National Weather Service
Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

May 2005

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
CALIFORNIA, South Central									
Kern County									
Countywide	**05** **06**	**1209PST** **0300PST**			**0**	**0**			**Heavy Rain**
Fresno County									
Countywide	**05** **06**	**1254PST** **0100PST**			**0**	**0**			**Heavy Rain**
Kings County									
Countywide	**05** **06**	**1300PST** **0200PST**			**0**	**0**			**Heavy Rain**
Madera County									
Countywide	**05** **06**	**1411PST** **0300PST**			**0**	**0**	**200K**		**Heavy Rain**

Madera received 1.42" of rain during a 24-hour period ending by early on the 6th with over half of that occurring between Noon and 3 PM PST on the 5th from afternoon thunderstorms. Water collecting on a roof in downtown Madera led to its collapse and subsequent damage in mid-afternoon. Numerous locations around Madera had street flooding with other reported flooding in Madera County including a freeway offramp in the city of Madera as well as rural roadway flooding 14 miles east of Madera. Chowchilla, in Madera County, reported 1.34" in the 24 hour period ending on the 6th. Fresno County reported several locations of roadway flooding from the heavy rain from Kerman, west of Fresno, to areas east of Fresno. Fresno reported a rainfall record-for-the-date of 1.02" during the 5th primarily due to the afternoon thunderstorm activity. Other areas reporting substantial rain from thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening of the 5th in Fresno County included Reedley and Avenal each with an inch of rain, and Clovis receiving 2.35 inches. The Southern San Joaquin Valley reported several instances of road flooding, including Highway 99 and Interstate Highway 5, from Northwest Bakersfield, south to the Grapevine, and east of Bakersfield. In Kings County, Hanford had 0.64" and Lemoore reported 0.71" during the 5th. Bakersfield reported 0.67" from the 5th through early on the 6th with undoubtedly higher amounts of rain received in outlying areas.

Kings County									
9 E Kettleman City	**05**	**1430PST** **1500PST**			**0**	**0**			**Funnel Cloud**

Kings County Fire Dept reported seeiing 4 funnel clouds form and dissipate over a 30-minute time period on the 5th

Fresno County									
Coalinga	**05**	**1743PST** **2045PST**			**0**	**0**			**Flash Flood**

Coalinga Police Department reported "all roads in town are flooded with some impassable" due to runoff from nearby mountains and ponding water from thunderstorms early in the evening of the 5th. The city reported 1.38" of rain falling from mid-afternoon to early evening.

CAZ096>097	**S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**								
	08 **09**	**1700PST** **2000PST**			**0**	**0**			**Winter Weather/Mix**

A significant snowfall occurred in the higher elevations of Interior Central California late on the 8th and early on the 9th when 7 to 16 inches of new snow was reported overnight onto an already deep snow pack: Tunnel Guard Station in the Tulare County Mountains received 16 inches of new snow and Volcanic Knob in the Southern Sierra received 13 inches of new snow.

Fresno County									
Central Portion	**08** **09**	**1700PST** **2000PST**			**0**	**0**		**21.9M**	**Heavy Rain**
Kings County									
Countywide	**08** **09**	**1700PST** **2000PST**			**0**	**0**		**671K**	**Heavy Rain**

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

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Madera County

Countywide — **08** 1700PST; **09** 2000PST — 0 — 0 — — **4M** — **Heavy Rain**

Tulare County

Countywide — **08** 1700PST; **09** 2000PST — 0 — 0 — — **8.6M** — **Heavy Rain**

A series of three unseasonably heavy rain events, accompanied by hail at times, adversely impacted Interior Central California agriculture. Rain and large hail events around April 28th, and rain and small hail around May 5th, and again around May 9th caused extensive problems in the local cherry crop. Other crops negatively impacted from the rain included alfalfa, apricots, table grapes, nectarines, peaches, strawberries, cotton, and tomatoes.

Fresno County

Selma — **08** 1700PST; **09** 2000PST — 0 — 0 — — — **Heavy Rain**

Fresno County

Selma — **09** 1050PST — 0 — 0 — **1K** — — **Lightning**

Fresno County

Selma — **09** 1110PST — 0 — 0 — **1K** — — **Lightning**

Thunderstorm activity late on the 9th brought a couple of lightning strikes within the city of Selma in Southern Fresno County. Additionally the city reported 0.94" of rain over the 24 hours period ending on the 9th which caused areas of flooding within the city due to ponded water.

Fresno County

1 W Fowler — **09** 1018PST; 1019PST — **0** — **25** — 0 — 0 — — — **Tornado (F0)**

A brief touchdown of a small tornado occurred during the late morning of the 9th in Southern Fresno County near the town of Fowler. No damage was reported and the funnel was seen by numerous motorists and the California Highway Patro.

Madera County

Countywide — **15** 2200PST; **16** 0900PST — 0 — 0 — — — **Heavy Rain**

Meadow flooding in Yosemite Valley as the Merced River crested at mid-afternoon on the 16th. (Photo courtesy of the Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA).

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

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Mariposa County

Countywide — **15 2200PST**, **16 0900PST** — 0 — 0 — **Heavy Rain**

CAZ096 — **S Sierra Mtns**

16 0645PST, **1500PST** — 0 — 0 — **100K** — **Flood**

After a persistent and longer-than-normal cool season, significantly heavy rain occurred onto the large Southern Sierra Nevada snowpack beginning late in the evening of the 15th and continued into the morning of the 16th. With snow levels above 7000 feet, rainfall amounts averaging 1.75" in the mountain areas combined with a snowmelt runoff contribution of about 1" water equivalent caused river flooding on the Yosemite Valley floor in Yosemite National Park. The Merced River rose 3 feet between 0100 and 0500 PST on the morning of the 16th prompting park personnel to evacuate campers in Yosemite Valley. The Merced River on the Yosemite Valley Floor rose above its Flood Stage of 10.0 feet by 0645 PST and subsequently crested at 12.5 feet at 1430 PST on the 16th forcing park personnel to even close roads into the Yosemite Valley.

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

16 1045PST, **17 0234PST** — 0 — 0 — **3K** — **Strong Wind (MG55)**

Gusty post-frontal wind occurred in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts from mid-day on the 16th into the early morning hours of the 17th.

CAZ096 — **S Sierra Mtns**

20 2100PST, **31 2359PST** — 0 — 0 — **Flood**

The arrival of warm weather late in the month of May combined with a much above normal snowpack (179% of normal in the Mariposa County area) in the Southern Sierra Nevada led to snowmelt flooding along the undammed Merced River in Yosemite Valley. This longer-lasting snowmelt flooding event followed the rainfall-induced flooding event earlier in the month. Daily, during the period from May 20th to June 1st, the Merced River crested above its Flood Stage of 10.0 feet at the Pohono Bridge in the lower Yosemite Valley. The late spring snowmelt flooding caused problems for park personnel as overwinter construction projects and roadways were adversely affected by the natural flooding while the summer tourist season was beginning.

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

29 1430PST, **2100PST** — 0 — 0 — **3K** — **Strong Wind (MG57)**

A weak frontal passage late in the month on the 29th led to gusty wind again in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts.