Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2008

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

CALIFORNIA, South Central

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

	03/01/08 08:32 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
	03/02/08 04:00 PST	0	

An upper-level trough moved through northern California during the afternoon of March 1st, riding over, and weakening, the upper-level ridge over the southern part of the state. The trough was mostly dry, but it did tighten surface pressure gradients across southern California. West to northwest winds gusted to 50-55 mph over the Kern County deserts and mountains during the afternoon and evening of the 1st.

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

	03/13/08 07:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
	03/14/08 08:00 PST	0	

A weak upper-level trough moved through California on March 13th, bringing gusty winds to the mountains and deserts, but only spotty light precipitation to the region. Numerous gusts of 45-60 mph were reported in the Kern County mountains and deserts on the 13th and 14th.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

	03/14/08 14:06 PST	5K	Strong Wind (MAX 44 kt)
	03/16/08 19:00 PST	1K	

FRESNO COUNTY --- ARBIOS [36.78, -120.40]

	03/15/08 16:25 PST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
	03/15/08 16:27 PST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Penny sized hail was reported near Mendota.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW MENDOTA [36.76, -120.39]

	03/15/08 16:30 PST	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	03/15/08 16:32 PST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter reported damage to his antenna due to thunderstorm winds.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	03/17/08 03:45 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
	03/17/08 08:15 PST	60K	

A strong weather system arrived on the 15th, which brought colder air to the region. Gusty winds—to around 50mph—continued over the mountains and deserts, and gusts even developed over parts of the San Joaquin Valley (where gusts to 37 mph were reported). The main impact of the trough was precipitation, as measurable snow fell as low as 3500 feet on the Grapevine, and thunderstorms developed over the west side of the San Joaquin Valley during the afternoon of the 15th. One thunderstorm, near Mendota, reached severe levels and produced ¾-inch hail and damaging winds. Other thunderstorms generated hail that ranged from pea-size to ½-inch in diameter. These storms extended south along the Interstate 5 corridor to near Taft, and as far east as Visalia and Arvin (where the ½-inch hail fell and knocked out power to part of the town when a transformer insulator hub was shattered). A thunderstorm near Maricopa during the late afternoon approached severe criteria, prompting the second Severe Thunderstorm Warning of the day, but the storm weakened before becoming severe.

Up to 4 inches of snow fell on the Frazier Park area, with 4-6 inches falling above 6500 feet in the western Tehachapi Mountains. In the Southern Sierra Nevada, snow amounts ranged from 5 inches at Ponderosa to one-inch accumulations at Lodgepole and Tuolumne Meadows. Other snow reports included 1.5 inches at Bear Valley Springs and Hume Lake, and 2 inches at Grant Grove.

A cold, dry airmass moved into the central California interior with the trough. Several Valley sites reached freezing the morning of the 16th and the 17th, causing frost to form in a few areas.

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

	03/30/08 02:00 PST	0	Winter Weather
	03/30/08 11:00 PST	0	

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A strong and wet system moved into California on March 28th, bringing interior central California gusty winds and precipitation that persisted through the 30th. In the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, only a few showers developed, with the heaviest rainfall—0.09 inch at Lemon Cove during the early morning of the 30th—near the Sierra foothills. Winds gusted as high as 38 mph on the Valley floor on the 28th, while gusts to around 50 mph continued over the mountains and deserts through March 30th. The storm brought a push of cold air to the region, with snow levels dropping to around 5000 feet by the morning of the 30th, and locally even lower as Tehachapi recorded a trace of new snow. Appreciable snow fell in the Southern Sierra Nevada during the morning of March 30th as the upper-level trough axis moved through the region, with Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park reporting 4 inches of new snow, and further south, Lodgepole had 5.5 inches and Grant Grove getting 4.7 inches of snow.