

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - July 2008

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

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

	07/01/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
	07/20/08 18:00 PST	0	

The Clover wildfire was located in the Sequoia National Forest. The ignition date was May 28 at 1300 PST. The cause was lightning. The wildfire was located 8 miles North of Kennedy Meadows in Tulare County. The size was 15,300 acres. The fire was contained on July 20. There were no fatalities or damaged properties. The cost to containment was \$8.31M.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

	07/01/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
	07/05/08 18:00 PST	0	

The Oliver wildfire was on state forest land, by the Merced-Madera-Mariposa Unit. The location was north of Ponderosa Basin and the size was 2789 acres. The ignition date was June 21 at 1610 PST. The cause was lightning. The wildfire was contained on July 5. There were no fatalities or damaged properties. The cost to containment was \$12,217,857.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

	07/01/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
	07/03/08 18:00 PST	0	

The Silver Complex wildfire occurred in the Sierra National Forest. The ignition date was June 21 at 1610 PST. The cause was lightning, and the location was from Fishcamp north to the Merced River Canyon. The size was 1,161 acres. The wildfire was contained on July 3. There were no fatalities or damages. The cost to containment was \$3,340,000.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

	07/01/08 00:00 PST	5M	Wildfire
	07/25/08 18:00 PST	0	

The Piute wildfire, in the Sequoia National Forest, was ignited on June 28 at 1359 PST by unknown causes. The location was 8 miles North of Twin Oaks in Kern County. The size was 37,026 acres. The fire was contained on July 25. There were no fatalities. 51 structures were lost to the wildfire, 45 of those being outbuildings. Damages were estimated at \$5M. The cost to containment was \$25M.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS

	07/09/08 00:00 PST	0	Excessive Heat
	07/10/08 20:00 PST	0	

An extreme heat event developed on July 8 across Interior Central CA as a strong ridge of high pressure setup across the region. This weather pattern promoted progressively increasing temperatures for several days with excessive heat warning criteria met in some locations beginning the night of July 8, and continuing in most locations through July 11. Maximum temperatures on the 9th and 10th were generally between 105-112 degrees. Unusually humid conditions resulted in heat index values of 110 degrees or higher in many locations. Nighttime relief was very limited, especially in cities, where minimum heat index values failed to drop below 80 degrees. In addition, very poor air quality occurred coincident with the heat event due to wildfires across CA. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, in cooperation with NWS Hanford, issued several Air Quality Alerts, Health Advisories, and other air quality statements, in response to the poor air quality. NWS Hanford has a well-developed agreement to assist the Air District with air quality information dissemination.

Temperature records have been broken at several locations. The low temperature at Bakersfield on July 10th was 86 degrees. This breaks the record highest minimum temperature at Bakersfield for the date of 82 degrees, set in 2002. The low temperature at Fresno on July 10th was 82 degrees. This breaks the record for the highest minimum temperature at Fresno for the date of 80 degrees, set in 1896. The low temperature at Bakersfield on July 9th was 84 degrees. This was 7 degrees warmer than the record high minimum temperature at Bakersfield for the date of 77 degrees, set in 1975. The low temperature at Fresno on July 9th was 81 degrees. This was 2 degrees warmer than the record high minimum temperature at Fresno for the date of 79 degrees, set in 1896.

Two fatalities occurred during this extreme heat event. Both fatalities were in Kern County near Maricopa. The victims were both farm workers working during the heat event. The first fatality occurred of a 42 year old male vineyard worker in Kern County. He was found in his truck along a highway and vineyard. The second fatality was a man of unknown age, also working in the vineyard near Maricopa.

The combination of very hot weather of very poor air quality created a situation very dangerous for those individuals sensitive to poor conditions, such as the elderly, young, and those with chronic health problems.

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<p>Kings County Government reported extensive poultry losses on July 10, dollar estimates were unavailable. An estimated 150 tons of dead poultry came into a local rendering plant. Kings County declared a local state of emergency.</p>				
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- CALIF CITY CIVIC CTR [35.13, -117.97], 5.6 ESE JOHANNESBURG [35.34, -117.54], 3.6 SSE INYOKERN [35.60, -117.80], 3.3 E KERNVILLE ARPT [35.72, -118.36]</p>				
	07/12/08 17:38 PST		1.50M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/12/08 20:38 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
<p>NWS Incident Meteorologists reported heavy rain that hit the Piute wildfire area caused flash flooding into the Lake Isabella area. Mud and debris flow swept into the town of Lake Isabella causing evacuations and helicopter rescues in and around the town.</p>				
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- 1.8 WSW GARLOCK [35.39, -117.81], 1.4 NE RAND [35.41, -117.68], 1.6 ESE RAND [35.39, -117.67], 1.3 S GARLOCK [35.38, -117.78]</p>				
	07/13/08 14:18 PST		25K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/13/08 15:18 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
<p>The California Highway Patrol reported heavy rainfall runoff causing erosion at the Randsburg Road. This runoff was coming from heavy thunderstorms on Piute Mountain.</p>				
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- 3.6 NW LORAIN [35.34, -118.47], 3.9 SSE ALTA SIERRA [35.68, -118.53], 1.6 SW WOFFORD HGTS [35.68, -118.47], 2.0 NNE LORAIN [35.33, -118.42]</p>				
	07/13/08 15:42 PST		50K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/13/08 21:42 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
<p>NWS Incident meteorologists relayed reports of flash flooding near Thompson Creek. California Highway Patrol reported runoff causing erosion of Randsburg-Redrock Rd.</p>				
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<p>MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 7.7 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.85, -119.48], 8.1 NE YOSEMITE NATL PARK [37.83, -119.44], 10.8 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.87, -119.42], 15.0 ENE YOSEMITE NATL PARK [37.87, -119.32], 13.1 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.89, -119.38], 11.0 NE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.89, -119.43], 9.5 NNE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.89, -119.48]</p>				
	07/14/08 14:15 PST		2.50K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	07/14/08 18:15 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
<p>Road closed at both ends in Tioga Pass due to mud flows across the road. Thunderstorms dropped lots of hail. Pea-sized hail covered about a 2 mile section of the road.</p>				
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- 2.4 NNE HAVILAH [35.55, -118.50], 1.4 SSE ALTA SIERRA [35.71, -118.54], 3.9 SSE WELDON [35.62, -118.24], 11.9 SE ONYX [35.54, -118.11], 9.0 W RICARDO [35.40, -118.14], 4.8 SE DEMOCRAT SPGS [35.48, -118.62], 4.6 W MIRACLE HOT SPGS [35.58, -118.61]</p>				
	07/14/08 14:32 PST		0.10M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/14/08 18:00 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
<p>Flash flood Debris flow was reported on Johns Rd between Caliente Creek and Walsher Rd at 332 pm. NWS Incident meteorologist reported flash flooding on Erskine creek near Lake Isabella and Clear Creek at Havilah. at 430 pm. Water was reported covering Walker Basin Rd. Several utility poles on Johns Rd and Walker Basin Rd were undermined by fast flowing water. The intersection of Johns Rd and Walker Basin Rd were reported completely flooded out with water up to 3 feet deep.</p>				
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<p>KERN COUNTY --- 4.3 ENE NEURALIA [35.23, -117.95], 5.6 WSW INYOKERN [35.63, -117.92], 4.6 N ONYX [35.75, -118.24], 6.1 SE DEMOCRAT SPGS [35.46, -118.60]</p>				
	07/15/08 13:10 PST		20K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/15/08 18:10 PST		0	Source: State Official
<p>A Claraville weather station reported 2.15 inches of rain in only 90 minutes. NWS Incident meteorologists reported pea-size hail and runoff developing from thunderstorm over the Piute Mountains. This thunderstorm ended runoff near the Piute wildfire burn areas caused flooding of the Thompson Creek Road, and also in the Jawbone and Cortez Canyons, and Kelso Creek across Kelso Valley Road.</p>				
<p>The upper-level high pressure ridge moved inland on July 11th, with a low pressure area moving to along the coast. This pattern set up a southerly wind pattern over California, drawing up monsoonal moisture from the southeast on the 12th. Thunderstorms formed over the Tulare County Mountains by the early afternoon of the 12th. The storms become stronger as they spread south into Kern County.</p>				
<p>Several bouts of flash flooding impacted portions of the Southern Sierra Nevada, Kern County mountains and deserts. Heavy rain hit the Piute wildfire area 4 days in a row causing flash flooding into the Lake Isabella area. Mud and debris flow swept into the town of Lake Isabella causing evacuations and helicopter rescues in the town. The muddy waters shut down roads and businesses in Lake Isabella. Some flooding also occurred on the 14th in the town of Tehachapi, where an apartment complex sustained significant damage. Thompson Creek Road was washed out Tuesday afternoon stranding 40 homes, about 10 miles south of Lake Isabella. On July 15, it</p>				

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was reported in the newspaper the Bakersfield water supply was being threatened by dirt and silt washing down the Kern River. The California Water Service shut down a portion of their water treatment facility as of July 15. The city has only a 3 day supply of clean emergency water and that is beginning to run out at one of the treatment plants.

Strong thunderstorms over the El Paso Mountains during the afternoon of July 13th caused flash flooding on the Randsburg Road, with erosion of the road. Later storms over the Piute Mountains caused flooding of Erskine Creek with mud and debris flows again moving into the town of Lake Isabella.

Afternoon and evening thunderstorms continued through the 15th, with activity diminishing on the 16th. Flooding was observed in the Thompson Canyon, Erskine Creek, and Kelso Canyon areas.

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 A photograph showing a helicopter in flight against a backdrop of hazy, mountainous terrain. The helicopter is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame. In the lower center, a person is seen rappelling down a steep, rocky cliff face. The overall scene suggests a rescue or transport operation in a high-altitude, mountainous region.				

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Several swift water rescues were performed by the Kern County Fire Department near Lake Isabella. Photo courtesy of the Kern County Fire Department.

KERN COUNTY --- 2.1 SSE RAND [35.37, -117.69], 1.6 N RANDSBURG [35.39, -117.64], 1.7 ENE JOHANNESBURG [35.38, -117.60], 2.4 ESE JOHANNESBURG [35.35, -117.59]

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	07/16/08 14:39 PST		1K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
	07/16/08 16:00 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported high water and debris along U.S. 395 at Randsburg Road.

Localized flash flooding persisted on July 16 near Piute, California.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

07/19/08 12:15 PST	0	Wildfire
07/31/08 23:59 PST	0	

The Tehipite Fire occurred in Sequoia National Park. The ignition date was July 19 at 1215 PST. The cause was lightning. The location was 20 miles northeast of Dunlap in Fresno County. The size of the wildfire was 1,331 acres. Estimated date of containment was October 15. There were no fatalities or lost structures. The cost to containment was \$500,000.

KERN COUNTY --- 4.1 NNE (NID)NAF CHINA LAKE [35.74, -117.66], 10.2 ESE RIDGECREST ARPT [35.55, -117.45], 5.8 S GARLOCK [35.32, -117.76], 8.1 NNE RICARDO [35.49, -117.92], 5.1 W INYOKERN AIRPORT [35.68, -117.92]

07/20/08 15:56 PST	30K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Burn Area)
07/20/08 18:45 PST	0	Source: Department of Highways

California Highway Patrol reported flooding on Highway 14 at Robbers Roost (north of Red Rock Canyon). Kern County Department of Highways reported a water, mud and debris flow on Highway 14. Water was up to a foot deep in spots, and several vehicles were stranded. NWS off-duty employee reported water on Inyokern Road was 12 inches deep in spots with several cars stranded. Garlock Road was covered in extensive debris. Flash flooding and mud and debris flow were reported at the junction of Garlock Road and Red Rock Randsburg Road.

An upper-level trough approached California on the 20th, bringing yet another surge of monsoonal moisture into the eastern Kern deserts. Outflow boundaries from nocturnal convection over Arizona and northern Mexico generated pre-dawn showers over the China Lake Naval Air Warfare Center and spread clouds across the mountains and the San Joaquin Valley. With the warm, unstable airmass over the region, showers and thunderstorms developed over the Tehachapi Mountains and drifted north into Kern County around sunrise. One storm strengthened into a thunderstorm near Delano, and brought the first measurable rain to Visalia and Fresno since May 27th. 0.01 inch of rain fell at Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, and the Visalia Municipal Airport recorded 0.03 inch of rain from the storm. Widespread mid-level clouds accompanied the monsoonal moisture, and these clouds, in conjunction with a push of low-level marine air through the Sacramento Delta, brought sharp cooling to much of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley on the 20th and 21st. The high temperature for Fresno on July 19th was 102. The next day, Fresno could only reach a high of 89 degrees, a difference of 13 degrees.

One large thunderstorm formed over Barstow during the afternoon of July 20th. As the storm collapsed, strong outflow winds pushed across the Kern County deserts, triggering thunderstorms that produced flash flooding that affected much of Ridgecrest, with fast flowing high water across several city streets. Water rescues were necessary for several people in Ridgecrest due to the flood waters.

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Flash flooding and debris flow flooded out several automobiles. Photo Courtesy Kern County Fire Department.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

07/25/08 13:10 PST
07/31/08 23:59 PST

25M
0

Wildfire

The Telegraph wildfire was located in the CalFire Merced-Madera-Mariposa Unit, near Mariposa in Mariposa County. The ignition date was July 25 at 1410 PST. The cause was human, due to target shooting. The size was 34,091 acres. The wildfire was contained on August 5. There were no fatalities. There were 130 properties lost, of which 100 were outbuildings. Property damages were estimated at \$25M. The cost to containment was \$36.5M.

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CALIFORNIA, South Central

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

08/01/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
08/31/08 23:59 PST	0	

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