

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2014

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

(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

05/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Drought
05/31/14 23:59 PST	0	

The California drought continued in full force during the month of May, 2014. Extreme to Exceptional drought was detected by the U.S. Drought Monitor for almost the entire Central California region. This extent of exceptional drought is extremely unusual for California. In addition precipitation deficits continue to mount as the region was nearing the end of the rainy season with continued deficits. As the 2013-2014 winter progresses, little rain has fallen across California.

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, and an unprecedented increase in fire danger across the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains. For the first time on record, red flag warnings were issued in January for not only the Southern Sierra Nevada and the Tehachapi Mountains but also the south end of the San Joaquin Valley.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

05/05/14 12:00 PST	0	Winter Storm
05/06/14 18:00 PST	0	

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

05/05/14 14:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
05/06/14 10:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

05/05/14 22:00 PST	2K	Winter Weather
05/06/14 18:00 PST	0	

A late season cold winter like storm system swept into Central California beginning on May 5th. This storm brought heavy snowfall to the Southern Sierra Nevada with snowfall amounts over 1 foot in the high Sierra. Snowfall also occurred in eastern Tulare County with close to 1 foot in some spots. This storm also brought strong to severe wind gusts to much of Kern County, although the Tehachapi Mountains saw little in the way of snowfall.

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

05/09/14 13:00 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 78 kt)
05/10/14 17:00 PST	0	

A fast moving trough of low pressure brought very strong winds to much of Central California between May 9th to 11th.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

05/20/14 10:00 PST	0	Winter Storm
05/20/14 20:00 PST	0	

Towards the end of the month another cold, wintry like storm approached Central California. Heavy snow occurred in and around Yosemite NP. 8 inches of new snow fell on Tioga Pass Rd. (Hwy 120) forcing a closure of the road to clear the snowfall for several days on May 20th. Strong winds also occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, and in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

05/26/14 00:00 PST	1M	Wildfire
05/31/14 23:59 PST	0	

The Hunters wildfire was managed by CalFire. Ignition was 5/26/14 and the cause was unknown. The location was 5 miles south of Coulterville, CA (Mariposa County) and the size was 677 acres. Containment was reached on 6/2 and the cost to containment was \$4.4 Million. There were two residences lost and one outbuilding. There were no fatalities and unknown injuries.