

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

(CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS

02/02/08 20:00 PST	0	Winter Weather
02/03/08 10:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY

02/02/08 21:00 PST	0	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
02/03/08 21:27 PST	3K	

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

02/03/08 00:00 PST	0	Winter Storm
02/03/08 15:01 PST	0	

The unsettled weather from the last days of January continued into the first few days of February, as the next Pacific storm dropped out of the Gulf of Alaska and into California. By the time the storm ended on the 3rd, Fresno's three-day rain total was 0.67 inch, and stations from the Merced airport south through Bakersfield reported storm totals between 0.60-0.70 inch, except for the rain-shadowed west side of the San Joaquin Valley, where the Hanford airport had less than half an inch of rain, with lesser amounts further west of Hanford.

In the Southern Sierra Nevada, up to 18 inches of snow fell in the high country above 7000 feet. Up to one foot of snow fell in the Tehachapi Mountains of Kern County. The storm brought a push of cold air to the region, resulting in low snow levels. Measurable snow fell into the Sierra foothills below 3000 feet and below the Pass level in the Tehachapi Mountains. The storm also brought gusty winds to the region. Gusts to 45 mph were recorded in the central San Joaquin Valley during the afternoon and night of February 2nd, and gusts near 60 mph hit the Indian Wells Valley of the Mojave Desert on the 3rd.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

02/09/08 02:48 PST	6.26M	Dense Fog
02/12/08 11:00 PST	0	

A tranquil weather pattern set in behind the storm from the 2nd and 3rd of February. An upper-level ridge of high pressure built into California on the 8th. The stable airmass combined with surface moisture from the earlier rains for the development of dense fog during the night of February 8th-9th. After a brief respite from the fog on the 10th, dense fog returned the next two nights. A 10-15 car pileup occurred on the morning of the 11th near Kerman west of Fresno, where there were no injuries, and newspaper accounts of only minor property damages. However, the fog was a major factor in a series of chain-reaction accidents on Highway 99 near Kingsburg during the morning of February 12th. At least four separate accidents occurred, involving at least 40 vehicles and resulting in an estimated 10 people being injured.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

02/13/08 12:56 PST	12K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
02/14/08 11:02 PST	0	

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

02/15/08 04:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
02/15/08 08:00 PST	77K	

A dry cold front moved through California on the 13th. Winds gusted to around 50 mph in the Kern County mountains and deserts on the 13th, with a gust to 76 mph reported by the RAWS above Walker Pass and a gust to 82 mph measured by the Jawbone Canyon RAWS. The winds continued into the morning of the 14th in the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada, and were observed in the Diablo Range on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley; whitecaps were reported on the San Luis Reservoir on the morning of February 14th.

A cold airmass settled into the San Joaquin Valley behind the cold front, bringing frost to the Valley floor. Low temperatures in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley the morning of February 15th were as low as 28 degrees, and over a dozen stations had lows below 32 degrees.

KERN COUNTY --- 2.2 NW HAVILAH [35.54, -118.55]

02/20/08 10:30 PST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
02/20/08 10:33 PST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A public report of nickel-size hail was relayed by a TV meteorologist from near Lake Isabella.

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(CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT				
	02/20/08 11:25 PST		4K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
	02/20/08 20:40 PST		0	
(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS				
	02/21/08 08:00 PST		0	Winter Storm
	02/22/08 04:00 PST		0	
(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS				
	02/21/08 08:00 PST		0	Winter Weather
	02/22/08 04:00 PST		0	
<p>High pressure built back into California on February 16th, warming temperatures to near to a few degrees above normal. Temperatures continued to warm through the 18th, ahead of a series of three Pacific storms that moved through the central California interior from February 20th through the 24th.</p> <p>The storms brought a mix of rain, mountain snow, and thunderstorms to the region. As the first storm moved into central California, a severe thunderstorm developed southwest of Lake Isabella during the late morning (1030 PST) of February 20th, with nickel-size hail reported near the town of Havilah. Other thunderstorms developed over the southern San Joaquin Valley shortly after noon, but did not reach severe levels. As the cold front moved through the Kern County deserts during the afternoon of the 20th, it generated wind gusts of 45 to 55 mph.</p> <p>Heavy snow occurred in most sections of the Southern Sierra Nevada on the 21st and the morning of the 22nd. Estimated snowfall ranged from about 6 inches to 15 inches above roughly 6000 feet across the Southern Sierra Nevada.</p>				
KERN COUNTY --- ARVIN [35.20, -118.83]				
	02/22/08 12:46 PST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	02/22/08 13:00 PST		0	Source: Public
Nickel sized hail was reported by the public in Arvin.				
KINGS COUNTY --- 4.0 E HANFORD MUNI ARPT [36.33, -119.56]				
	02/22/08 13:30 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	02/22/08 13:30 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
A funnel cloud was observed by 2 NWS employees.				
MADERA COUNTY --- 3.8 SSE INDIAN SPGS [37.00, -119.70]				
	02/22/08 13:55 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	02/22/08 13:55 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
A funnel cloud was reported by a trained spotter.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.5 SSW FIG GARDEN [36.81, -119.83], 1.8 N (FCH) CHANDLER AF [36.76, -119.82], 1.1 ESE FRESNO [36.77, -119.75], 2.3 E PINEDALE [36.83, -119.76]				
	02/22/08 15:45 PST		5K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	02/22/08 17:45 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
Heavy rain caused a few poor drainage roads to be flooded with several inches of water covering the roads in northwest Fresno, including North Figarden at North Gates, as well as North Golden State Blvd near Ashlan Ave.				
(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS				
	02/23/08 11:00 PST		5K	Strong Wind (MAX 46 kt)
	02/24/08 00:01 PST		17K	
(CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY				
	02/23/08 17:51 PST		5K	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	02/23/08 23:04 PST		5K	
(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS				

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	02/23/08 18:00 PST		0	Winter Storm
	02/24/08 22:00 PST		0	

A major Pacific storm, the last in a series of winter storms to impact central California, arrived late on the 22nd and lingered well through the 24th.

This storm brought very heavy snow to the Southern Sierra Nevada, plus much needed rains to portions of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as severe thunderstorms during the afternoon of the 22rd.

This storm brought snowfall totals between 2 to 5 feet to the Southern Sierra Nevada.

A severe thunderstorm developed near Arvin at 1246 PST on February 22nd, with nickel-size hail reported. Thunderstorms continued over the central and southern San Joaquin Valley through the afternoon of the 22nd, but these storms remained below severe levels.

This storm brought gusty winds to the central and southern San Joaquin Valley on the 23rd and 24th, with a gust to 53 mph recorded at Meadows Field, Bakersfield. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Panorama Bluffs in Bakersfield around 645 pm on the 23rd. Wind gusts were estimated up to 70 mph over the far south end of the San Joaquin Valley, as southeast to south winds funneled through the Tehachapi Pass and the Grapevine onto the Valley floor south of Bakersfield. Gusts to 36 mph were measured as far north as Castle Airport at Atwater, in Merced County.

There was strong rain-shadowing over the southern San Joaquin Valley, as southwest winds aloft carried the storms through central California. Fresno had a five-day storm total of 1.45 inch, 68 percent of the total rainfall for February of 2.12 inches. Bakersfield received only 0.22 inch of rain for the five-day period, and only trace amounts fell at Meadows Field on February 21st and 23rd(Fresno's rainfall for the month matched its 30-year normal rainfall for February of 2.12 inches. Bakersfield had a monthly total of 0.82 inch, 67.8 percent of its normal of 1.21 inch).

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

02/26/08 07:00 PST	50K	Dense Fog
02/29/08 07:00 PST	0	

High pressure aloft built over California behind the series of Pacific storms earlier in the month of February across central California. Despite abundant ground moisture and a stable airmass, only patchy fog developed across the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, with dense fog limited to the Madera-Merced-Atwater and Hanford-Visalia-Selma sectors. A school bus was involved in an accident near the city of Tipton due to the dense fog conditions on the 29th. No injuries were reported.

Temperatures warmed to well above normal under the upper-level ridge, with both Bakersfield and Fresno warming into the mid 70s on the 29th. Fresno tied its record high of 76 degrees for Leap Year Day, a record last set in 1924.