

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2017

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

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

03/05/17 10:00 PST	1	0	Strong Wind (MAX 26 kt)
03/05/17 10:00 PST		0	

Direct Fatalities: F200U

A cold and moist upper trough pushed through the region between the evening of March 4 through the evening of March 5. This system produced widespread precipitation with several locations in the Southern Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills measuring between 0.75 inches to 1.50 inches of rainfall. In addition, 6 to 12 inches of snow was measured at several locations above 6000 feet. Rain shadowing kept rainfall totals below a quarter of an inch across most of the San Joaquin Valley. Gusty post-frontal winds were observed across the Kern County Mountains and Deserts during the afternoon and evening hours of March 5 with several locations measuring gusts above 45 mph.

(CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

03/11/17 05:17 PST		0	Dense Fog
03/11/17 10:20 PST		0	

The combination of high pressure and abundant surface moisture allowed for patches of dense fog to form on the morning of March 11 which reduced visibility near Hanford and Lemoore to a few hundred feet.

MERCED COUNTY --- 4.0 N (MER)CASTLE AFB [37.43, -120.58]

03/21/17 13:15 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
03/21/17 14:00 PST		0	Source: Public

Several reports of a funnel cloud coming out of Merced County between 100 PM and 200 PM. News stations showed video of a clip verifying the presence of a funnel. The funnel reached approximately 3/4 of the way to the ground and the duration was around 5 minutes.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 2.3 SSW COULTERVILLE [37.69, -120.22]

03/21/17 13:30 PST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
03/21/17 13:30 PST		0	Source: Public

Public report of one inch hail.

TULARE COUNTY --- 1.1 NNE TULARE AIRPARK [36.16, -119.32], 0.6 NE TULARE AIRPARK [36.16, -119.32]

03/21/17 18:05 PST		20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
03/21/17 18:30 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee

Reports of trees uprooted and snapped midway up the trunk at the Tulare Golf Course . One forecaster did a quick survey of the area and estimated 40 trees down or damaged. Otherwise, little damage to the course or structures.

A strong cold frontal passage and trough moved through the area during the day on March 21. A large area of instability existed across the San Joaquin Valley behind the cold front. Due to the instability, severe thunderstorms developed during the afternoon and evening hours. Rainfall amounts were generally around a tenth to a quarter inch except locally heavier in stronger thunderstorms. Light snowfall was measured above 6500 feet.

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

03/27/17 08:30 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
03/27/17 14:48 PST		0	

Another low pressure system moved through the area during the 26th and brought some light precipitation. Surface high pressure built in behind the departed low on the morning of the 27th and increased the surface pressure gradient and its resultant winds. The strongest winds were seen across the Kern County Mountains and Deserts where strong winds gusts were reported at several locations.

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY

03/30/17 14:00 PST		0.20M	Strong Wind (MAX 43 kt)
03/30/17 16:30 PST		0	

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A upper level trough moved southeast along the Sierra Nevada range on the day of the 30th. Upper level northwest flow helped increases the surface wind as the pressure gradient at the surface tightened. This resulted in strong and gusty winds across most of the area. Several reports of wind gusts above 40 mph were reported in the San Joaquin Valley while several reports of winds gusts above 50 mph were reported in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts while some indicator ridge tops had gusts exceeding 90 mph. The strong winds produced blowing dust across portions of the southern San Joaquin Valley and Kern County Deserts. In addition there were several reports of downed trees and power lines which resulted power outages across parts of the San Joaquin Valley.