

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2009

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

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

	11/15/09 05:00 PST	0		Frost/Freeze
	11/15/09 08:00 PST	0		

In the wake of a cold front, temperatures across the region plummeted. The high at Fresno on November 12th was only 54 degrees, 10 degrees cooler than the previous day's high and only 2 degrees above the record low maximum for the date, set in 1916. The morning of November 14th saw lows at the Wasco ALERT station and N.A.S. Lemoore of 29 degrees. A dry cold front moved through central California during the afternoon of the 14th, bringing another push of cold air into the region. Winds behind the front caused the development of upslope clouds along the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada. The next morning saw the first widespread hard freeze hit the Kern County deserts (the Western Mojave Desert), with lows in the coldest locations falling into the middle 20s.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

	11/28/09 05:00 PST	0		Winter Weather
	11/28/09 14:00 PST	0		

(CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

	11/28/09 19:30 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 61 kt)
	11/28/09 22:00 PST	0		

(CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY

	11/28/09 19:50 PST	0.50K		Strong Wind (MAX 43 kt)
	11/29/09 02:00 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

	11/30/09 00:00 PST	0		Frost/Freeze
	11/30/09 08:00 PST	0		

A strong area of low pressure formed and moved into southern California during the evening of November 27th. As a result, the focus of precipitation was over Kern County with Bakersfield receiving 0.09 inch of rain over the 27th-28th. Fresno, in contrast, had only a trace of rain for that period. In the mountains, up to a half inch of rain fell. Lodgepole recorded 2 inches of snow, and a spotter near Frazier Park measured 4 inches. This was the first significant snowfall for the Tehachapis and Kern County Mountains. Bear Valley had 1.5 inches of snow on the 28th.

Gusty winds developed over the Indian Wells Valley behind the strong cold front, with gusts to 50 mph recorded during the evening hours of November 28th. Further north, a strong northeast jet moved over the Southern Sierra Nevada along the back side of the upper-level storm. Then high pressure dropped into northern Nevada, creating a northeast flow over the Sierra crest. This pattern prompted high wind watches for the potential for Mono winds over the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada in Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties. Wind gusts were mainly in the 40-45 mph range, except at Peckinpah in Madera County where a trained spotter reported persistent 70-mph wind gusts through Willow Creek Canyon that lasted for several hours during the evening of the 28th.

A significant frost event occurred across the San Joaquin Valley as the cold airmass settled over central California on the morning of the 30th. Early morning temperature readings fell to around 30 degrees at many locations.

Bakersfield ended November with 0.10 inch of rain, half of Fresno's total. Compared to the normal rainfalls for November, Bakersfield had 16.9 percent of normal, while Fresno had 22.2 percent. The main difference was in the season-to-date amounts. Fresno, ending the month 0.90 inch below normal, fell back below normal for the season. As of November 30th, Fresno was down to 78.8 percent of normal. Bakersfield, which was rain-shadowed during October, saw its seasonal deficit increase, and after the first five months of the rain season was only at 17 percent of normal.