



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2005

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

Countywide	01 04	0000PST 0800PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Kern County

Countywide	01 04	0000PST 1200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Kings County

Countywide	01 04	0000PST 1000PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Madera County

Countywide	01 04	0000PST 0400PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Merced County

Countywide	01 03	0000PST 2359PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Consistent above normal rainfall for the "water year" continued into Calendar Year 2005. Late December winter storms in the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains and associated heavy rain on the adjacent San Joaquin Valley and Kern County Desert Floor continued into the first 4 days of January. On the Valley floor Merced had 0.52" in the 1st 4 days of the month, Fresno 0.74", Hanford 0.91", and Bakersfield 0.76" of rain. Locally heavy rain on saturated soils led to several locations of minor, nuisance flooding: Deadman Creek south of Le Grand in Merced County; Cottonwood Creek south of Madera in Madera County; Numerous areas of ponded water in Kings County; and water on the roadway at Highways 33 and 166 near Maricopa in Kern County.

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

02 04	1200PST 0400PST			0	0			Winter Storm
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Snowfall over the Grapevine (Interstate Highway 5) between Northern and Southern California received substantial snow on January 3rd. While higher elevations of the immediately adjacent Kern County Mountains had 36" of snow, up to 28" of snow fell at the pass level shutting down the highway for the day.

Significant precipitation event for Interior Central California with large amounts of snow received at the higher elevations: 12 inches of new snow at Shaver Lake; 14" at Tehachapi; 18" at Chilkoot Meadow, Tamarack Summit, and Grant Grove; and 28" to 36" of snow around Frazier Park in the Kern County Mountains between Bakersfield and Los Angeles. The snow around Frazier Park closed the major commerce route between Northern California and Southern California, Interstate-5, for much of the 3rd.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095>097	Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns								
	07	0400PST			1	0			Winter Storm
	10	1800PST							
	M73OU								

CAZ095	Kern Cty Mtns								
	09	0812PST			0	0			Flood
	10	0900PST							

Snow continued to accumulate at the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada, Tulare County Mountains, and the Kern Mountains from the 7th into the 11th: 18 inches of new snow at Tuolumne Meadows in the Southern Sierra Nevada and 19" of new snow at Wet Meadows in the Tulare County Mountains in 24 hours from the 7th to the 8th. A fatality occurred near Kernville as a hiker succumbed to hypothermia. The series of storms systems continuing through the 11th brought impressive snow totals in the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare Mountains: 108" at Ostrander Lake, West Woodchuck Meadow, and Pascoes; 103" in at Upper Burnt Corral; 152" at Farewell Gap; and 123" at Wet Meadow. In the Kern Mountains additional new snow of 8" accumulated in Tehachapi Valley. Stream flooding with some secondary road flooding occurred in the Kern County Mountains west of Frazier Park (near Lockwood Valley) on the 9th and early on the 10th. The precipitation totals during this time period combined with above normal precipitation for October and December brought the seasonal snowpack in the Sierra to 101% of the yearly normal or 245% of the mid-January normal.

CAZ098>099	Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert								
	07	0530PST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
		1200PST							

Although infrequent, adverse impacts of snow accumulation cause considerable problems in the High Desert areas of Southern California including the deserts of Kern County. On the morning of the 7th over 2" of snow accumulated on the Desert Floor from Ridgecrest south through Rosamond.

CAZ089-093	W Central Sj Valley - S Sierra Foothills								
	07	0600PST			0	0	20K		Strong Wind (MG36)
		1700PST							

CAZ090>092	E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	07	1100PST			0	0	325K	200K	High Wind (MG65)
		1730PST							

Strong southeast pre-frontal winds buffeted Central California on the 7th. A truck-trailer was overturned from the high wind with areas of zero visibility and numerous power poles downed near Arvin in the South San Joaquin Valley on the 7th. Wind speeds were commonly up to 45 MPH throughout the Central and South San Joaquin Valley with higher wind gusts in the far South and Southwest areas of the Valley. Even in the foothill areas of the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare County Mountains wind gusts up to 56 MPH were observed. Trees were commonly downed taking power lines with them from Merced and Mariposa Counties south through Kern County. Property damage was high due to large trees falling in the Merced, Fresno-Clovis, and Visalia areas. Agriculture suffered loss through numerous deciduous trees being uprooted.

Mariposa County									
Countywide	07	0600PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	11	1300PST							
Merced County									
Countywide	07	0600PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	11	1200PST							
Fresno County									
Countywide	07	0800PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	11	1400PST							



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Kings County

Countywide	07	1000PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	11	1400PST							

Kern County

Countywide	07	1200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	11	1600PST							

Persistent closed low pressure off the Southern California Coast, beneath a blocking ridge, set a second period of rain and numerous problems for Interior Central California. The low resulted in gusty pre-frontal wind varying to high rainfall accumulations on the San Joaquin Valley Floor and Kern Deserts and snow in the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada, Tulare County Mountains, and the Kern County Mountains. On the Valley floor the 5-day rain total for Merced was 2.27", Fresno 1.33", Hanford 1.35", and Bakersfield 1.47". Heavy rainfall amounts in the foothills during the period included 8.57 inches at Mariposa leading to Bear Creek causing some damage due to overflowing near midpines in Mariposa County and running bankfull through the city of Merced by the 10th. Larger precipitation amounts in the mountain areas during the period included 6.15" at Wishon Dam, 5.68" in Coulterville, 5.65" at Jerseydale, 5.12" at Poison Ridge, and 5.01" at Yosemite-Wawona. In the 48 hour period ending on the 11th, Yosemite had 1.87" of rain and Shaver Lake 2.87". Kern Desert rainfall amounts included 3.89" at Edwards, 3.86" at Rosamond, 3.39" at Mojave, and 2.41" at Ridgecrest. In the 2-week period from late December through January 11th, Yosemite had 15.62" of rain which compared to the 15.69" of rain that occurred with the warmer rains around the January 1, 1997, time period which lead to flooding. Bootjack, in Mariposa County, received 31.5" of rain during the same 2-week period.

CAZ092

Se Sj Valley

	07	1200PST			0	0	50K		Strong Wind (EG65)
		1600PST							

Power poles were downed in the Arvin Area due to strong wind that had gusts to 75 MPH

CAZ093-093>094

S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills

	07	1700PST			0	0	30K		Landslide
	08	2137PST							

Continued precipitation on saturated soils generated some rock falls on rural roads near Mariposa in Mariposa County and Badger in Tulare County in the early evening hours of the 7th. The period of rainfall lasting from the 7th through 11th resulted in additional rock slides onto Highway 49 at French Camp Road in Mariposa County early in the evening of the 8th

CAZ093-096>097

S Sierra Foothills - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

	09	1200PST			0	0	265K		Flood
	10	0900PST							

Saturated soils due to a multiple-day precipitation event loosed rocks onto roadways at numerous locations in the foothills and mountains of Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, and Tulare Counties by the 10th of the month. Mariposa County was especially hard hit with numerous small creeks and streams overflowing banks. Throughout the area many roadways had ponded water and debris due to rainfall and subsequent water movement.

CAZ090-095-098>099

E Central Sj Valley - Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

	09	1400PST			0	0	3.0M		Flood
	11	2200PST							



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CALIFORNIA, South Central



Aerial photograph compliments of WCM Dan Gudgel showing the Redrock-Randsburg Road in the Kern County Desert cut by flooding due very high 24-hour rainfall by the morning of January 10th.

Substantial rain from the 7th through the 10th resulted in widespread sheet flow and ponding of water in the Kern County portion of the Mojave Desert. Up to 100 homes were damaged by water with roadways inundated in the Rosamond area. A little farther north the Redrock-Randsburg Road was washed out along with several other roadways damaged in the vicinity. In the Tehachapi Mountains Cummings Valley Road near Bear Valley Springs and the Lockwood Valley area experienced flooding over roadways due to the heavy rain. Rainfall totals in the Kern County Desert included a 24-hour rainfall total of 2.57" in Rosamond ending the morning of the 10th with 0.75" of that total coming in a 2-hour period from 0630 to 0830 PST. Highway 14 was closed between Rosamond and Mojave due to extensive water on the roadway. Ponded and water overflowing from Bear Creek in the Merced area from heavy rainfall damaged a handful of homes on the 11th.

Merced County									
Countywide	24 28	2200PST 2200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
Fresno County									
Countywide	24 28	2330PST 2300PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
Kings County									
Countywide	24 28	2330PST 2330PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
Kern County									
Countywide	26 29	0600PST 0600PST			0	0			Heavy Rain

A third period of significant rain fell onto Interior Central California from late on the 24th to early on the 29th. Reported rainfall totals between the 24th and 29th included 1.37" at Merced, 0.35" at Fresno, 0.29" at Hanford, and 0.28" at Bakersfield. Although the rainfall amounts for this last rainy period in the month were not as high as previous amounts (those amounts reflected 90% of the total of the month), problems continued for several areas because of continued water runoff from saturated soils



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Fresno County

Fresno	26	1530PST 1630PST			0	0			Lightning
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Fresno County

8 SW (Fat) Air Terminal (Fat) Air Terminal	28	1425PST 1511PST			0	0			Lightning
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Thunderstorm activity on the 26th and 28th resulted in lightning strikes in and around the city of Fresno. Small hail accompanying the convective activity swept through the city of Fresno during the mid-afternoon of the 28th

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

28		0400PST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
29		0400PST							

Another weather system brought significant snow the higher elevations of Central California: 9" new snow at Tuolumne Meadows overnight of the 8th; 7" at Lodgepole in Tulare County; and 5" at Frazier Park in Kern County