



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 2003

| Location | Date | Time<br>Local/<br>Standard | Path<br>Length<br>(Miles) | Path<br>Width<br>(Yards) | Number of<br>Persons<br>Killed | Number of<br>Persons<br>Injured | Estimated<br>Damage<br>Property | Estimated<br>Damage<br>Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

#### Kern County

|                     |          |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |          |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 13 SW Lake Isabella | 01<br>04 | 0000PST<br>1700PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Wildfire |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|

The China Fire started in July and was contained late in the day on August 4th...see July Stormdata

#### Tulare County

|                   |          |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |          |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 15 NE Camp Nelson | 01<br>27 | 0000PST<br>1600PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Wildfire |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|

The Cooney Fire was ignited by lightning late in the afternoon of the 31st of July and eventually managed as a resource burn. Designated a resource burn by August 27th, it was reported to have burned 1928 acres. There were no injuries with this fire and costs were unknown. The Cooney Fire was one of 17 fires started by lightning between July 28th and August 1st in the Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.

#### Mariposa County

|                   |          |                    |  |  |   |   |     |  |          |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|--|----------|
| 25 N Yosemite Vlg | 01<br>31 | 0000PST<br>2359PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 20K |  | Wildfire |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|--|----------|

The Kibbee Complex Fire was lightning started on July 20th approximately 18 miles northeast of Miwok Village in the NW corner of Yosemite National Park. The fire eventually was managed as a resource burn as it continued into the month of August. No injuries occurred and the cost of this fire was still assessed at \$20K at the end of August. The total acreage of this fire was 651 acres at the end of the month.

#### Tulare County

|               |          |                    |  |  |   |   |     |  |          |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|--|----------|
| 14 E Wilsonia | 01<br>31 | 0000PST<br>1700PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 22K |  | Wildfire |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|--|----------|

The Williams Fire was lightning started in the wee hours of the morning of July 28th and burned through the month of August as a managed resource fire. No injuries were reported but the fire cost was assessed at \$22K. The fire burned 827 acres by the end of August.

#### Mariposa County

|                  |          |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |          |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 2 N Yosemite Vlg | 01<br>31 | 0000PST<br>2359PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Wildfire |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|

The Duncan Complex continued to burn through the month as a resource burn within Yosemite National Park

#### Kern County

|                 |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |             |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| 4 WSW Tehachapi | 01 | 1509PST<br>2000PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Flash Flood |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|

Excessive rainfall resulted in early flooding in the Kern County Mountains and valleys in the vicinity of Tehachapi. Spotters reported 1.24 inches of rain in 2 hours ending by 1600 PST along Indian Creek north of Tehachapi. Stud Horse Canyon had 0.96 inches in the hour ending at 1600 PST. Flooding was reported in Brite Valley at Highway 202 and Banducci Road due to mountain runoff.

#### Kern County

|                                      |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |             |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| 4.5 NE Loraine to<br>4.5 NNE Loraine | 01 | 1807PST<br>2000PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Flash Flood |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|

#### Kern County

|                 |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |             |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| 9 WSW Tehachapi | 01 | 1807PST<br>2000PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Flash Flood |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|

Excessive rainfall rates of over 1 inch per hour from late summer monsoon thunderstorm activity led to flooding events at several locations in the mountains of Kern County. Moist antecedent conditions existed as thunderstorms with estimated rainfall amounts of 3-6 inches had tracked over the area the previous evening (the 31st of July).

#### Tulare County

|              |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |             |
|--------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| Mineral King | 02 | 1710PST<br>1800PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Flash Flood |
|--------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|





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August 2003

| Location | Date | Time<br>Local/<br>Standard | Path<br>Length<br>(Miles) | Path<br>Width<br>(Yards) | Number of<br>Persons | Estimated<br>Damage | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|          |      |                            |                           |                          | Killed               | Injured             | Property<br>Crops  |

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

#### Kern County

|               |    |                    |  |  |   |   |            |
|---------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|
| Lake Isabella | 24 | 1654PST<br>1854PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Heavy Rain |
|---------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|

#### Tulare County

|             |    |                    |  |  |   |   |            |
|-------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|
| Johnsondale | 24 | 1654PST<br>1854PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Heavy Rain |
|-------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|

Slow moving thunderstorms dropped locally heavy rainfall with amounts over one inch near Lake Isabella in Kern County as well as Johnsondale in Tulare County resulting in local nuisance flooding near Johnsondale

#### Kern County

|                    |    |                    |  |  |   |   |            |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|
| 20 E Lake Isabella | 25 | 1530PST<br>1654PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Heavy Rain |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------------|

#### CAZ096

#### S Sierra Mtns

|    |  |                    |  |  |   |   |       |
|----|--|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-------|
| 25 |  | 1600PST<br>1800PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Flood |
|----|--|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-------|

With continued monsoonal influences over the Kern Deserts and Mountains, rain amounts during the month of August were often relatively heavy. Several instances of concern for local flooding from small streams in the mountains and deserts occurred, including radar reports of heavy rain on the 25th. Sequoia National Forest reported road closures at Johnsondale, and Sherman Pass Road on the Kern Plateau in the Southern Sierra Nevada. Rain amounts at reporting stations from late on the 25th into the 26th: 1.68" at Cottonwood Creek in the S.Sierra Nevada Mountains northeast of Fresno; 1.48" at Lost Hills on the San Joaquin Valley Floor WNW of Bakersfield; and 1.30" at Agnew Pass north of Fresno in the mountains.

#### Mariposa County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |           |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| Countywide | 26 | 0030PST<br>0530PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|

#### Merced County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |           |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| Countywide | 26 | 0100PST<br>0530PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|

#### Madera County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |           |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| Countywide | 26 | 0130PST<br>0530PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|

#### Fresno County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |           |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| Countywide | 26 | 0430PST<br>0630PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|

#### Kern County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |           |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| Countywide | 26 | 0430PST<br>0730PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------|

Another surge of monsoonal moisture from the remnants of Hurricane Ignacio brought thunderstorm activity to the deserts and higher terrain of Interior Central California. With east to southeast wind flow aloft, thunderstorms developed and moved over the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley early on the morning of the 26th. Many lightning strikes again occurred. Infrequently occurring, the Central San Joaquin Valley began taking lightning strikes by 0200 PST and continuing heavily from Mariposa County south through Madera County and west to Merced County through 0430 PST. Additional lightning activity began in earnest on the west side of Fresno County at 0430 PST with a pocket of lightning activity in the Bakersfield Metropolitan area near dawn. Over 300 lightning strikes occurred in the 6-county area of Interior Central California from 0400 to 0500 PST alone. Merced County fire crews responded to over 14 lightning-caused fires on the Valley floor and resulted in loss of power to over 3500 customers in the Merced/Atwater area.

#### Mariposa County

|             |          |                    |  |  |   |   |          |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|----------|
| Catheys Vly | 26<br>27 | 0700PST<br>1500PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | Wildfire |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|----------|

The Mariposa Lightning Series of fires were battled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection starting on the 26th



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|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
|          |      |                            |                           |                          | Killed               | Injured | Property            | Crops |                    |

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

and contained by the afternoon of the 27th. There were three notable locations in this series: a fire of 77 acres was located in Catheys Valley; another of 640 acres at the Mariposa-Madera County line 13 miles SSW of Catheys Valley; and yet another of 100 acres at Road 200 and Fine Gold Creek Bridge. The cost to fight this series of fires was not reported but no fatalities occurred as the result.