



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 2006

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

CAZ093

S Sierra Foothills

10 0600PST
0800PST

0 0

Landslide

Road closure on Highway 140 at a point 6.2 miles WSW of El Portal began April 29th as an intermittent slide area became continually active attributed to the much above rainfall received during the winter of 2005/2006, and especially during the months of April and May. The slide predates the highway and is driven by topography and ground water. The road will not be able to be used in that area for the foreseeable future and bridges are being built over the Merced River to circumnavigate the slide. The loss in revenue to the area around Mariposa is estimated to be in excess of \$4 Million due to the loss of tourism by the end of June 2006 with the continued danger.

Mariposa County

.9 ESE Yosemite Vlg to
2.2 SW Yosemite Vlg

12 0100PST
0130PST

0 0

Flood

A brief spike close to the 10.0 Stage Height for the Pohono River Gage occurred very early on the morning of the 12th marking the start of the diurnal flooding on the Yosemite Valley Floor for the Spring 2006 snowmelt season

CAZ093

S Sierra Foothills

14 1200PST
1400PST

0 0

Landslide

The road closure on Highway 140 at a point 6.2 miles WSW of El Portal continued with another significant landslide onto the road on the 14th. This slide continued from the April 29th event.

CAZ089

W Central Sj Valley

14 1500PST
15 0700PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Torch Fire located 5 miles west of Coalinga in Fresno County was man-caused and burned 4500 acres before containment. No structures were lost nor was anyone injured in suppressing the fire. There was no cost given for fighting the fire

Mariposa County

.9 ESE Yosemite Vlg to
2.2 SW Yosemite Vlg

14 2215PST
21 1130PST

0 0

Flood

Encouraged by a dramatic warming to much above normal temperatures in mid-May, snowmelt resulted in the Merced River rising to and above Flood Stage diurnally from late in the evening of the 14th to the morning of the 21st. Generally the river rose above Flood Stage at Pohono Bridge Gaging Station in the very late evening hours and dropped below Flood Stage at dawn with an average change in the peak-to-lull of close to a foot per day. Other Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare County Mountain rivers also ran high during this period from the much above normal winter snowpack (169% in the S.Sierra Nevada and 175% in the Tulare County Mountains). The runoff into the Kings River placed Pine Flat Reservoir at the 95% storage capacity at one point as the river below the dam handled releases at river capacity while inflow was still exceeding that river capacity.

CAZ089>092

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

15 1400PST
18 2000PST

0 0

Excessive Heat

Despite the overall coolness and excessive rainfall in Interior Central California in the Spring of 2006, the middle part of May saw a period where maximum temperatures reached 20 degrees above normal and close to records. The 15th saw temperatures jump to the upper 90s degree F. at many locations on the Central and South San Joaquin Valley Floor with the 1st 100 degree readings of the warm season at Coalinga and Delano (both 101 degree F.). Additionally on the 17th, more stations' temperatures climbed and reached 100 degree F. at outlying climate sites at Dinuba, Collins Corner (Clovis), Selma, and Exeter on the East Central San Joaquin Valley Floor. The 18th was the warmest, however, with Delano reaching 105F, Coalinga 104F, and almost every other reporting site at or above 100F on the Central and South Valley Floor.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Fresno County

Shaver Lake	17	1625PST 1630PST			0	0	0.50K		Hail(0.50)
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Infrequent hail-fall at the 5000 foot M.S.L. elevation of the Interior Central California S.Sierra Nevada.

Kings County

Avenal	21	1350PST 1450PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Fresno County

Helm	21	1400PST 1500PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Madera County

Chowchilla	21	1500PST 1700PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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As the transition from near record high temperatures, a vigorous frontal passage swept over Interior Central California from the southwest starting at mid-afternoon of the 21st bringing substantial cooling and rainfall. Through the course of the afternoon heavy rain generated north-to-south along an eastward moving rain band. Much of the heavy rain fell in less than a couple of hours. Avenal in Western Kings County had 1" of rain in about an hour. Other reports of rainfall on the Central and northern portion of the Southern San Joaquin Valley included 1.59" at Spanish Lake near Coalinga, 1.26" at Tranquility, 1.43" at Madera, 1.95" at Chowchilla, and 1.07" at Merced.

Mariposa County

Yosemite Vlg	21 22	1400PST 0100PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Mariposa County

.9 ESE Yosemite Vlg to 2.2 SW Yosemite Vlg	21 22	2000PST 0700PST			0	0			Flood
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Heavy rain through high elevations onto saturated soils from the Spring snowmelt in the Southern Sierra Nevada led to a dramatic spike in the Merced River height in Yosemite Valley late on the 21st through the morning of the 22nd. In the S.Sierra Nevada Cedar Grove reported 1.29" of rain, Wishon Dam 1.33", Huntington Lake 1.44", Nature Point 1.96", Chilkoot 1.56" Telegraph Hill 2.84", Black Springs 2.38" and Huysink 1.80", and Yosemite Valley 0.86". Just north of Yosemite in Tuolumne County, Mt. Elizabeth reported 3.35" of rain from the event. The Merced River climbed quickly from a low diurnal point of 8.7 feet as measured at Pohono Bridge at 1400 PST on the 21st to a peak of 10.7 feet at 0030 PST on the 22nd. The normal diurnal river fluctuation is only about 1 foot. While the river did surpass the flood stage of 10.0 feet, minimal damage was done in the Yosemite Valley area in this post-1997 flood-of-record event. The heavy rainfall ending on the 22nd and subsequent flooding on the Merced River ended the Spring 2006 snowmelt threat.

CAZ093

S Sierra Foothills	25	1800PST 2359PST			0	0			Landslide
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National Weather Service

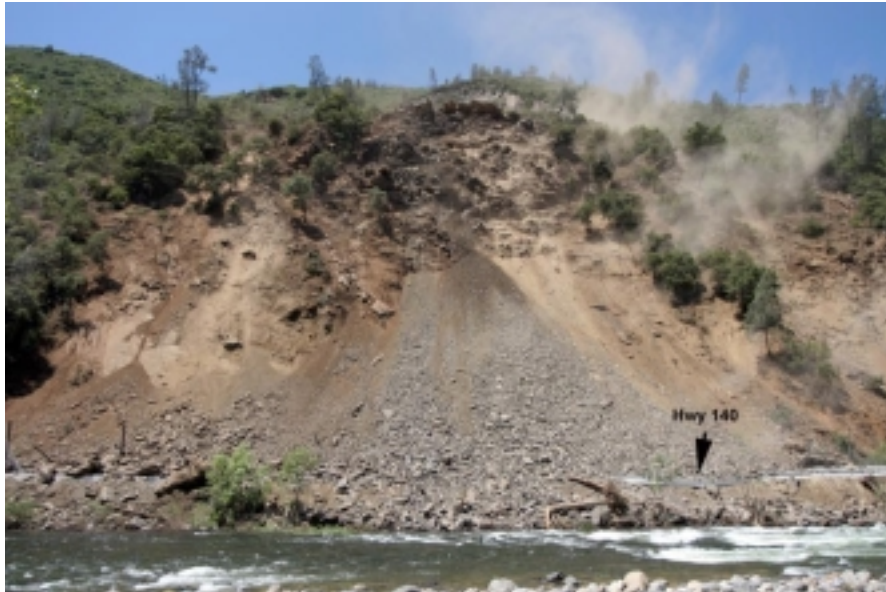
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CALIFORNIA, South Central



California State Highway 140 buried beneath a massive landslide on May 25th. Photo courtesy of Kome Ajise, CALTRANS District 10 Director, Stockton, CA.

Although Highway 140 WSW of El Portal opened early on May 25th after a rock-catching fence had been built to hold rock movement from earlier in the month, a major landslide occurred late in the day on the 25th and has dumped a massive amount of rock onto the road. This slide reached dimensions of 600 feet wide, 600 feet long, and 300 feet deep on May 25th. The road will not be able to be used in that area for the foreseeable future and bridges will be built over the Merced River to circumnavigate the slide. The loss in tourism revenue to the area around Mariposa is estimated to be in excess of \$4 Million by the end of June 2006.

CAZ095-098>099

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

26	1510PST	0	0	3K	Strong Wind (MG44)
28	0300PST				

With a late season dry frontal passage, gusty west-southwest wind occurred over the Kern County Mountains and Desert from late on the 26th through early on the 28th.

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

26	1600PST	0	0	Wildfire
28	0700PST			

The Energy Fire was of unknown origin and burned 850 acres 8.7 miles southeast of Tehachapi in the Kern County Mountains. No structures were lost, cost to fight the fire was unknown, and no injuries occurred to fight the fire.

CAZ091

Sw Sj Valley

30	1500PST	0	0	Wildfire
31	0700PST			

The Mocal Fire burned 905 acres 9 miles west of Taft in Kern County. No structures were lost, no injuries occurred, and the cost to combat the fire was unreported.