



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2002

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	01	0250PST 1000PST			0	0			Fog
	Widespread fog in the San Joaquin Valley dropped driving visibilities to 300-500 feet with many airport sites less than 1/4SM visibility.								
CAZ096	S Sierra Mtns								
	01	0400PST			0	0			Winter Storm
	03	0400PST							
	At elevations greater than 7000 Feet M.S.L. up to 15" of snow fell in the Southern Sierra Nevada								
CAZ095-095	Kern Cty Mtns								
	03	0913PST 1400PST			1	15	830K		Fog
	Dense fog conditions east through south of Bakersfield and on the northern slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains led to instances of multi-vehicle accidents. At 15 miles east-southeast of Bakersfield on Highway 58 two event centers involved a total of 78 cars and trucks with one fatality and 15 injuries. Another case on Interstate-5 near Lebec involved 9 vehicles with unconfirmed reports of injuries but no fatalities. Visibility was reported less than 100 feet in the dense fog. M53VE								
CAZ092	Se Sj Valley								
	04	0015PST 0800PST			0	0			Fog
	Visibilities lowered to 200-500 feet along Highway 99 through most of the southeast San Joaquin Valley during the hours just before and around dawn.								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	06	2044PST			0	0			Fog
	12	0600PST							
	A typical weather event of an extended period of late night and early morning fog established itself in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley from late evening on the 6th through early in the morning of the 12th. On the evening of the 10th dense fog formed before 8 PM PST with visibilities ultimately lowering to 100 feet as reported by California Highway Patrol.								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	15	2100PST			0	0			Extreme Cold
	20	0900PST							
	Another typical weather event of an extended period of a freeze threat and temperatures low enough to concern local agricultural interests occurred on the mornings of the 16th through the 20th. Overnight low temperatures did indeed confirm the freeze threat as readings dropped to the 26-30 degree F. range for the period. Agricultural interests were generally able to mitigate the cold with protection measures so no major crop damage was reported.								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	18	2330PST			0	0			Fog
	21	1000PST							
	For the mornings of the 19th through 21st, dense fog generally returned to the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley (ending on the morning of the 20th as southeast wind dried the zone for the morning of the 21st). Combined with the dense fog on the morning of the 21st, overnight low temperatures dropped below the freezing mark as well making for treacherous road conditions with ice formation.								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	21	0130PST 0900PST			0	0			Cold
	Although some isolated readings less than 28 degrees F. occurred in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley on the morning of the 21st, overnight low temperatures were in the 28-32 degree F. range. As mentioned, in combination with dense fog, roadways were made slick with the combination of moisture and freezing temperatures in CA Zones 89-91.								



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095-098>099 **Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**

22	0600PST				0	0			Wind
	1800PST								

Numerous meso-net weather reporting sites indicated gusty wind early on the 22nd. In the Kern Mountains sensors routinely reported 30-40 MPH sustained wind with gusts to 42 knots at Sandberg. In the Kern County Deserts Mojave had wind sustained at 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots while Government Peak had gusts to 55 MPH.

CAZ089>092 **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**

22	2300PST				0	0			Extreme Cold
	0900PST								

Overnight low temperatures in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley citrus locations plunged to the 25-29 degree F. range causing widespread agricultural protective measures on the mornings of the 23rd and 24th. Some West Valley field crop locations had minimums in the mid 20s. It is likely some unreported damage occurred in the colder locations with such low temperatures but growers were generally successful in mitigating the effects of the sub-freezing temperatures. Although still sub-freezing, overnight low temperatures moderated upward 1-2 degrees F. on the morning of the 25th.

CAZ096 **S Sierra Mtns**

26	1100PST				0	0			Winter Storm
	1600PST								

CAZ097 **Tulare Cty Mtns**

26	2300PST				0	0			Snow
	0400PST								

A winter storm brought significant snow amounts to the Southern Sierra Nevada with lessor amounts in the Tulare County Mountains of Interior Central California: Bishop Pass at 11K Feet M.S.L. received 20" of snow, Agnew Pass at 9.5K Feet got 13" in 12 hours, and Big Meadows in the Tulare County Mountains received 10" of new snow.

CAZ093>095 **S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills - Kern Cty Mtns**

28	0300PST				0	0			Snow
	1000PST								

CAZ096>097 **S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**

28	0300PST				0	0			Winter Storm
	1000PST								

Another in a series of storms swept through the high country of Central California. At the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare County Mountains close to 20" of new snow fell in a little over a day. Poison Ridge in the S.Sierra Nevada and Big Meadows in the Tulare County Mountains reported 19" of new snow with several other high elevation locations at or above 15". At lower elevations 4-6" of new snow occurred, including the Tehachapi Mountains, which hindered travel on Highway 58 through Tehachapi Pass.

CAZ099 **Se Kern Cty Desert**

28	1400PST				0	0			Snow
	2300PST								

The relative infrequent occurrence of light snow fell in the Mojave Desert on the 28th as an unseasonably cold air mass moved through the area. Trace amounts of snow were reported near Edwards AFB and in the higher terrain around California City.

CAZ089>092 **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**

29	0409PST				0	0			Snow
	1015PST								

An exceptionally cold air mass swept into Interior Central California on the 28th. While not a large amount of associated low level moisture was present, what was available led to the infrequent occurrence of snow on the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley floor. Trace reports of snow were reported at Los Banos, Madera, Hanford, McFarland, Shafter, and elsewhere in the S.J. Valley.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

29	2356PST	0	0		Extreme Cold
31	2359PST				

Following the reports of snow on the San Joaquin Valley floor and with cleared skies, residing cold air became a threat to local citrus growers. For the period from late January 29th through the morning of February 6th. During the mornings of the 30th and 31st of January, overnight low temperatures plunged to 24 to 30 degree F. range for all of the Central and Southern Valley. Growers had to actively protect citrus groves but no damage was reported.