



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



November 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

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

01	0000PST				0	0			Heavy Snow
08	0300PST								

Snow amounts were not large at the 1st of the month but they highlight a consistent snowfall in all the mountains of Interior Central California: Tuolumne Meadows reported 6" of new snow; Mammoth Mountain 3" (Southern Sierra); Wet Meadow 5", Lodgepole 4" (Tulare County Mountains) 5"; and Frazier Park 2" (Kern Mountains).

Tulare County

45 E Porterville

01	0000PST				0	0			Wildfire
08	1600PST								

The Albanita/Hooker Fire was ignited September 3rd by lightning and allowed to burn as resource management burn until closed on the 8th of November. Its total cost was \$150K and it consumed 4483 acres in the Sequoia National Forest

Tulare County

14 E Wilsonia

01	0000PST				0	0			Wildfire
08	1600PST								

The Kaweah-Kern Complex of fires was lightning ignited late in July (includes the Williams, West Kern, Giant, Slide Bluffs, Bubbs, West Clover, High Bridge, East Fork, West Timber, Tar Gap 1 and Gap 2, Fry Pan, Soda Springs, and Homers Nose Fires). These fires were allowed to burn for resource management purposes. Cost of fires accounted in earlier months. Total acreage assessed at 11,654 acres at the first of the month.

Tulare County

7 NE Three Rivers

01	0000PST				0	0			Wildfire
08	1600PST								

The Paradise 2 Fire was lightning ignited at 2300 PST on September 25th and had previously been reported as part of the Kaweah-Kern Complex in September Stormdata. By the first of November this specific fire had consumed 1,298 acres at a cost of \$1.54M and accounted for in earlier months.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

02	2300PST				0	0			Heavy Snow
03	0800PST								

The first snow of the season in the Yosemite area of the Southern Sierra Nevada brought 10" of snow to Tuolumne Meadows and 6.5" of snow to the Yosemite Valley. Minimal snow was reported in the Tulare County Mountains to the south

CAZ090>091

E Central S.J. Valley - Sw S.J. Valley

04	0453PST				0	0			Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	0735PST								

After a mild October, the weather turned seasonal at the first of November and subsequently a little earlier than normal frost occurred in portions of the Central and South San Joaquin Valley agricultural areas. Minimum temperatures were observed at 30 deg F. at both Merced and Hanford on the morning of the 4th. There were no agricultural losses reported from this early frost

CAZ089-091>092

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

05	0300PST				0	0			Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	0800PST								

For a second night, temperatures in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley dipped to 32 deg F. or lower. No agricultural losses occurred as minimums ranged generally from 30 to 32 deg F. at the coldest locations.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

08	1400PST				0	0			Winter Storm
09	1500PST								

CAZ097

Tulare Cty Mtns

08	1500PST				0	0			Heavy Snow
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

09 1600PST

Significant snowfall occurred in the Southern Sierra Nevada from Yosemite to the Tulare County Line then lesser amounts through the Tulare County Mountains. Snow amounts estimated: 19" at Upper Burnt Corral, Blackcap Basin 14", Agnew Pass 13", Graveyard Meadow and Gin Flat 11", and 10" at Bishop Pass in the South Sierra; and 12" at Big Meadows and 6" and Tunnel Guard Station in the Tulare County Mountains.

Fresno County

**11 ENE Balch Camp to
5 ENE Huntington Lake**

**09 1400PST
2200PST**

0 0

Heavy Rain

Fresno County

**.2 W Mendota to
.2 NW Mendota**

**09 1830PST
1930PST**

0 0

10K

Heavy Rain

A spotter reported 2 inches of rain in a locally heavy rain shower from convective activity just west of the Fresno County town of Mendota from 1830 to 1930 Hours on the evening of the 9th. Subsequent ponding and flow of water into town brought damage to one home as well as substantial sheet flow through town during the evening from 1900 to 2100 hours. Typical for the mountain areas of the Southern Sierra Nevada on this day were 2.63" at Wishon Dam to 1.43" at Kaiser Pass.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

**12 0900PST
2200PST**

0 0

Heavy Snow

Significant snow again fell in the Southern Sierra Nevada from Yosemite southward through the Tulare County Mountains on the 12th. Snow amounts estimated: 8" at Charlotte Lake (10K feet M.S.L.) and Pascoes (9K feet M.S.L.) and 7" at Chagoopa Plateau (10K feet M.S.L.).

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

**15 1140PST
1900PST**

0 0

Heavy Snow

A weakening coldfront brought 5-7 inches of new snow to the upper elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada during the afternoon of the 15th. Gin Flat and Volcanic Knob reported 7" of new snow with Huntington Lake receiving 5".

CAZ089>092

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

**16 0435PST
0900PST**

0 0

Dense Fog

More consistent and persistent dense fog formed in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley on the morning of the 16th. Visibilities were reported below 1/4-mile at almost all aviation meteorological reporting stations.

CAZ098

Indian Wells Vly

**21 2230PST
2314PST**

0 0

High Wind (MG68)

Just behind cold frontal passage over the Kern Mountains Deserts, northwest wind reached as high as 68 knots. Winds were generally in the 35 to 50 MPH range the afternoon of the 21st through much of the morning of the 22nd. The peak gust of 68 knots at Government Peak was likely the result of an observed mountain wave on the lee side of the Tehachapi Mountains. Other locations in the Southeast Kern Desert and Tehachapi Mountains had gusts as high as 47 knots during the period.

CAZ089>092

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

**22 0006PST
25 0800PST**

0 0

Frost/Freeze

Following cold frontal passage through Central California the afternoon of Friday the 21st, cold and dry air established itself in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley by dawn on the 22nd. Temperatures in the citrus agricultural areas generally dropped below 32 deg F. for the first time this cool season during this episode. While absolute minimum temperatures plummeted to around 27F in a couple of citrus areas on the morning of the 22nd, temperature durations at or below 28F were about an hour and spiking as low as 27F. With lighter wind and consistently clear skies Saturday night, the morning of the 23rd was the coldest of this episode with minimum temperature readings in the mid to upper 20s and durations below 28F of several hours. Some damage likely



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

occurred in unprotected cold pockets in area groves where temperatures dropped as low as 24F. Observed minimums on the 23rd: Selma 25F, San Luis Dam 27F, Merced 27F, Madera 26F, Fresno 31F, Hanford 24F, Wasco 26F, Porterville and Visalia at 28F. Some moderation in the cold air began for the morning of the 24th as dew points began to rise. Overnight minimum temperatures dropped to 27F at Coalinga, Madera 29F, Merced 32F, Hanford 28F, and Wasco and Arvin at 27F. Pressures aloft remained high thereby bringing only slow moderation to surface dew point temperatures on the 24th and 25th. Minimum temperatures on the 25th again caused actions to be taken to protect colder groves as readings were consistently in the upper 20s ... much below normal this early in the cool season.

CAZ098>099

Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

23	0300PST 0800PST				0	0			Frost/Freeze
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Light wind, clear skies, and a frigid post-frontal air mass allowed overnight minimum temperature to plummet on the morning of the 23rd in the Kern Deserts. Temperatures in the desert dropped below 28F by 0300 PST with overnight lows of 25F at Inyokern and Mojave, 22F at Edwards AFB, and 21F at China Lake NWTC.