



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2002

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

CAZ089-091-095-098>099 W Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

01	0000PST 1600PST				0	0			Wind
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While gusty wind began in the Kern Mountains and Deserts late in the afternoon of February 28th, much of the highest wind was observed over Interior Central California in the early hours of the 1st. On the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley, automated stations reported northwest wind gusts to 52 MPH at Los Banos around 1100 PST and Kettleman City had sustained wind of 29 MPH. In the Kern Mountains, Jawbone RAWS reached gusts to 45 MPH (from 1753 PST on Feb 28th into the 1st of March) with Tehachapi area gusts to 44 MPH at 2245 PST on Feb 28th. In the Kern Desert, gusts to 53 MPH and 54 MPH were reported at Indian Wells Canyon and Laurel Mountain, respectively; 58 MPH at Inyokern Airport, and one peak gust of 63 MPH at Government Peak at 0851 PST on the 1st.

CAZ090>092 E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

02	0630PST 0730PST				0	0			Frost
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Overnight low temperatures dropped to the low 30s F., including 32F at Merced and Allensworth and 31F at Lemoore causing concern among deciduous crop growers in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley

CAZ092 Se Sj Valley

03	0530PST 0700PST				0	0			Frost
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In the Southeast San Joaquin Valley, overnight low temperatures dropped to the low 30s with Allensworth reporting 31F and Porterville at 32F.

CAZ096>097 S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

06 07	1200PST 2200PST				0	0			Winter Storm
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A substantial amount of snow was reported with this early March event. In the Southern Sierra Nevada Chilkoot Meadows reported 26 inches of snow in 24 hours, Agnew Pass reported 31" and West Woodchuck Meadow had 28" within a 48-hour period. In the Tulare County Mountains Pascoes had 19" within 24-hours and 26" within 48-hours with Lodgepole reporting 14" within a 24-hour period.

CAZ096 S Sierra Mtns

07	1530PST 1900PST				0	0			Thunderstorm
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CAZ095-099 Kern Cty Mtns - Se Kern Cty Desert

07 08	2056PST 0600PST				0	0			Wind
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CAZ098 Indian Wells Vly

07 08	2145PST 0600PST				0	0	50K		High Wind (G92)^M
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A vigorous frontal passage through Central California led to strong northwest wind that posed problems for travel on Highway 14 in the Indian Wells Valley of Kern County where the wind blew over two trucks. Indian Wells RAWS reported gusts to 92Kts at 0013 PST on the 8th with gusts to 65Kts at Inyokern Airport at 2145 PST on the 7th. Other Kern County Mountain and Desert reports included wind gusts to 37Kts at Edwards AFB, 50Kts at Mojave Airport, and gusts to 60 MPH at Walker Pass. Some thundershower and shower activity was reported in the Southern Sierra Nevada in the later afternoon hours

CAZ089>092 W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

09	0300PST 0700PST				0	0			Frost
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On the morning of the 9th, temperatures again dipped to freezing to concern deciduous crop growers in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Overnight lows included 25F at Coalinga AWOS, 31F at Jasmin, and 32F at Mendota, Merced, Lemoore, and Porterville.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095-098>099	Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert								High Wind (G83)^M
	13	0956PST 2100PST			0	0			
	<p>In the Tehachapi Mountains northwest wind provided sustained 10-minute wind speeds of 73 MPH with a peak gust of 93 MPH. In the Kern Deserts widespread wind gusts in excess of 50 MPH were reported with peak gusts in and around Government Peak of 96 MPH. Inyokern Airport reported gusts to 45Kts and Mojave Airport gusting to 50Kts.</p>								
CAZ089>091	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley								Wind
	13	1102PST 2100PST			0	0			
	<p>While High Wind was occurring in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts, the West Side of the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley experienced gusty wind with speeds sustained at 27 MPH/gusts to 36 MPH at Hilmar in Merced County, the Kettleman Hills reporting gusts to 42 MPH, and Lemoore indicating gusts to 37 MPH in Kings County. Local utility reports indicated 6,000 customers went without power in the Central San Joaquin Valley between Noon and 3 PM PST due to downed power lines and trees in Fresno and Madera City vicinities.</p>								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								Frost
	15	0311PST 0800PST			0	0			
	<p>Another cool morning this spring posed a threat to Central and South San Joaquin Valley agriculture. Overnight low temperatures included 28F at Coalinga, 29F at Lemoore, 30F at Belridge and Allensworth, 31F at Jasmin, and 32F at Wasco and Merced</p>								
CAZ098>099	Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert								Wind
	16 18	1200PST 0401PST			0	0			
	<p>Windy conditions prevailed for much of the period from the 16th through the 18th in the Kern Desert areas. Indian Wells Canyon had gusts consistently in the upper 40s to low 50s MPH range with gusts in the upper 50s to around 70 MPH as reported by a remote sensor unit at Government Peak. Mojave Airport Tower had gusts to 40Kts on the 16th.</p>								
CAZ095	Kern Cty Mtns								Winter Weather
	16 18	1300PST 0420PST			0	0			
CAZ093>094-096>097	S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns								Snow
	16 17	1810PST 2120PST			0	0			
	<p>Significant snow occurred not only in the typically higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada but also in the foothill areas as well at elevations down to at least 3000 feet M.S.L. On lower elevation roadways in Madera County 2" of snow fell with Yosemite Valley and Lodgepole receiving 5" of new snow, Badger Pass 8", Poison Ridge and Charlotte Lake 7", and Hume Lake 11". In the Kern Mountains gusty wind compounded the problem with snow accumulations on area highways. Ridge winds in the Tehachapi Pass sustained 50 MPH and Walker Pass had gusts to 49 MPH. In the meantime 4" of snow accumulated at Glennville and 14" of new snow was reported at Greenhorn Summit. Interstate-5 over the Grapevine was closed due to snowfall</p>								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								Frost
	19	0400PST 0800PST			0	0			
	<p>This cool March continued for the Central and South San Joaquin Valley as overnight low temperatures again caused concern for local agriculture interests. Reported minimums included 28F at Coalinga, 30F at Allensworth and Porterville, 31F at Merced, Lemoore, and Jasmin, and 32F at Arvin.</p>								



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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

CAZ096	S Sierra Mtns								
		22			0	0			Winter Storm
		24							

CAZ097	Tulare Cty Mtns								
		22			0	0			Snow
		24							

Snow totals for this winter type event in the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada (and Tulare County Mountains) included 26" at Paradise Meadows, 23" at Poison Ridge, 20" at Agnew Pass and Big Meadows, and 19" at Tamarack Summit and Pascoes.

Fresno County									
(Fat) Air Terminal		23							
					0	0			Thunderstorm

Fresno County									
(Fch) Chandler Af		23							
					0	0			Thunderstorm

Kern County									
(Bfl) Meadows Field Ap		23							
					0	0			Thunderstorm

Thunderstorms occurred within 10 SM of Bakersfield and Fresno airports during the early and mid afternoon of the 23rd.

CAZ095-098>099	Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert								
		24			0	0			Wind

Windy conditions again prevailed in the Kern Mountains and Deserts on the 24th. Jawbone Canyon reported northwest wind gusts to 51 MPH, Mojave Airport gusts to 52 MPH, and Indian Well Canyon had gusts to 54 MPH.