

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2021

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

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z197) FORT TEJON

	02/03/21 06:30 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/03/21 14:00 PST	0	

Northerly flow behind a cold frontal passage during the evening of February 2 resulted in low clouds banking up against the valley facing slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains. This resulted in areas of dense fog reducing visibility to below 200 feet which adversely impacted travel along State Route 58 near Tehachapi and Interstate 5 near Lebec and Fort Tejon. California Highway Patrol paced traffic on both highways as a result of the dense fog.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	02/03/21 15:27 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 77 kt)
	02/03/21 16:14 PST	0	

A dry cold front pushed southward through central California during the evening of February 2. Behind the front strong downslope winds developed on the leeward side of the Tehachapi Mountains during the morning of February 3 and continued through the afternoon before diminishing during the evening. Several stations in the Tehachapi and Lake Isabella areas measured wind gusts between 55 and 65 mph. A few low impact indicator sites briefly reported gusts above 70 mph.

(CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

	02/04/21 06:10 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/04/21 08:50 PST	0	

The cold front which pushed through the area on February 3 moved out of the area during the morning of February 4 resulting in clearing skies and diminished winds across the area. High pressure strengthened offshore during the morning of February 4 producing a dry northwest flow over the area. However, residual low level moisture left over from the strong storm in late January resulted in low clouds and patchy dense fog to form by sunrise in portions of the eastern San Joaquin Valley with visibility below a quarter mile being observed in Reedley and Visalia. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which dissipated by afternoon.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

	02/05/21 02:05 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/05/21 09:15 PST	0	

Offshore high pressure built inland and strengthened over central California during the morning of February 5. With clear skies and light winds prevailing over the area combining with residual low level moisture in the San Joaquin Valley, an area of dense fog formed near the center of the valley during the early morning hours. The fog mainly impacted the Hanford area and reduced visibility to below an eighth of a mile along State Route 198 through Hanford. The fog burned off by late morning and visibility rapidly improved by midday.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

	02/07/21 05:35 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/07/21 06:20 PST	0	

An upper ridge remained situated just off the California coast maintaining a dry northeast flow over the area. Skies remaining mainly clear and winds remained light over the area on February 6 and the early morning of February 7. This allowed for some patches of dense fog to form in northern Kings and south central Fresno Counties in the morning. The fog was shallow and dissipated shortly after sunrise.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

	02/08/21 04:05 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/08/21 05:55 PST	0	

An upper ridge shifted inland into central California on February 7. The ridge kept skies mainly clear and winds light overnight into the morning of February 8. With abundant low level moisture still present from the strong storm in late January, patches of dense fog formed overnight. The fog dissipated shortly after sunrise.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	02/13/21 12:26 PST	0.20M	High Wind (MAX 70 kt)
	02/13/21 23:00 PST	0	

A low pressure system that was situated off the Pacific Northwest coast on February 11 dropped southward into central California

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during the evening into the early morning of February 12 spreading widespread precipitation across the area. Much of the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills picked up between half an inch and an inch of liquid precipitation with several stations at elevations above 7000 feet picking up between 5 and 10 inches of new snow. Rainfall amounts were lower in the San Joaquin Valley where most stations picked up a quarter of an inch or less of rain. A second system which was moisture deficient followed on February 13 and produced strong wind gusts across the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas as well as across the Kern County Deserts where several stations measured gusts exceeding 45 mph with some stations in the deserts briefly measuring gusts above 60 mph. A few low impact indicator sites had gusts above 70 mph. The winds caused at least three accidents involving tractor trailers in the Mojave area during the afternoon and evening of February 13. The winds finally decreased on February 14 as the upper trough that was associated with these two systems moved to the east of our area.

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

	02/15/21 08:35 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/15/21 13:35 PST	0	

A low pressure system dropped southeast across the Great Basin on February 15 as a northwesterly flow prevailed over our area. Upslope clouds banked up along the Tehachapi as the result of the persistent northwest flow and resulted in fog and drizzle across the Tehachapi valley between the late morning and early afternoon which adversely impacted travel along State Route 58. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck during the afternoon and visibility improved.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	02/15/21 17:10 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 69 kt)
	02/16/21 06:30 PST	0	

A low pressure system dropped southeast across the Great Basin on February 15 taking an inside slider trajectory. This system produced some light precipitation across the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills with several stations measuring a tenth of an inch or less of liquid precipitation. The main impact from this system; however, is that it produced a period of gusty winds across the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas as well as across the Kern County Deserts during the evening of February 15 until the morning of February 16. Several stations in the impacted areas in Kern County measured wind gusts exceeding 45 mph with some stations briefly measuring gusts exceeding 60 mph. The winds diminished during the afternoon and evening of February 16 as the low over the Great Basin slowly moved east and away from the area.

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

	02/16/21 08:35 PST	0	Dense Fog
	02/16/21 11:35 PST	0	

Northwest flow continued behind a low pressure system which dropped through the Great Basin on February 15 and slowly moved east on February 16. The persistent northwest flow resulted in another period of upslope clouds banking up along the valley facing slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains and dense fog formed again over the Tehachapi Valley by late morning once again adversely impacting travel along State Route 58. The fog dissipated by early afternoon.

(CA-Z180) SAN JOAQUIN CONFLUENCE, (CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA

	02/18/21 03:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
	02/18/21 08:00 PST	0	

A dry upper ridge moved inland through California during the morning of February 18. This resulted in clearing skies and light winds over the San Joaquin Valley. With the prevailing airmass over the area being cool and dry, temperatures dropped below the freezing mark for a few hours in Merced, western Madera and western Fresno Counties with several stations in these areas reporting minimum temperatures between 28 Deg. F and 31 Deg. F.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	02/20/21 07:26 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 71 kt)
	02/20/21 14:00 PST	0	

A shortwave trough dropped southeast across central California on February 20. This system strengthened onshore pressure gradients resulting in a period of increased winds over the Kern County Deserts as well as over portions of the mountains in Kern and Tulare Counties during the late morning through the early afternoon. Several stations measured gusts above 45 mph while a few low impact indicator stations measured gusts above 70 mph. The gusts subsided during the evening and winds diminished by the morning of February 21.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

	02/26/21 18:10 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
	02/26/21 21:27 PST	0	

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A moisture starved upper low dropped southward over the Great Basin on February 26. This system pushed a cold front through central California resulting in a period of gusty winds during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Several stations in the Kern County Deserts as well as in the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas measured gusts exceeding 45 mph while a few low impact indicator sites measured gusts exceeding 60 mph.