



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2003

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

Fresno County

Reedley	04	1230PST 1235PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Low-topped convection resulted in an unconfirmed report of a funnel cloud in the vicinity of Reedley. HNX WSR-88D reflectivity was in the 45-50 dBz value range with tops 10-15K feet.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

14	1941PST				0	0			Winter Storm
15	2100PST								

Mariposa County

Fish Camp	15	0300PST 1155PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Tuolumne Meadows received 16 inches of new snow, Tamarack Summit 26", and Quaking Aspen 30" from this mid-month storm (after an unseasonable mild start of the month). Significant rain occurred at lower elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains with 4 inches of rain reported by the 15th at the 5000-foot elevation at Fish Camp

Kings County

Avenal to Hanford	15	0400PST 2000PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Tulare County

Cutler to Sultana	15	1310PST 1600PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Kern County

17 E Maricopa to Mettler	15	1930PST 2100PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Heavy rain led to some urban flooding in portions of the Southeast San Joaquin Valley in Tulare County as well as some rural flooding problems from sheet flow in the southernmost areas of the South San Joaquin Valley. Locally heavy rainfall was reported on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on the 15th in convective activity. Avenal in west Kings County received over 1.1 inches of rain on the 15th. Lemoore had received 3/4-inch of rain by mid-afternoon on the 15th with street flooding reported in Hanford by mid-day with a total of 0.85" during the day. Rain amounts on the east side of the S.J.Valley were generally closer to 1/2" over the period from the 15th through the 18th. There was more convection for storm development on the west side than east side during this period.

CAZ089>090-092

W Central S.J. Valley - E Central S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley

15	1600PST				0	0	14K		Strong Wind
18	1400PST								

After relatively small amounts of rain in January and February, a mid-March series of Pacific frontal systems brought locally heavy rain showers and gusty wind to the Central and South San Joaquin Valley beginning very early on the 15th and continuing into early on the 18th. Highest wind speeds were commonly reported in excess of 30 MPH for the period from the 15th through the 18th. At one time over 25,000 local utility customers were without power in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

CAZ095-098>099

Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

16	1933PST				0	0	3K		Strong Wind
19	0400PST								

Gusty northwest wind plagued the Kern County Mountain and Desert areas consistently during mid-March. Generally winds ranged from 25 MPH upwards to around 50 MPH with isolated gusts higher in the vicinity of Mojave.

CAZ099

Se Kern Cty Desert

18	1646PST				0	0	1K		Strong Wind
19	0400PST								

Northwest wind again arose in the Kern County Desert with Mojave gusting to near 60 MPH and nearby Rosamond Peak reporting gusts to 40 knots during March.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ098>099	Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	26 1047PST 27 0600PST			0	0			High Wind (G79)
CAZ095	Kern Cty Mtns	26 2046PST 27 0600PST			0	0	1K		Strong Wind

Gusty northwest wind again swept the Kern County Desert. Government Peak reached 79 knots from the north near evening on the 26th. Other reports included 30 knots at Inyokern Airport, 50 knots at Mojave and Edwards AFB Rocket Lab, and 48 knots on Laurel Mountain. In the Kern Mountains wind speeds to around 40 knots were prevalent during the same time period