

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2018

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

(CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	02/01/18 02:40 PST	0		Dense Fog
	02/01/18 09:30 PST	0		

The large area of high pressure which prevailed over the area toward the end of January continued to hold its grip on Central California as February began. Area of dense fog formed in the southwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of February 1 and patches of dense fog persisted until late morning.

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	02/03/18 01:15 PST	0		Dense Fog
	02/03/18 09:39 PST	0		

While fog was more localized on February 2, the large ridge centered off the California coast strengthened overnight resulting in dense fog becoming more prevalent during the morning of February 3 a low level inversion persisted over the San Joaquin Valley. The fog dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	02/05/18 01:35 PST	0		Dense Fog
	02/05/18 09:45 PST	0		

The large upper ridge remained centered off the California coast through the morning of the 5th, and areas of dense fog formed toward daybreak across the western San Joaquin Valley. Many school districts either had delayed openings or delay or cancelled morning bus service, California Highway Patrol was pacing traffic on State Routes 198 and 41. The fog dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

	02/12/18 02:10 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 54 kt)
	02/12/18 02:10 PST	0		

FRESNO COUNTY --- 3.4 N PARIER [36.67, -119.51], 3.2 W REEDLEY AIRPORT [36.67, -119.51]

	02/12/18 11:30 PST	0		Tornado (EF0, L: 0.30 mi , W: 20 yd)
	02/12/18 11:32 PST	0		Source: Broadcast Media

A tornado briefly touched down in rural farmland between Riverbend Ave . and Goodfellow Ave. southeast of Sanger and was captured on video and relayed to the NWS by a media source.

High pressure brought a prolonged period of unseasonably warm temperatures to begin February as temperatures were 10 degrees or more above seasonal normals across much of the are for the first 10 days of the month. A low pressure system dropping into the Great Basin on the 10th brought a period of increased winds to the Kern County Mountains and Deserts during the late morning and early afternoon as strong mid level winds mixed down to the surface where there were numerous reports of gusts between 45 and 50 mph. Another trough pushed through the Great Basin on the evening of the 11th through the morning of the 12th which pushed a cold front through Central California and brought another period of increased winds to the area and there were several reports of wind gusts between 50 and 55 mp in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts. this system also brought some light precipitation to the area with amounts generally less than a tenth of an inch of liquid precipitation in post-frontal showers on the 12th. A weak tornado briefly touched down in rural farmland near Sanger during the late morning of the 12th.

(CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	02/18/18 19:37 PST	5K		Strong Wind (MAX 39 kt)
	02/18/18 19:37 PST	0		

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY

	02/18/18 21:27 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 72 kt)
	02/19/18 02:32 PST	0		

President's Day weekend got off to a warm and dry start across the area, but the weekend ended on the chilly side as a strong cold front pushed across Central California on the evening of February 18. Gusty winds accompanied the front and continued behind the cold front overnight and well into the President's Day holiday before diminishing by afternoon. Several locations in the San Joaquin Valley measured wind gusts between 35 and 45 mph while several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts reported wind gusts between 45 and 55 mph with a few low impact indicator locations reporting stronger gusts. In addition to the strong winds, light snow fell across portions of the Kern County Mountains in post frontal showers and several locations picked up between a dusting to an inch

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of snowfall.

(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

02/20/18 02:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
02/21/18 08:00 PST	0.15B	

A deep upper trough over the Great Basin provided for a cold northerly flow over central California for several days beginning on the afternoon of February 19. This resulted in a cold and dry airmass becoming settled over the San Joaquin Valley by the morning of February 20 as the valley experienced its coldest morning in several years at many locations as many reporting stations reported several hours of subfreezing temperatures. Since many trees and plants were already in bloom, numerous crops experienced significant damage from the cold overnight temperatures. The snap pea crop was nearly wiped out entirely and several nut orchards experienced significant crop damage as the almond crop was especially hit hard. Damage to citrus was somewhat mitigated by the fact that much of the crop had already been harvested. The damage would have been significantly greater if not for frost protection measures taken by several growers.

(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

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

The cold airmass over the San Joaquin Valley remained in place as clear skies and light winds prevailed overnight. Radiational cooling allowed for temperatures to drop below the freezing mark for several hours once again during the morning of February 21.

(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

02/22/18 02:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
02/22/18 08:00 PST	0	

Although a storm was expected to bring increasing clouds to the area on the morning of February 22, this system took a little longer than anticipated to reach Central California and skies remained clear in the San Joaquin Valley for much of night allowing for another night of radiational cooling to take place. Temperatures dropped below the freezing in the San Joaquin Valley for several hours for the third consecutive morning.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

02/22/18 13:32 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 59 kt)
02/22/18 15:27 PST	0	

A cold low pressure system dropped south from the Pacific Northwest during the afternoon of February 22 bringing increased winds and showery precipitation to much of the area. Several locations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts reported wind gusts between 35 and 45 mph while a few low impact indicator sites reported stronger gusts. In addition to the increased winds, much of the Southern Sierra Nevada picked up between 5 and 10 inches of new snow while lesser amounts accumulated in the Southern Sierra Foothills and Kern County Mountains where there where travel was adversely impacted as the snow level lowered to near 1500 feet.

(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

02/24/18 02:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
02/24/18 08:00 PST	0	

With a cold airmass remaining in place over the San Joaquin Valley, clearing skies and light winds allowed for temperatures to drop below the freezing mark on the morning of February 24 after clouds and increased winds kept temperatures up the morning before.

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

02/25/18 03:00 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
02/25/18 08:00 PST	0	

Although the cold airmass over the San Joaquin Valley moderated somewhat on the February 24, clear skies and light winds overnight resulted in another morning of subfreezing temperatures on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of February 25. Overnight temperatures in the valley moderated the next two mornings as a low pressure system brought widespread clouds and precipitation into the area by February 26. While this system brought some generally light precipitation to the area through the morning of February 27 as most of the moisture and dynamics with this system remained over Northern California, there were some impacts to travel in the Southern Sierra Foothills and the Kern County Mountains as snow levels lowered to around 2000 feet. Temperatures across the area were well below normal for the last 10 days of February following an unseasonably warm start to the month.