

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2018

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
----------	-----------	-------------------	---------------------	------------------------

CALIFORNIA, South Central

KERN COUNTY --- NORTH EDWARDS [35.02, -117.77]

05/01/18 12:30 PST	0	Heavy Rain
05/01/18 12:44 PST	0	Source: ASOS

The ASOS at North Edwards reported 0.37 inches of rain in 14 minutes from a brief heavy thunderstorm.

A cold upper trough moved across Central California on May 1. While it produced only light precipitation over the area during the morning, thunderstorms broke out during the afternoon in the cooler and unstable post-frontal airmass. Thunderstorms produced moderate to locally heavy rain across portions of the Southern Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills as well as across the Kern County Deserts where up to six tenths of an inch of rain fell. Very little measurable fell over the San Joaquin Valley from this system as only a few stations reported a few hundredths of an inch of rainfall.

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

05/11/18 13:14 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 73 kt)
05/11/18 15:27 PST	0	

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

05/11/18 14:01 PST	2K	Strong Wind (MAX 30 kt)
05/11/18 14:45 PST	0	

High pressure built over Central California on May 3 and kept warm temperatures, dry conditions and generally light winds over the area. However, an upper level low pressure system moved into the Pacific Northwest on May 10 then dropped into the Great Basin on May 11. This resulted in increased surface pressure gradients which produced strong winds over portions of the area during the afternoon of May 11. There were a few reports of minor wind damage in the San Joaquin Valley and some low impact indicator stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts reported winds gusts exceeding 70 mph.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 1.0 ESE YOSEMITE NATL PARK [37.75, -119.53]

05/14/18 15:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
05/14/18 16:00 PST	0	Source: Social Media

Report on Twitter that a hiker on the cables of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park slipped and fell off of the cables during a thunderstorm . The hiker was found dead from the fall the next day after a search and rescue was performed.

Isolated thunderstorms developed over the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada during the afternoon of May 21. A hiker on the cables of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park slipped and fell off of the cables during a thunderstorm while the surface was wet at around 330 pm PST. The nearest weather station reported 0.32 inches of rainfall between 300 pm PST and 400 pm PST.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

05/17/18 18:14 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
05/17/18 18:14 PST	0	

Interaction between an upper trough over the Great Basin and an upper ridge off the California Coast resulted in increased surface pressure gradients over the area from the afternoon of May 17 to the morning of May 18 which in turn produced a period of increased winds over the Kern County Mountains and Deserts. Several reporting stations reported wind gusts exceeding 45 mph during this time frame.

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

05/31/18 18:26 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
05/31/18 22:32 PST	0	

High pressure strengthened over the area on May 28 and May 29 and resulted in widespread triple digit heat on the 29th as the main upper ridge axis moved over Central California. An upper trough pushed into Central California on the May 30 and May 31 displacing the high pressure area and bringing cooler temperatures along with windy conditions to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on the 30th and over the Kern County Mountains and Deserts on the 31st. Several reporting stations on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley measured wind gusts exceeding 40 mph on the 30th and several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts measured gusts exceeding 50 mph on the 31st.