11	2200PST 0700PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Tulare County

Sequoia National Par	11	0000PST 0900PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Kern County

14 W Mettler	11	0155PST 1000PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Tulare County

Pixley	11	0155PST 1000PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Substantial rainfall on the 10th of the month (with snow in the mountains) led to stream runoff and water ponding problems in a variety of locations in Interior Central California. Yosemite dispatch reported some minor flooding on Yosemite Valley floor. Sequoia National Park likewise reported minor flooding problems and a few mudslides accompanying heavy rain. On the South San Joaquin Valley floor some mud was spread over State Highway 99 at Pixley and State Highway 166 west of Mettler typically had flooding over the roadway.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

16 18	0000PST 0900PST			0	0			Freeze
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Despite numerous cold nights (temperatures less than 32F) during this cool season, the mornings of the 16th through the 18th in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley were marked by coldest locations having minimum temperatures in the mid to upper 20s. On these three mornings temperatures at colder citrus locations were at and below 27F (night of heating) for 2 to 4 hours with lowest readings commonly around 26F.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

19 20	0200PST 0800PST			0	0			Frost
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Following cold early mornings that threatened area citrus crops from the 16th through the 18th, the mornings of the 19th and 20th had temperatures lower to only the upper 20s at the coldest locations with many locations in and around the ag areas in the low 30s. The coldest ag areas looked to be only around 30F on the morning of the 20th

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtms - Tulare Cty Mtms

23 24	2000PST 1600PST			0	0			Winter Storm
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Tulare County

Visalia	24	1115PST			0	0		Lightning
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Tulare County

3 SE Tipton	24	1410PST 1412PST			0	0		Funnel Cloud
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In locally heavy rain, pea-size hail and lightning occurred in convective activity in Visalia during frontal passage through the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Local flooding in urban areas was reported as 24-hour precipitation totals climbed over 1/2" with the frontal passage and shower activity. Central San Joaquin Valley rainfall totals reached over 1" in a 24-hour period. Some reports of cold air funnels were received including one southeast of Tipton in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Mountain snowfall amounts varied from 20" at Ostrander Lake and Fish Camp and 14" at Tuolumne Meadows within a 24-hour period to 16" at Badger Pass and 15" at Lodgepole in 12 hours. Only light amounts of snowfall occurred in the Kern County Mountain areas from this weather system.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtms - Tulare Cty Mtms

25 26	2100PST 1200PST			0	0			Winter Storm
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

25 2330PST
26 2100PST

0 0

Snow

Classic Pacific Frontal system spread rain at the lower elevations and snow at elevations above 3000 feet MSL through Interior Central California. Over 15" of snow was reported in a 10-hour period in the Southern Sierra Nevada at Fish Camp with 11" at Tuolumne Meadows, and 13" on Yosemite Valley floor. In the Tulare County Mountains, 12" of snow was reported by Lodgepole and Hume Lake had 10". While not meeting Winter Storm criteria, Mountain Valley Airport in the Tehachapi Mountains had 6" reflecting snow caused problems for traveling through passes in the Kern County mountains.

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

27 0455PST
1000PST

0 0

Snow

Again, snowfall rates did not meet Winter Storm criteria but continued accumulation of snow in the Kern County Mountains over the period from the 25th through the morning of the 27th plagued the area. Mountain Valley Airport in the Tehachapi Mountains reported a total of 11" of new snow by late in the morning on the 27th. The Grapevine (Interstate Highway 5) from the S.J. Valley to Los Angeles was closed due to snowfall

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

27 2300PST
31 0900PST

0 0

Frost

Overnight temperatures on the Central and South San Joaquin Valley floor dropped to freezing and slightly below for the last 4 mornings during the month and continued into February. The minimum temperatures on the 28th were generally 30-32 deg F. and higher on the 29th to only around 32F. The lowest temperatures were reported on the morning of the 31st with 28F at Merced and Wasco, and 29F at Chowchilla and Delano.

CAZ095-099

Kern Cty Mtns - Se Kern Cty Desert

29 1146PST
2200PST

0 0

Wind

A blustery day in the southern portion of Interior Central California in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts. Cache Peak had a gust to 70 MPH with Mountain Valley Airport sustaining 35 MPH, Jawbone Canyon at 53 MPH, and Zond Wind Farm at 50 MPH. On the desert floor Edwards AFB had gusts to 41 knots.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

31 0000PST
1100PST

0 0

Fog

Fog formed early in the Central San Joaquin Valley but by dawn had spread to the South Valley with widespread visibilities less than 1/4 mile in dense fog. The fog lingered until just before noon in the Central and Eastern portions of the Valley.