

Weather Or Not

WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard

Highlights:

Office Comings And
Goings

Greetings from the
MIC

Latest Spotter News

Tropical Cyclones in
Southern California

What to Report???

Office Comings and Goings

Since the last newsletter, Los Angeles/Oxnard NWS office has had several notable personnel changes.

In August 2005, Meteorologist in Charge Dan Keeton retired from the NWS to pursue interests in real estate.

In September 2005, Hydro-Meteorology Technician Bruce Rockwell retired and moved up to the Pacific Northwest.

In November 2005, Chris Jacobson (IT) and former journeyman forecaster was promoted to senior forecaster in Upton, New York.

There have been several additions to the office as well.

In January 2005, Eric Boldt joined our office as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Eric moved from Missoula, Montana where he was a senior forecaster.

In January 2005, Alicia Carretero joined the office as the Administrative Assistant. She is very valuable to the office as she takes care of much of the day to day operations here.

In August 2005, Mark Jackson

took over for Dan Keeton as the Meteorologist in Charge. Mark was a former Science Operations Officer at the Salt Lake City NWS office.

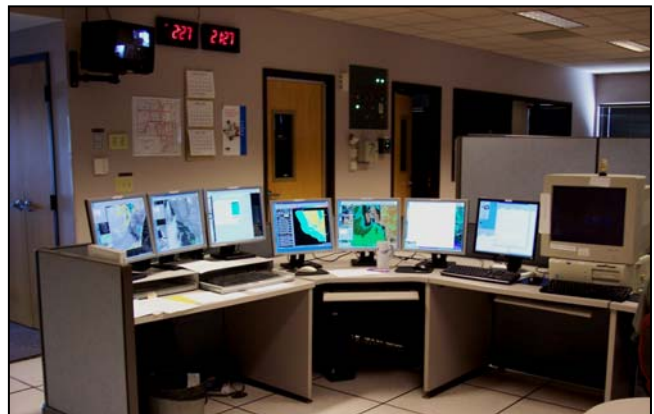
In November 2005, Jamie Meier joined the office as a Meteorologist Intern. Jamie received a bachelor's degree from U.C. Davis in Meteorology and a Master's degree from Texas A & M University.

In February 2006, Ryan Kittell became a journeyman forecaster for the NWS at Oxnard. Previously, Ryan worked here as a student intern. Ryan moved on as an intern to the Phoenix NWS office for nearly one year. We are very glad to have him back at our office. Ryan received both his bachelor and masters degrees from UCLA in Atmospheric Sciences.

In March 2006, Tom Fisher took over the IT position. Tom brings a lot of technical and computer expertise to our office. Tom arrived from the NWS Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he held a similar position.



Public Desk in
the Operations
Area, WFO
Oxnard



Highlights From the 2005-2006 Water Year

Downtown Los Angeles

13.19 inches

This is 87 % of normal, but more than 24 inches lower than the 2004-2005 total of 37.15 inches, the second wettest year on record.

Burbank

14.07 inches

80 % of normal

Long Beach

8.58 inches

66 % of normal

Oxnard

13.92 inches

89 % of normal

Santa Barbara

21.19 inches

125 % of normal

Santa Maria

19.52 inches

139 % of normal

Paso Robles

14.42 inches

110 % of normal

NOTE: The water year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Greetings from the MIC, Mark Jackson

Hello from the National Weather Service in Oxnard! Before I get to the real important stuff, let me give you a brief background on how I got here. I arrived here as meteorologist in charge in Oxnard in August of 2005, having formerly worked for the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City, where I served as the Science and Operations Officer, or SOO. Prior to that, I worked for the NWS Pacific Region Headquarters in Honolulu as a Regional Scientist, and prior to that, I was a SOO for the NWS in Brownsville, Texas. So as you can see, I've been all over the map – quite a few travels for someone who grew up in Nebraska!

Over my 11 years in the NWS, and even before as a research meteorologist and storm chaser hobbyist in Boulder, Colorado, I have witnessed first hand the critical role that weather spotters play in helping to make forecast and warning programs as accurate and effective as

possible. A meteorology professor of mine once said that the worst mistake a meteorologist can make is to not look outside the window. It then goes without saying that our weather spotters provide the eyes to look out countless windows across the greater Los Angeles area north to the central coast. Even with today's state of the art warning and forecast technology – tools to tell us if a storm is rotating, producing hail, or if heavy rain should be producing flash flooding – an effective warning process can only work with the help of those that are near the storm observing and reporting what's going on.

I fully support the spotter program and thank each and every one of you for taking the time to make a difference in helping to serve the NWS mission of protecting lives and property! Keep up the great work and never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Latest Spotter News

First of all, the National Weather Service office at Oxnard wants to thank everyone who has called in spotter reports or have submitted reports online in the past. It is greatly appreciated and helpful for putting out weather warnings.

We are making changes to the program that will benefit everyone involved in the future. Some changes are currently going on which will include the new "e-Spotter Online Program." This program will only be available to registered spotters in our program. It will only take a few minutes for each spotter to register and sending spotter reports will be as easy as ever.

Curt Kaplan, Forecaster

We are also working on updating our "Spotter Homepage" by updating our online spotter presentation so future spotters can be trained online. After viewing the presentation a test will be given. If the person passes the test, the spotter program leader will be notified and that person will be able to sign up as a new spotter for our spotter network.



**As always, stay tuned to our website for information on
our upcoming spotter talks!**

Tropical Cyclones in Southern California

Benjamin Moyer, Lead Forecaster

It is true that almost all tropical storms and hurricanes that affect the United States make landfall in the Gulf Coast or East Coast region. Indeed, over the past 10 years, there has been an increase in Atlantic Basin hurricanes and devastating results of major hurricanes making landfall in populated areas – resulting in considerable media coverage. The usually tranquil and sleepy summertime weather climate of Southern California may lull you into a false sense of comfort. Did you know that it is not unprecedented for a tropical cyclone to affect or even make landfall in Southern California?

It was recently discovered that a category 1 (74-95 mph) hurricane affected San Diego in 1858 before weakening and moving through the San Pedro Channel (<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/Landsea/cenowethlandsea.pdf>). Newspaper accounts indicate that San Diego received significant wind damage from gusts likely approaching 90 mph, while the beaches and harbors of Los Angeles County were impacted by a modest storm surge.

The only known tropical system to make landfall of at least tropical storm strength (39-73 mph) was a tropical storm in September 1939 which moved ashore in Long Beach, packing sustained winds of at least 50 mph and gusts likely close to 75 mph. Unfortunately, many people were caught off guard and offshore by this tropical storm. At least 45 people died, many as a result of drowning at sea, but the official number of deaths is unknown and likely to be much higher. The storm dropped heavy rain on California, with 5.66 inches falling in Los Angeles and nearly a foot of rain occurring at Mount Wilson. The flooding caused moderate crop and structural damage, amounting to \$2 million (1939 USD, \$26.2 million 2005 USD). People were caught unprepared by the storm. In response, the weather bureau established a forecast office for southern

California, which began operations in February of 1940. Over the years, there have been several tropical depressions or tropical cyclone remnants that moved ashore in Southern California usually bringing some gusty winds and moderate rainfall.

A tropical cyclone impacting Southern California is indeed a rare event, but one that would have high impacts. Even a slow moving tropical depression could bring enough rain to the area to cause significant flooding. A tropical storm like the one that hit Long Beach in 1939 would cause an enormous amount of socioeconomic problems for the LA basin considering the population and infrastructure we have today. The most likely time for a tropical cyclone to affect Southern California would be during strong El Nino episodes and during the months of September and October. It is during these episodes that atmospheric and oceanic conditions could support a hurricane maintaining Category 1 strength (Saffir-Simpson) as far north as Los Angeles.

Although it may seem hard to think about, those of us living and working in Southern California should understand what to do if a tropical storm or hurricane was forecast to affect the area. Become familiar with how the effects of storm surge, heavy rain (flooding), and high wind could affect your area, and develop a plan of action should a tropical storm or hurricane threat become real. The National Hurricane Center has an excellent webpage devoted to hurricane preparedness (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>) which contains many useful educational and safety tips.

What names can you expect to hear this 2006 Hurricane Season?

Atlantic

Alberto
Beryl
Chris
Debby
Ernesto
Florence
Gordon
Helene
Isaac
Joyce
Kirk
Leslie
Michael
Nadine
Oscar
Patty
Rafael
Sandy
Tony
Valerie
William

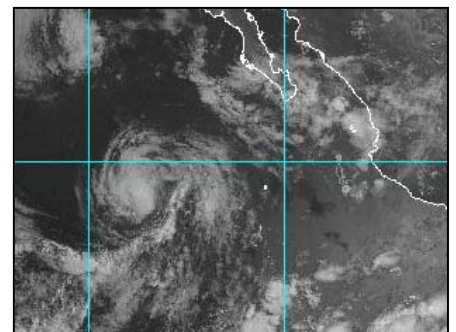
Pacific

Aletta
Bud
Carlotta
Daniel
Emilia
Fabio
Gilma
Hector
Ileana
John
Kristy
Lane
Miriam
Norman
Olivia
Paul
Rosa
Sergio
Tara
Vicente
Willa
Xavier
Yolanda
Zeke

The Saffir-Simpson Scale

Category 1 : Winds 74–95 mph
Storm Surge 4 - 5 ft
Category 2 : Winds 96–110 mph
Storm Surge 6-8 ft
Category 3 : Winds 111-130 mph
Storm Surge 9-12 ft
Category 4 : Winds 131-155 mph
Storm Surge 13-18 ft
Category 5 : Winds over 155 mph
Storm Surge over 18 ft

Visible Satellite
Image of Tropical
Depression Bud,
located southwest
of Baja California,
Mexico.
July 15, 2006



National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

What to Report??????

* Remember to please keep calls short with the information given below, as well as specific times and locations of reports, and a reference to the nearest city/town (if possible). There are many spotters who call at the same time. This helps all calls get through in a timely manner.

NWSFO Los Angeles/Oxnard

**(805) 988-6610
520 N. Elevar St.
Oxnard, CA
93030**

**Contributors:
Mark Jackson
Benjamin Moyer
Rich Thompson
Curt Kaplan
Jamie Meier**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

**[www.weather.gov/
losangeles](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles)**

Flooding:

- Rainfall Intensity: How much rain is falling during a specific period.
- Flooding that is threatening life or property, or is disrupting traffic.
- Describe the flooding:
 - water depth
 - time flooding began and ended
- Confirmed injuries or deaths

Winter Weather:

- Amount, rate and time of new snow accumulations.
- Elevation of snow level
 - When rain changes to snow
- Icing of roads or road closures
- Very low temperatures
- Significant winds and wind chill
- Confirmed injuries or deaths

Wind:

- Report winds of 30 mph or more
- Speed of sustained winds and speed of wind gusts
- Wind-related damage, injuries or deaths.

Fog:

- Report visibilities of one-quarter mile or less.

Surf:

- Report when surf is 6 feet or greater
- Any flooding or damage caused by high tides and/or high surf

Extreme Heat:

- Report when heat indices become dangerous
- Temperature thresholds:
 - Coast: 95 degrees or higher
 - Valleys: 105 degrees or higher
 - Deserts: 115 degrees or higher

Thunderstorms:

- Estimated location, duration, speed and direction of movement
- Any hail (size, accumulation, etc)
 - 1/4" = pea size
 - 1/2" = marble size
 - 3/4" = penny size
 - 1 " = quarter size
 - 1 3/4" = golf ball size
 - 2 3/4" = baseball size
- Wind speeds and gusts
- Rainfall rate and amount
- If lightning strikes any object
- Confirmed injuries, deaths and/or damage

Tornadoes:

- Funnel clouds, waterspouts or any rotating clouds
- Estimated location, duration, speed and direction or movement
- Confirmed injuries, deaths and/or injuries

Call Toll Free

24-hours a day:

1-800-524-6120

Special Note: At WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard, we would like to assemble a list of e-mail addresses of people in our Spotter Program. So, if you have an e-mail address, please e-mail **Curt Kaplan** at:

Curt.Kaplan@noaa.gov or call **(805) 988-6615 x 461**.

As always, we thank you for your continued participation in the Weather Spotter Program.