



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

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
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Fresno County

1.7 WNW (Fch) Chandle	01 14	0000PST 1500PST			0	0			Wildfire
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See January 2003 description of the Marks-Nielson Fire.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

01 28	0000PST 2359PST				0	0			Drought
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With relatively mild temperatures, drier than normal conditions continue for the cool season of Interior Central California. Rainfall totals for areas north of the Tehachapi Mountains ranged from only 37% to 67% of normal for the month of February

CAZ095-098>099

Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

01 02	1647PST 0830PST				0	0	3K		Strong Wind
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In a post-frontal environment, gusty northwest wind affected the Kern County and Desert areas late in the evening of the 1st and morning of the 2nd.

CAZ089>092

W Central S.J. Valley - E Central S.J. Valley - Sw S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley

03 10	0100PST 0900PST				0	0			Frost/Freeze
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This cool season for Interior Central California was very mild with only a few cold nights for the local agricultural concerns. This particular cool spell in February was one of the few multiple night frost events this season. While the mornings of the 3rd-7th and the 10th had minimum temperatures in the agricultural belt generally around 30F or higher, the mornings of the 8th and 9th saw temperatures dip into the mid to upper 20s. Readings on the 9th in the agricultural belt varied from 26F at Merced and Delano to 30F at Porterville, Visalia, Hanford, and Collins Corner northeast of Fresno. The coldest location was 24F reported at Coalinga on the 6th and 9th of the month.

CAZ091

Sw S.J. Valley

04	0600PST 0900PST				0	3	20K		Dense Fog
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Patchy dense fog with visibility less than 100 feet was between Hanford and Selma on the morning of the 4th.

CAZ092

Se S.J. Valley

07	0355PST 0800PST				0	0			Dust Storm
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CAZ092

Se S.J. Valley

07	0355PST 0800PST				0	0	50K		Strong Wind
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Winds generally in the 40-50 MPH range but with some gusts measured to 60 MPH led to a trailer being towed overturning at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains as well as a gravel truck being overturned southeast of Bakersfield early on the morning of the 7th. Areas of near-zero visibility on Highway 223 south-southeast of Bakersfield were also reported due to blowing dust during the same time period. Power outages occurred in Maricopa, Arvin, and Bakersfield as the result of the strong wind on the South Valley floor.

CAZ091

Sw S.J. Valley

07	0400PST 0800PST				0	1	100K		Dense Fog
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Excessive speed and seasonal dense fog lowering visibilities to less than 100 feet caused a crash between two trucks early on the 7th 2 miles northwest of Alpaugh in Southwest Tulare County.

Kern County

Grape Vine

11 12	0730PST 2100PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Kern County

Lamont	11	0730PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	12	2100PST							

Tulare County

Visalia	12	0500PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
		1700PST							

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

12	0943PST				0	0	50K		Flood
	2359PST								

Significant rain amounts fell in the Tehachapi Mountains leading to runoff onto the Southern San Joaquin Valley floor around the Grapevine and Mettler. Furthermore, rain on the 12th resulted in street flooding in the South Valley town of Lamont with record rainfall of 0.91 inches for the day at Visalia in Tulare County. Mud slides were reported on the Grapevine just before 10 AM on the 12th due to the heavy rain. Mojave and Rosamond in the Kern County Desert had substantial sheet flow from the steady rain. Rock falls were reported on Highway 178 as it wound through the Kern River Canyon. In Sand Canyon near Tehachapi flooding forced the rescue of a motorist trapped by high water.

CAZ091>092-095

Sw S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley - Kern Cty Mtns

11	0922PST				0	0			High Wind (G71)
12	0800PST								

Low pressure southwest of the South California coast provided for gusty southeast wind over the Tehachapi Mountains and on the South San Joaquin Valley floor during the 11th. At the base of the Grapevine at the foot of the Tehachapi Mountains adjacent to the South San Joaquin Valley floor, wind gusts to 71 knots and steady wind of 57 knots were reported. In the adjacent Tehachapi Pass area of the Kern Mountains gusts to 43 knots were observed. On the South Valley floor Meadows Field at Bakersfield had wind gusts to 43 MPH.

Kern County

China Lake	13	1140PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
		2100PST							

Locally heavy rain of 1.67" occurred during the day ending around 2100 PST. Sheet water flow continued to plague the low lying areas near Rosamond through this time period.

Fresno County

Firebaugh	13	1604PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
		1630PST							

Several reports of funnel cloud sightings were made in and around the west valley town of Firebaugh.

Fresno County

1 NW Fig Garden	13	2145PST			0	0	100K		Heavy Rain
		2345PST							

Fresno County

5 NE Kerman	13	2200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
		2240PST							

Urban flooding to a depth of 3 feet occurred around Northwest Fresno due to heavy rain on the evening of the 13th. A harbinger of the event saw 1.4 inches of rain fall in the Kerman area by 2240 PST... then 1.91" at Madera Ranchos from 2200-2340 PST... and 2.5" between 2200 and 2300 PST with a total of 3.4" of rain between 2145 and 2345 PST in northwest Fresno.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

16	0300PST				0	0			Winter Storm
	0900PST								

A fast-moving cold front put 12 inches of new snow on the ground at Kaiser Point in the Southern Sierra Nevada early on the 16th.

CAZ091>092-095-098>099 Sw S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley - Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

19	1430PST				0	0	28K		Strong Wind
20	1213PST								



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Cold-frontal passage brought strong north wind to the southern portion Interior Central California late afternoon and early evening of the 19th. In the Kern County Desert area some power line damage was reported along Highway 14 along with blowing dust/sand from the situation. Wind speed gusts were generally 40-50 MPH with one isolated report of 74 knots at Government Peak in the Southeast Kern Desert early on the morning of the 20th. On the South San Joaquin Valley floor wind speeds reached 37 MPH at Hanford and 44 MPH at Bakersfield. The strong wind caused a major power outage affecting 12,000 customers in the city of Lemoore and an additional 18,000 customers elsewhere in Kings and Southwest Fresno Counties

Tulare County

Visalia	19	1530PST 1535PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Tulare County

Cutler	19	1630PST 1635PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns									Winter Storm
	24	1700PST			0	0			
	25	0300PST							

High amounts of snow were reported above the 6000 foot level in the Kern County Mountains on the 24th. Significant amounts of snow (5-7") were reported in the Tulare County Mountains but did not reach warning threshold levels