



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 1996

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

Merced County

1 W Los Banos to 1 NW Los Banos	01	1438PST 1443PST			0	0	50K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G60)
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High wind from the SSW swept the western edge of the west Merced County town of Los Banos over a path length of 11/2 mile. Very small structures, trees, and powerlines received damage. Eyewitness accounts saw no funnel thus damage is attributed to downburst wind with associated thunderstorms rolling through the area in a "bow echo". High wind lifted one 10'x10' small hay storage structure during heavy rain. Another eyewitness watched powerlines being downed along with a small water utility structure. Additional damage was caused to other small structure tin roofing. This event could have been a very small F0 tornado but evidence appears to support thunderstorm wind.

Merced County

3 SW Los Banos	01	1445PST 1450PST			0	0	20K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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High wind from the southwest flattened an older barn 3 miles SW of Los Banos in west Merced County per eyewitness reports. A California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection anemometer measured wind in the hour prior to 1500 PST at a location 10 miles west of Los Banos at 52 knots. This report would match with the line of thunderstorms developing along the San Joaquin Valley west side at that time.

Merced County

3.5 S Gustine to Gustine	01	1445PST 1455PST			0	0	230K	100K	Thunderstorm Wind (G80)
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In western Merced County high wind damaged trees and structures beginning 3 1/2 miles south of Gustine and ended with powerline and structure damage within the town itself. Only tree, very small structures, and some roof damage was apparent from 3 1/2 miles south of town to 2 miles south of town. About 2 miles south of Gustine and within a 1/2 mile path, a large, well constructed, 60'x60' wood barn, an historical slate rock building, trees, and 40'x100', wood barn were flattened. Eyewitness accounts attribute the damage to high wind only.

Merced County

8 E Los Banos	01	1455PST			0	0	20K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
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Thunderstorm high wind overturned a tractor-trailer as it was east-bound on State Highway 152 8 miles east of Los Banos. Numerous reports of high wind occurred in the vicinity around the time period of this event

Merced County

12 S Merced to 11.5 S Merced	01	1545PST 1550PST	0.5	5	0	0	10K	0	Tornado (F0)
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The California Highway Patrol received a report that a motorist from a cellular phone that a tornado occurred southeast of the rural town of El Nido in Merced County. Pacific Gas and Electric did have to repair a pole in that vicinity. Residents reported that high wind and rain immediately preceded a period of calm and no rain. Whistling, humming, and then subsequent damage occurred to roofs, powerlines, and trees while residents hid in their houses.

Tulare County

4 SSE Tulare to 3.8 SSE Tulare	01	1630PST 1635PST	0.3	5	0	0	20K	0	Tornado (F0)
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A small, F0 tornado caused damage 4 miles SSE of Tulare in rural Tulare County. One eyewitness observed an approaching small, rope funnel prior to the occurrence of damage to dairy sunshades, house roof, house windows, and block wall

Madera County

8 SE Chowchilla to 8.5 SE Chowchilla	16	1320PST 1325PST			0	0	0	50K	Hail (0.75)
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Spotter report of 3/4 inch hail in rural Madera County. Path length and width unknown. Crop damage estimated.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Fresno County

9 NW Fresno to 9 NE Fresno	16	1345PST 1430PST			0	0	30K	0	Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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With severe thunderstorms occurring in Central California during the early to mid afternoon hours, locally heavy rain brought deep ponding of water in several locations of north Fresno. City intersections were flooded deep enough to strand cars. One spotter report indicated 0.73" rain fell in a 25 minute period... another indicated 1.50 inches within 2 hours.

Fresno County

9.5 NW Fresno to 9 NW Fresno	16	1350PST 1355PST	0.5	5	0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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A small F0 tornado occurred with the passage of a severe thunderstorm through Central Fresno County. Little damage was done by the tornado although considerable crop damage resulted from hail and heavy rain with the thunderstorm.

Fresno County

15 NW Fresno to 8.5 NW Fresno	16	1355PST 1400PST			0	0	0	600K	Hail (1.00)
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Large hail occurred with the passage of a severe thunderstorm that also generated a small F0 tornado. Damage was sustained by agricultural area grapes, almonds, and plums.

Fresno County

6 SE Fresno to 9 SE Fresno	16	1445PST 1455PST			0	0	0	100K	Hail (0.75)
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Severe thunderstorms with accompanying heavy rain and hail damaged sensitive stone fruit crops in Central Fresno County.

Fresno County

10 E Fresno to 18 ESE Fresno	16	1520PST 1530PST			0	0	0	7.7M	Hail (0.75)
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Passage of a severe thunderstorm with large hail over a wide area brought substantial damage to area agricultural in rural areas ESE of Fresno. Damage was sustained by area peach, nectarine, almond orchards, and grapes.