

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2015

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

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

	04/01/15 00:00 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 60 kt)
	04/02/15 02:30 PST	0		

A series of dry troughs of low pressure moved across California in the last few days of the March with increased the surface pressure gradients resulting in strong, gusty winds across the mountains and desert areas of Kern County, along with breezy conditions in the San Joaquin Valley from March 31 through April 2. Winds were west-northwesterly 15-30 mph with gusts generally 45-55 mph across the mountains and desert areas. However, there were some gusts of 58-66 mph in a few wind-prone locations.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

	04/01/15 00:00 PST	0		Drought
	04/30/15 23:59 PST	0		

The California drought continued in full force during the month of April, 2015. Temperatures continued to average above normal. While there was some precipitation in April, it was not uniformly distributed. Fresno received 1.25 inches of rain (131% of normal) while Bakersfield received only 0.08 inches (15% of normal). Overall, seasonal rainfall amounts continued to be only 50-75 percent of normal across central California.

The U.S. Drought Monitor continued to report exceptional drought conditions across the entire Central California region. This extent of exceptional drought is extremely unusual for California. The 2013-2014 water year (July 1 - June 30) concluded with Fresno setting its second driest on record (4.81 inches) and Bakersfield setting its third driest (2.41 inches). For the calendar year, 2014 was the warmest year on record for Fresno and Bakersfield. The trend of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures has continued through the first few months of 2015.

There continues to be significant media coverage on the on-going drought conditions. These reports include discussion of significant re-allocation of water resources from the east to west side of the San Joaquin Valley, farmers forgoing planting of some crops, a decrease in the snow-related tourism activity in the Southern Sierra Nevada, reduction in air quality due to persistent stagnant air, loss or reduction of ground water, wells drying up in several communities leaving them with no water, and an unprecedented increase in fire danger across the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains.

MADERA COUNTY --- 7.0 SSE CHOWCHILLA [37.03, -120.22]

	04/07/15 13:25 PST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/07/15 13:30 PST	0		Source: Trained Spotter

Spotter reported one inch hail near Chowchilla, CA.

MADERA COUNTY --- 4.0 N MADERA [37.03, -120.07]

	04/07/15 14:30 PST	0		Funnel Cloud
	04/07/15 15:15 PST	0		Source: Public

Public report of a funnel cloud near Madera, CA.

MADERA COUNTY --- 5.0 NW MADERA [37.02, -120.13]

	04/07/15 15:22 PST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	04/07/15 16:15 PST	0		Source: Trained Spotter

Spotter reported three quarter inch hail near Madera, CA.

MADERA COUNTY --- 5.0 NW MADERA [37.02, -120.13]

	04/07/15 15:40 PST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	04/07/15 15:45 PST	0		Source: Public

Public report of three quarter inch hail near Madera, CA.

An upper level low pressure system moved onshore across Northern California the morning of the 7th. The associated cold front moved through the area during the day resulting in a tightening of the surface pressure gradient, which brought gusty winds of up to 49 MPH to the area. This system brought ample amounts of moisture with it which allowed for thunderstorm development during the afternoon and evening hours.

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

04/14/15 11:00 PST	0	Dust Storm
04/14/15 15:00 PST	0	

An upper level trough of low pressure moved onshore on April 14th resulting in wind gusts of 45-60 MPH. An area of dust and dirt was lifted into the atmosphere, reducing visibility to near zero across Highway 180 near Fresno. The reduced visibility lead to a seven-car crash causing minor injuries and a closure of the roadway for a few hours.

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

04/14/15 21:55 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
04/14/15 21:55 PST	0	

An upper level trough of low pressure moved onshore during the day on the 13th of April resulting in onshore flow across Central California. As the low pressure system began exiting the area on the 14th the pressure gradient tightened resulting in strong, gusty winds across the mountains and desert areas of Kern County. Winds were generally westerly at 25-35 MPH across the mountains and desert ares. However, there were some gust of 50-61 MPH.