

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2024

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

(CA-Z323) YOSEMITE NP OUTSIDE OF THE VALLEY, (CA-Z324) YOSEMITE VALLEY, (CA-Z326) UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, (CA-Z327) KAISER TO RODGERS RIDGE, (CA-Z328) KINGS CANYON NP, (CA-Z329) GRANT GROVE AREA, (CA-Z330) SEQUOIA NP, (CA-Z331) SOUTH END OF THE UPPER SIERRA

03/01/24 04:00 PST	0	Heavy Snow
03/03/24 04:00 PST	0	

MADERA COUNTY --- 2.1 SSE KISMET [37.02, -120.06]

03/01/24 15:45 PST	0	Funnel Cloud
03/01/24 15:45 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter observed a funnel cloud in northeast Madera.

MADERA COUNTY --- 2.2 SSE KISMET [37.02, -120.06], 2.4 SE KISMET [37.02, -120.05]

03/01/24 15:50 PST	50K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.42 mi , W: 10 yd)
03/01/24 15:55 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A funnel cloud which had been previously reported by a trained spotter spawned a small tornado in northeast Madera which was on the ground for around 5 minutes and moved eastward around a half mile. The tornado damaged some portable classrooms at Berenda Elementary School in Madera.

TULARE COUNTY --- 3.6 ENE ANGIOLA [36.00, -119.41]

03/02/24 17:04 PST	0	Funnel Cloud
03/02/24 17:04 PST	0	Source: Social Media

Picture of a funnel cloud near Angiola posted on Facebook.

TULARE COUNTY --- 2.6 WNW PIXLEY [35.99, -119.34]

03/02/24 17:38 PST	0	Funnel Cloud
03/02/24 17:38 PST	0	Source: Social Media

Picture of a funnel cloud near Pixley posted on Facebook.

TULARE COUNTY --- 3.6 WSW POPLAR [36.03, -119.21]

03/02/24 17:38 PST	0	Funnel Cloud
03/02/24 17:38 PST	0	Source: Social Media

Picture of a funnel cloud south of Woodville posted on Facebook.

(CA-Z331) SOUTH END OF THE UPPER SIERRA, (CA-Z334) TEHACHAPI, (CA-Z337) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z338) MOJAVE DESERT SLOPE(S)

03/02/24 20:26 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 92 kt)
03/04/24 02:00 PST	0	

A large cold upper trough dropped out of the Gulf of Alaska on February 29 and had deepened off the Pacific Northwest coast on March 1 spreading widespread precipitation as far south as central California. The trough then slowly moved east across the Pacific Northwest on March 2 and 3 before moving east of the region on March 4. This system brought moderate to heavy precipitation to the Sierra Nevada which picked up between 2 and 4 inches of liquid precipitation north of Kings Canyon and 1 to 2 inches further south. The precipitation fell as snow above 5000 feet for the duration of the event and produced 2 to 4 feet on new snowfall north of Kings Canyon and 1.5 to 3 feet of snow further south. This system also produced a half inch to an inch of rainfall in Merced County and a quarter to half inch across most of the remainder of the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the Kern County Mountains and Deserts picked up 1 to 2 tenths of an inch of rainfall. In addition to the precipitation, strong winds also accompanied this system and combined with the snow to produce near blizzard conditions over the Sierra Nevada north of Kings Canyon between the morning of March 1 and the morning of March 3. Scattered thunderstorms also broke out during the afternoons of March 1 and March 2 over parts of the San Joaquin Valley. While the thunderstorms were not heavy rain producers, several funnel clouds were observed and one cell produced a weak tornado in northeast Madera during the afternoon of March 1. In addition to the precipitation, several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts measured wind gusts exceeding 45 mph between the evening of March 2 and the early morning of March 4.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 3.3 NW WESTHAVEN [36.26, -120.05], 3.2 NW WESTHAVEN [36.26, -120.05], 3.1 WNW WESTHAVEN [36.25, -120.05], 3.2 WNW WESTHAVEN [36.25, -120.05]

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	03/06/24 18:41 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/06/24 20:41 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding on SR 198 near Goldenrod Ave.

An upper level low pressure system approached the southern California coast during the afternoon of March 6 and moved across southern California during the evening. The low pulled up some moisture from a subtropical jet stream northward into central California and with the proximity of the upper low to the area destabilizing the airmass, showers and thunderstorms broke out over the area during the afternoon on March 6 and continued through the morning of March 7. The showers were most noticeable over the south end of the San Joaquin Valley and the Tehachapi Mountains. The snow level ranged between 5500 and 6000 feet during this event and a few inches of new snowfall fell above the snow line.

(CA-Z323) YOSEMITE NP OUTSIDE OF THE VALLEY

	03/14/24 04:00 PST		10K	Strong Wind (MAX 48 kt)
	03/15/24 04:00 PST		0	

(CA-Z318) MARIPOSA - MADERA LOWER SIERRA, (CA-Z325) SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CANYON, (CA-Z326) UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, (CA-Z331) SOUTH END OF THE UPPER SIERRA, (CA-Z332) KERN RIVER VALLEY, (CA-Z337) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z338) MOJAVE DESERT SLOPE(S)

	03/14/24 04:52 PST		1K	High Wind (MAX 84 kt)
	03/14/24 11:26 PST		0	

An upper low pressure system dropped slowly southward over Nevada and into southeast California on March 14. This low produced strong northeast winds over the Sierra Nevada and the Kern County Desert areas. Several stations measured winds gusts exceeding 45 mph with some stations picking up gusts in excess of 60 mph. The winds decreased in intensity by the evening of March 14 and dissipated by the afternoon of March 15.

(CA-Z323) YOSEMITE NP OUTSIDE OF THE VALLEY, (CA-Z326) UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, (CA-Z327) KAISER TO RODGERS RIDGE, (CA-Z330) SEQUOIA NP

	03/22/24 16:00 PST		0	Heavy Snow
	03/24/24 10:00 PST		0	

(CA-Z307) FRESNO - CLOVIS

	03/23/24 17:05 PST		0	Winter Weather
	03/23/24 17:05 PST		0	

(CA-Z338) MOJAVE DESERT SLOPE(S)

	03/24/24 02:00 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 60 kt)
	03/24/24 02:00 PST		0	

A large upper low approached the northern California coast on March 22. The associated trough with this system pushed into central California by the evening bringing widespread precipitation to the area. Much of the San Joaquin Valley picked up between a half inch and an inch of rain while much of the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills picked up between 0.75 inches and 1.5 inches of liquid precipitation while several higher elevations SNOTELs picked up an estimated 10 to 15 inches of new snowfall. Most of the precipitation occurred during the afternoon and evening of March 23. Moderate rainfall in the Fresno area resulted in a fatal accident on SR 99 near the intersection of Clovis Ave. This system also brought a period of gusty winds to the Mojave Desert slopes between the evening of March 23 and the morning of March 24 with several stations measuring gusts exceeding 50 mph.

(CA-Z334) TEHACHAPI, (CA-Z338) MOJAVE DESERT SLOPE(S)

	03/25/24 18:14 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
	03/25/24 22:10 PST		0	

Strong northwest flow in between a departing winter storm and an incoming ridge mixed down to the surface along the Mojave Desert Slopes during the evening of March 25 and the early morning of March 26. Several stations reported wind gusts in excess of 45 mph during this period with a few stations picking up gusts exceeding 55 mph.

(CA-Z323) YOSEMITE NP OUTSIDE OF THE VALLEY, (CA-Z326) UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

	03/28/24 16:00 PST		0	Winter Weather
	03/29/24 10:00 PST		0	

A shortwave trough moved through the area between the afternoon of March 27 and the morning of March 28 bringing some light precipitation to the area. The San Joaquin Valley areas south of Fresno County picked up a tenth of an inch or less of rainfall while the lower elevations in Fresno and Madera Counties picked up between one tenth and two tenths of an inch of rain. Much of Merced County

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<p>picked up between two and four tenths of an inch. Elevations above 6000 feet in the Sierra Nevada received another round of new snowfall with several SNOTELs north of Fresno County picking up an estimated 7 to 11 inches of new snowfall. The precipitation tapered off by the afternoon of March 28.</p>				
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<p>(CA-Z323) YOSEMITE NP OUTSIDE OF THE VALLEY, (CA-Z326) UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, (CA-Z327) KAISER TO RODGERS RIDGE, (CA-Z328) KINGS CANYON NP, (CA-Z329) GRANT GROVE AREA, (CA-Z336) FRAZIER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES</p>				
	03/29/24 16:00 PST		0	Heavy Snow
	03/31/24 04:00 PST		0	
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<p>(CA-Z330) SEQUOIA NP, (CA-Z331) SOUTH END OF THE UPPER SIERRA</p>				
	03/29/24 16:00 PST		0	Winter Weather
	03/31/24 04:00 PST		0	
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- 1.0 S METTLER [35.06, -118.97], 0.8 SSE METTLER [35.06, -118.97]</p>				
	03/31/24 18:54 PST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 35 kt)
	03/31/24 18:54 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported a downed tree at the junction of SR 99 and SR 166.

A large upper low pressure system dropped southward off the northern California coast on March 29 which spread widespread precipitation into central California by evening. The low continued to drop further southward on March 30 which resulted in a period of moderate to heavy snowfall above 5000 feet in the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains. Several higher elevation SNOTELs in the Sierra Nevada picked up between 10 and 20 inches of new snowfall. Much of the San Joaquin Valley, West Side Hills and Kern County Deserts picked up between a quarter and three quarters of an inch of rainfall while the Sierra foothills picked up between half an inch to an inch and half of rainfall. The higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada picked up between one and two inches of liquid precipitation. The low finally moved onshore over northern Baja on March 31 resulting in the precipitation slowly tapering off. Some thunderstorms did impact the San Joaquin Valley during the evening of March 31 producing gusty winds and small hail.