



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



July 2006

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095	Kern Cty Mtns	01 0000PST 02 1700PST			0	0			Wildfire
	The Smith Fire 6 miles southeast of Onyx, east of Lake Isabella in the Kern County Mountains, was lightning initiated on June 27th and burned approximately 225 acres before being contained on July 2nd. The cost to fight the Smith Fire was \$1.563M								
CAZ094	Tulare Cty Foothills	07 2300PST 08 1600PST			0	0			Wildfire
	The Doctor Fire was a human caused fire located 14 miles southeast of Porterville in the Tule Indian Reservation. It burned 258 acres before containment but no injuries occurred nor were structures lost. The cost to fight the blaze was unknown.								
CAZ090>092	E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley	08 1500PST 10 1800PST			0	0			Heat
	An early July spell of high maximum temperatures occurred from the 8th through the 10th of the month when the warmest parts of the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley had temperatures spike above 105 degrees F. in the warmest areas. Fresno reached 107F on the 9th and 10th, Bakersfield climbed to 105F on those two dates, and Merced reached 106F on the 9th								
CAZ097	Tulare Cty Mtns	09 1430PST 29 1700PST			0	0			Wildfire
	The Maggie Fire 8 miles north of Camp Nelson in the Tulare County Mountains was lightning initiated on the 9th. The fire burned 1,233 acres by the 29th when it was managed for resource objectives. The cost to fight the fire was \$307,000 by the 29th. There were no injuries or structures lost to the fire.								
CAZ097	Tulare Cty Mtns	09 1430PST 31 2359PST			0	0			Wildfire
	The Tamarack Fire in Sequoia National Forest 14 miles north of Camp Nelson was lightning initiated in the afternoon of the 9th. See the August Stormdata Report for further information.								
CAZ095	Kern Cty Mtns	09 1538PST 12 1700PST			0	0			Wildfire
	The Arco Fire burned 698 acres 5 miles north of Lebec in the Kern County Mountains. The cause of the fire was unknown but there were no injuries and no structures lost. The cost to fight the fire was unknown.								
CAZ089>094-098>099	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley - S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	16 1500PST 27 1900PST			46	18	170K	492.4M	Excessive Heat
	Arguably one of the hottest spells widespread across California, including Interior Central California, in the last 75 years occurred during a warm period that spanned from the 16th through the 27th of the month. Fresno City had 12 days in a row where maximum temperatures were at or above 105 degrees F. Numerous daily maximum and high minimum temperature records were both reset including the all-time high minimum temperature record for Fresno at 90F on the 23rd from that of 86F set in August of 1908. During the 5-day period from the 22nd through the 26th, Fresno had temperatures of 110F+ each day. The Southwest San Joaquin Valley maximum temperatures had 110F+ readings for a 6-day period from the 21st through the 26th. Minimum temperatures during that warmest portion of the heat spell lowered only into the 80s for much of the Central and South San Joaquin Valley. Even the high foothill areas and Kern County Mountains were impacted as Yosemite Valley in the Southern Sierra Nevada at the 4000-foot elevation had maximum temperatures of 100F+ from the 22nd through the 27th with a 105F high on the 26th. In the high desert areas of Kern County Inyokern had 110F+ from the 22nd through the 27th with overnight lows in the upper 70s to around 80F. Several daily high temperature records were also established in the Kern Desert during the period. Peak energy use in the state hit an all time record, 6165 Megawatts, even though several thousand customers in Central California went without power and air conditioning for hours. Typical of the situation \$100K of refrigerated products were lost at a single store in Northwest Fresno during								



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

a power outage on the 24th. Among the documented instances of power loss during the heat event, Fresno had 11,000 power customers without electricity on the 22nd and 14,000 on the 23rd. All 10,000 power customers in Lemoore in Kings County lost electricity for up to 4 hours during the afternoon of the 23rd, one of the hottest days, as power transformers failed in the heat. In Tulare County, portions of Exeter lost power during the evening of the 24th.

With accompanying high humidities, consistent light or calm winds, and long durations of high temperatures, the heat resulted in many deaths among residents of Interior Central California as well as a tremendous toll on area agriculture and specifically the dairy and cattle industry. Up to 57 people died as a result of the excessive heat in the Interior Central California 7-county area. Many but not all of these deaths were among the elderly and in urban areas. Milk and egg production losses were estimated at 10 to 15% during the heat spell along with an increase in livestock deaths (16,500 cows) and poultry deaths (700,000 chickens and 160,000 turkeys). Diminished yield in produce from field crops and orchards undoubtedly occurred and losses could only be estimated due to difficulties in assessing. One local county, Kings, estimated losses at 20% for almond production with \$10 million in other crop losses. In addition to the loss of livestock and poultry due to the heat, area counties declared local emergencies due to rendering problems caused by the high number of livestock and poultry carcasses. M38OT, M40OU, M42OU, M49OU, M50OT, M51OT, M53OT, M56OU, M58PH, M63OT, F66OT, M68OT, F68PH, M68PH, M70OT, F72OT, F72PH, F75MH, M76PH, M77PH, M79PH, F82PH, M83PH, M85PH, F86PH, M86PH, M88PH, F90PH, M74OU, M76CA, M38OT, F47OU, M49OU, F52OT, M53OT, M55OT, M58OT, M60OT, M60OT, M68PH, F77OT, F77PH, M82PH, M83PH, M83PH, F86P H

Kern County

**Ridgecrest to
(Nid)Naf China Lake**

18	0234PST 0300PST	0	0	35K	Lightning
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Frequent cloud-to-ground lightning strokes occurred from Ridgecrest to NAS China Lake in northeast Kern County early in the morning of the 18th. Power was knocked out to over 5300 customers in the Ridgecrest and Inyokern areas during the early morning hours before dawn. Southern California Edison reported at least 25 sites where the storm damaged equipment. Unreportable damage also occurred at NAS China Lake from the lightning. The thunderstorm activity also occurred at Trona, 17 miles ENE of Ridgecrest in San Bernardino County, at 1:00 AM PST and similarly had accompanying strong winds, heavy rain, and lightning.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

19 31	0905PST 2359PST	0	0		Wildfire
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The King Fire located 2 miles northeast of Mr. Starr King in Yosemite National Park was lightning initiated on the 19th of July. The fire became managed as a resource burn.

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

19 21	1800PST 1800PST	0	0		Wildfire
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A fire was lightning initiated in the evening of the 19th near Gibonney Creek north of Onyx east of Lake Isabella that burned in excess of 100 acres by the 20th. No further information was available.

Mariposa County

**El Portal to
3 SSE Chinquapin**

20	1500PST 1530PST	0	0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG70)
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A thunderstorm pushed through the southwest portion of Yosemite National Park in the afternoon of the 20th. High wind felled trees that knocked out power at El Portal due to a tree over a power line at 1600 PDT. Trees were subsequently downed across the Wawona Highway about 10 miles north of the Park's South Entrance by 1630 PDT.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

20 31	1500PST 2359PST	0	0		Wildfire
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The Middle-T Fire was a lightning initiated fire 10 miles northwest of Yosemite Village that burned 451 acres. The fire was initially battled but became a resource management burn into August.

Kern County

**Rosamond to
10 NW Rosamond**

20	1537PST 1615PST	0	0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG70)
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Kern County

10 NW Rosamond

20	1610PST	0	0		Lightning
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

An intense thunderstorm pushed northwestward through the Antelope Valley and into the Kern County portion of the Mojave Desert the late afternoon of the 20th. Initially strong wind caused damage by felling trees and power poles, and the high wind even blowing out windows on cars as it crossed the desert. Numerous lightning strikes occurred in its passage across the Mojave Desert and as it extended into the Tehachapi area of the Kern County Mountains. Locally heavy rain was reported in the Lancaster-Palmdale area of northern Los Angeles County with the storm's passage.

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

20	1800PST								
	1845PST			0	0				Wildfire

A small fire around Keyesville near Lake Isabella Dam in the Kern County Mountains was likely set by a lightning strike in the evening of the 20th. Due to the evening thunderstorm activity a number of other small wildfires were set in the Kern County Mountains. These fires included the Clear Fire, located near Eagle Peak in the Piute Mountains (5 acres burned); the Rock Fire south of Heald's Peak near Kelso Valley (one acre burned); and, the Scodie Fire in Scodie Canyon (two acres burned)

CAZ094

Tulare Cty Foothills

20	1900PST								
	23 0800PST			0	0				Wildfire

The Coyote Fire 9 miles east of Porterville in the Tulare County Foothills was lightning initiated. While the fire burned 2000 acres there were no structures lost nor were there any injuries. The cost to fight the fire was unknown.

Fresno County

4.5 S Mono Hot Spgs to 6.5 ENE Huntington Lak	21	1440PST							
		1515PST			0	0			Hail(0.75)

Fresno County

6.5 ENE Huntington Lak	21	1450PST							
					0	0			Lightning

Fresno County

6.5 ENE Huntington Lak 5.5 ENE Huntington Lak	21	1500PST							
		1515PST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG60)

Fresno County

6.5 ENE Huntington Lak 5 ENE Huntington Lake	21	1700PST							
		1830PST			0	0	50K		Flash Flood

A thunderstorm downed trees on Kaiser Pass Road east of Huntington Lake on the 23rd. With the storm came copious amounts of hail that piled deeply due to the wind. The heavy rain with the thunderstorm also lead to a flash flood into the Rancheria Campground on the east-southeast shore of the lake. Three cars and a motorhome were flooded in the campground. Lightning strikes occurred on Kaiser Ridge above Huntington Lake during the storm.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

21	1500PST								
	29 2359PST			0	0				Wildfire

The Frog Complex Fire in Yosemite National Park located 1 mile west of Laurel Lake was a lightning caused fire that burned 112 acres by the 29th of the month. The cost to fight the fire initially was not known but there were no injuries fighting the fire nor were any structures lost. The fire was allowed to burn well into August for resource management purposes

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

21	1538PST								
	31 2359PST			0	0				Wildfire

The Burnt Fire was lightning initiated late in the afternoon of the 21st of July about 8 miles north of Cedar Grove in the Fresno County portion of the Southern Sierra Nevada. The fire was immediately allowed to burn as a resource management fire and continued through September. The total acreage burned was only 627 acres by the end of September.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

22	1700PST								
	31 2359PST			0	0				Wildfire

The Roaring Fire was lightning initiated on the 22nd and located one mile south of Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. The



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

fire became a resource management burn into August.

CAZ089

W Central Sj Valley

22 1900PST
24 1400PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Three Rocks Fire 20 miles north of Coalinga was lightning started and burned 6200 acres. No injuries occurred nor were there any structures lost. The cost to fight the fire was unreported. A large thunderstorm along the Coast Range Mountains just west of the Fresno County line also caused a 8,200-acre wildfire in Southeast Monterey County (see San Francisco Bay Area July Stormdata Report).

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

23 1230PST
28 1400PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Scott Fire approximately 2 miles northwest of Frazier Park in the Kern County Mountains was lightning initiated and burned approximately 736 acres. This fire became part of the Mt.Pinos Lightning Complex on the 24th. There were no injuries nor structures lost. The cost to fight the fire was unknown.

Fresno County

9.3 SSE Coalinga

23 1550PST
1715PST

0 0

Heavy Rain

Strong thunderstorms were present around Interior Central California during the late afternoon and early evening of the 23rd. One cell in Western Fresno County led to a report of 1.16" of rain in just over an hour. No reports of flooding were received.

Fresno County

Big Creek

23 1830PST
1930PST

0 0

Flash Flood

Fresno County

3 E Huntington Lake

23 1830PST
1930PST

0 0

Flash Flood

Over several days from the 20th of the month through the 24th, locally heavy rain occurred from strong afternoon thunderstorm development in the Southern Sierra Nevada. On the 23rd heavy rain in the vicinity of Huntington Lake resulted in mud and debris over the Highway 168 one mile west of the Sierra Summit Ski Resort with Big Creek Road below Huntington Lake also affected by mud and debris over the roadway at the same time.

CAZ093

S Sierra Foothills

23 1830PST
25 1700PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Auberry Complex Fire was a human caused fire that burned 300 acres near Auberry in the S.Sierra Foothills of Fresno County. The cost to fight the fire was unknown but no injuries occurred nor were any structures lost.

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns

24 1400PST
29 1600PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Mt. Pinos Lightning Complex Fire in the Los Padres National Forest 2 miles north of Frazier Park burned 3194 acres and was lightning initiated. The Complex was made up of the Scott, Ridge, Wood, and Boy fires along with about 20 smaller, lightning caused fires on the 24th. The cost to contain the fire on the 29th was \$3.9M but no injuries occurred nor were any structures lost

CAZ097

Tulare Cty Mtns

25 2300PST
31 2359PST

0 0

Wildfire

The Broder-Beck Fire was lightning initiated the night of July 25th/morning of the 26th. The fire was located in the Sequoia National Forest about 48 miles northeast of Porterville. The fire became a resource management burn into August.