

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2017

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

(CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS

	08/01/17 00:00 PST	0		Wildfire
	08/24/17 17:00 PST	0		

The Detwiler Fire began on July 16, 2017, 15 miles northwest of Mariposa, CA. It was human caused. It burned 81,826 acres, resulting in 63 residences, 67 minor structures and 1 commercial structure being destroyed with another 13 residences and 8 minor structures damaged. The fire forced the evacuation of several small rural communities for as long as 10 days and also the entire town of Mariposa (population ~18,000) for 3 days. Parts of Highways 41, 49, and 140 were closed at times during the fire. The fire was contained on August 24, 2017. Cost of containment was \$90 Million.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 5.9 NNW YOSEMITE LODGE [37.85, -119.61]

	08/02/17 13:25 PST	0		Heavy Rain
	08/02/17 15:25 PST	0		Source: Mesonet

The White Wolf RAWS measured 1.02 inches of rainfall from a slow moving thunderstorm.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 5.8 NNW YOSEMITE LODGE [37.85, -119.60]

	08/02/17 15:02 PST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	08/02/17 15:02 PST	0		Source: Park/Forest Service

Rangers at Yosemite National Park reported hail covering State Highway 120 (Tioga Road).

KERN COUNTY --- 2.1 SSW MONOLITH [35.09, -118.38], 1.0 ESE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.10, -118.40], 2.6 SSE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.07, -118.40], 4.1 SE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.05, -118.38], 3.9 SE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.06, -118.37]

	08/03/17 11:52 PST	0		Debris Flow
	08/03/17 15:00 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported rocks and mud covering roads 7 miles southeast of Tehachapi.

KERN COUNTY --- 2.5 SSE MARCEL [35.19, -118.50], 3.6 SW CABLE [35.11, -118.54], 1.9 ESE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.09, -118.39], 1.1 ENE SUMMIT SWITCH [35.15, -118.40]

	08/03/17 12:00 PST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/03/17 15:00 PST	0		Source: Department of Highways

Water was covering several roadways in and around Tehachapi.

KERN COUNTY --- 3.4 SSE ERIC [35.08, -118.28], 1.7 SE ERIC [35.11, -118.28], 0.9 E MONOLITH [35.12, -118.36], 1.8 SSE MONOLITH [35.10, -118.36]

	08/03/17 12:00 PST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/03/17 15:00 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported up to 4 inches of water on State Highway 58 east of Tehachapi and debris and mud flowing onto smaller nearby roadways.

A moist east-southeast flow prevailed over Central California in early August as persistent strong high pressure was centered over the Great Basin. As a result, a surge of tropical moisture spread into the area between the afternoon of August 2 and the early morning of August 4. Showers and thunderstorms were prevalent over the mountains, Kern County Deserts and south end of the San Joaquin Valley on August 2 and into the Central San Joaquin Valley on the evening of August 3 and into the morning of August 4. Slow moving thunderstorms produced flash flooding in the Tehachapi area during the afternoon of August 3.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 5.8 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.82, -119.48], 5.9 ENE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.82, -119.48], 6.5 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.82, -119.47], 6.4 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.83, -119.48]

	08/05/17 15:30 PST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/05/17 16:30 PST	0		Source: Park/Forest Service

Yosemite National Park rangers reported that Raisin Creek flooded causing debris on SR 120 (Tioga Pass Road) near Murphy Creek.

Although a drier southwest flow became prevalent over Central California on August 5th, there was still enough moisture over the region for thunderstorms to develop over the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada. One thunderstorm produced flash flooding near Tuolumne Meadows on SR 120.

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(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS				
	08/13/17 13:28 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/31/17 23:59 PST		0	
<p>The South Fork Fire fire began on August 13, 2017, 1 mile east of Wawona along the south fork of the Merced river in Yosemite National Park. The fire closed several trails in the southern part of Yosemite. Thunderstorms downdrafts caused the fire to spread west and threaten the community of Wawona, which was evacuated for 6 days from August 19th to the 24th. Firefighters were able to contain the fire on the south and west side of the fire by August 26th, but the fire was being allowed to burn to the east. Containment was 44 percent by the end of August. Thereafter, the fire was being managed as it moved into rockier terrain in the wilderness of Yosemite. The fire will likely continue into October.</p>				
(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT				
	08/13/17 22:40 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	08/14/17 22:32 PST		0	
<p>An upper trough dropped southward over California from the evening of the 13th through the early morning of the 15th producing strong down slope west to northwest winds over the Kern County Mountains and Deserts as pressure gradients increased over the area.</p>				
MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 0.8 W YOSEMITE VLG [37.75, -119.59]				
	08/18/17 15:45 PST		0	Heavy Rain
	08/18/17 16:45 PST		0	Source: COOP Observer
<p>A slow moving thunderstorm produced 1.27 inches of rainfall in one hour at Yosemite Valley. Pea sized hail was also reported.</p>				
MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 1.8 WSW YOSEMITE VLG [37.74, -119.61], 1.6 W CAMP CURRY [37.73, -119.60], 0.8 SSW YOSEMITE NATL PARK [37.74, -119.56], 0.3 NW YOSEMITE VLG [37.75, -119.58]				
	08/18/17 16:15 PST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	08/18/17 17:15 PST		0	Source: Park/Forest Service
<p>Park Service video showed flash flooding in Yosemite Valley from heavy rainfall.</p> <p>A persistent low pressure system off the Southern California Coast produced enough instability for thunderstorms to develop over the Southern Sierra Nevada each afternoon between August 17 and August 23. On the afternoon of the 18th, some slow moving thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall over Yosemite National Park which resulted in flash flooding in Yosemite Valley.</p>				
(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-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT				
	08/26/17 10:00 PST		0	Heat
	08/31/17 20:00 PST		0	
<p>A persistent large upper ridge centered over the Great Basin provided the area with an extended period of much warmer than normal temperatures between August 26 and September 3. High temperatures ranged mainly from 106 to 112 degrees at many locations each day between August 26 and September 3 across the San Joaquin Valley, the southern Sierra foothills and the Kern County Deserts while morning lows ranged from the mid 70's to the lower 80's.</p>				
(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS				
	08/29/17 01:30 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/31/17 23:59 PST	5	0	
<p>The human caused Pier Fire began in the early morning hours of August 29, 2017 when a stolen car was set on fire and pushed off a cliff along Highway 190, 7 miles east of Springville, CA. The fire burned 36,556 acres before being contained on September 24, 2017. There were mandatory evacuations for the small communities of Camp Nelson, Pierpoint Springs, Cedar Slope, Sequoia Crest, Rogers Camp, Doyle Springs, Mountain Aire and Wishon for several weeks. Much of Highway 190 between Springville and Ponderosa was closed to traffic. There were 2 structures lost. Cost of containment was \$38.76 million.</p>				
(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS				
	08/29/17 12:00 PST		0	Wildfire
	08/31/17 23:59 PST	6	0	
<p>The Railroad Fire started on the afternoon of August 29, 2017, west of Highway 41, 8.75 miles north of Oakhurst, just south of Yosemite National Park near the community of Sugar Pine. The fire spread rapidly in dry brush. Highway 41 between Oakhurst and the south entrance of Yosemite National Park was closed in both directions for about a week with several small communities evacuated, including</p>				

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Tenaya Lodge that serves visitors to Yosemite. The fire burned 12,407 acres before being contained on September 15, 2017. Cost of containment was \$20.8 million. There were 17 structures destroyed, including a historic locomotive that wasn't being used, as well as a passenger car, snowplow, side dump car and refrigerator car that were attached to it that were part of the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad. More than 200 wooden railroad ties also burned. The fire also burned into the Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoia trees.