

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2008

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

(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, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

05/20/08 15:50 PST		7K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
05/21/08 19:00 PST		0	

A low-pressure system moving into the Pacific Northwest weakened a high pressure center over California, allowing a stronger system to bring cold and windy conditions to the state. Temperatures in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley dropped from the 90s on May 20th to the mid 70s to lower 80s on the 21st and 22nd. Winds gusted to 45 mph in parts of the San Joaquin Valley both days, with gusts of 65-70 mph in the Kern County mountains and deserts.

MADERA COUNTY --- 1.1 E OAKHURST [37.33, -119.65]

05/27/08 14:20 PST		0	Heavy Rain
05/27/08 15:20 PST		0	Source: Mesonet

Heavy rain fell near Oakhurst, causing minor flooding. A Madera County Sheriff station reported significant standing water on local roads near Oakhurst, but no flowing water. The Oakhurst (DW0273) station reported 0.57 inches of rain in less than 1 hour.

A cold, unstable airmass settled into central California on May 22nd, bringing showers to the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains, with measurable snow falling below 5000 feet in the Tehachapis, and down to 6500 feet in the Southern Sierra Nevada. During the morning of the 23rd, showers drifted north from the Tehachapi Mountains into the south end of the San Joaquin Valley. By midday, these showers had moved as far north as Bakersfield, where a record-breaking 0.08 inch of rain fell at Meadows Field. This was the first measurable rain to fall in Bakersfield since February 24th, ending an 87-day period without measurable rain. The next day, Fresno recorded its first measurable rain since March 15, ending a 69-day period with no measurable rain. The storm brought the only measurable rains for the month to Bakersfield (storm total: 0.08 inch) and Fresno (0.30 inch). The rain did keep Bakersfield from solely having the driest March-May period on record; the 0.08 inch for the period tied March-May 1992 for the driest "spring."

Heavy rain also occurred at Oakhurst in Madera County, where brief heavy rain caused minor flooding of local streets and ditches.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY

05/31/08 00:00 PST		0.50K	Strong Wind (MAX 30 kt)
05/31/08 15:00 PST		0	

Temperatures slowly recovered through the end of May, but remained below normal. The last day of the month saw an upper-level trough approach the California coast. The coastal marine layer deepened to over 3500 feet in response to the approaching trough, and marine air spilled through the Pacheco Pass into the San Joaquin Valley near Los Banos. Gusty winds developed near and over the San Luis Reservoir, with sustained wind speeds of 23-26 mph, and gusts to 36 mph.