

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2008

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

KERN COUNTY --- 1.0 ESE RAND [35.40, -117.68], 2.3 SSE JOHANNESBURG [35.34, -117.62]

11/01/08 12:30 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/01/08 17:30 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Minor road flooding was reported by the Highway Patrol at US 395 and Johannesburg Road. Also reported at SR 14 and Rosamond Blvd.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

11/04/08 05:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
11/04/08 22:00 PST	0	

The storm that arrived at the beginning of November brought locally heavy rain to the Kern County deserts and gusty winds to both the mountains and the deserts. Road flooding was reported near Randsburg and Rosamond, and rain falling on the El Paso Mountains produced runoff that flooded the Red Rock-Randsburg Road. West winds gusted to 50 mph over the Kern County mountains and deserts on the 4th as a dry cold front moved through central California in the wake of the storm. Peak wind gusts of 60-65 mph occurred below the favored mountain passes such as Jawbone and Blue Max.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW MELVIN [36.83, -119.68], 1.8 N FRESNO [36.81, -119.77]

11/08/08 22:22 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/09/08 02:51 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A strong thunderstorm produced 0.36 inches of rainfall in only 10 minutes. Minor street flooding was reported by a trained NWS spotter in the Clovis area. Clogged storm drains may have contributed to the street flooding. No damage was reported.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

11/09/08 01:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
11/09/08 13:00 PST	0	

A Pacific storm arrived in Central California on November 8th. Showers and thunderstorms developed over the San Joaquin Valley floor during the evening, with one thunderstorm dropping 0.37 inch of rain in only 10 minutes. Minor street flooding was reported in metro Fresno from this storm, possibly exacerbated by debris-clogged storm drains. This storm system also brought strong winds to the Kern County Mountains and deserts with peak wind gusts of 50-60 mph, especially in the favored passes and canyon areas.

(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

11/22/08 00:00 PST	0	Dense Fog
11/24/08 11:00 PST	0	

The high pressure ridge that brought record temperatures to the central and southern San Joaquin Valley at mid-month also evaporated moisture from the soil. With moisture in the lowest levels of the airmass over the Valley floor, conditions were primed for dense Tule Fog development. As the high-pressure ridge continued to strengthen, fog development was mostly inhibited as the lowest levels of the airmass dried out. As the ridge began to weaken and temperatures cooled, humidities over the Valley floor began to increase again, and the airmass began cooling to near saturation overnight. Dense fog developed near Visalia during the evening of November 21st and became widespread through much of the Valley by daybreak on the 22nd. Dense fog redeveloped during the nights of the 22nd-23rd, and continued well into late morning. This scenario was repeated the next night as well, before an approaching upper-level trough further weakened the ridge and brought enough mixing to inhibit fog development. Visibility reports of only a few hundred feet were common during these dense fog events, from both automated weather stations throughout the valley as well as Highway Patrol pacing reports. The dense fog conditions during the early morning of the 24th brought several car accidents in the Fresno area. One accident resulted in one fatality in the Elkhorn area.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

11/24/08 02:30 PST	1K	Strong Wind (MAX 43 kt)
11/24/08 09:30 PST	0	

KERN COUNTY --- 8.6 NNE BORON AFS [35.19, -117.81], 0.7 S FRAZIER PARK [34.81, -118.95]

11/25/08 21:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/26/08 05:00 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

The California Highway Patrol reported minor flooding on Highway 166 near Buttonwillow. In addition, rainfall amounts of just over 1 inch occurred in the Frazier Park area.

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The strong low pressure trough brought significant rainfall amounts to the region on November 25th-26th, with Fresno and Bakersfield receiving around half of their monthly rain totals from this storm. Rainfall amounts in the Kern County mountains locally exceeded 1.5 inches, while sites in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley saw amounts up to three-quarters of an inch. A Flash Flood Watch was issued for the Piute burn area south of Lake Isabella, but fortunately, the ground was able to absorb the rainfall.

There was little snow in the mountains, as the low pressure systems during the month each brought some influx of tropical, moist air, keeping snow levels initially at 9000 feet or higher. Snow levels began falling during the morning of the 26th, with light snow falling at Hume Lake. By mid-morning, the California Highway Patrol had chain restrictions on Highway 168, as there was enough snow on the road to impede travel. Also, just after Thanksgiving, there were some trace amounts of snow in the mountains in Kern County after the rain tapered off, since the air had cooled off sufficiently by that time.

Strong winds also developed on the 24th of the month. Strong wind gusts of up to 50 mph occurred in the Kern County mountains, according to mesonet weather stations and a trained NWS spotter.

(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	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	11/27/08 01:00 PST		0	Dense Fog
	11/30/08 13:00 PST		0	

With abundant ground moisture, dense fog developed over parts of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley during the early morning of the 27th. The fog lifted into a stratus layer during the afternoon and evening, keeping the Valley free on dense fog the night of the 27th-28th. Dense fog did redevelop just before daybreak on the 29th, lasting into the late morning. November ended on a foggy note in the central and south Valley, with dense fog developing shortly after midnight on the 30th and persisting through midday.