



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1996

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

Madera County

7 NW Oakhurst

08 2200PST
11 0800PST

0 0

Heavy Rain

A broad trof immediately along the California Coast supported significant rain event for the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent Southern Sierra Nevada. Small streams ran high and while not quite meeting flash flooding criteria posed a serious risk to Mariposa County cleanup crews working in and around Burns Creek. Storm total amounts from late on the 8th through early on 11th ... rain near 7 inches in the 2-3K foot elevation of adjacent Madera County. Central San Joaquin Valley storm total rain amounts were over 2 inches along the east side ... near 1 inch on the west side. In the Lake Isabella area of Kern County almost 3 inches of rain occurred from the storm.

Mariposa County

16 NE Mariposa

19 1241PST

1 1 4K 0

Heavy Rain

Rain slickened roads led to a vehicle sliding into the deepened Merced River near El Portal. One fatality resulted from drowning as the river was unusually high following a "wet" month in the county. M34VE

CAZ025

22 1500PST
1900PST

0 0 1.7M 0

High Wind (G55)

Strong wind buffeted the Extreme Southern Sierra Nevada and the Mojave Desert of Kern County during the late afternoon and evening of Sunday, December 22. Beginning around 1500 PST and lasting until 1900 PST significant wind damage occurred in and around the desert community of Ridgecrest. The wind was the result of mountain wave rotor with damage to roofs in the form of peeled shingles and broken Spanish tile, power poles were downed, trees and fences were toppled. The main damage was in Ridgecrest but some damage was also reported in the east Lake Isabella community of Kelso and trees were reported knocked in Tehachapi Valley.

Fresno County

Fresno

29 1600PST

0 0

Heavy Rain

This month continued to show much above normal rainfall reflected by the monthly rain total of 4.26 inches as measured at Fresno ... 3.68 inches had occurred by the 29th. This makes December 96 the fourth wettest on record. Adjacent mountain area precipitation and snowpack reflected this above normal rainfall on the San Joaquin Valley floor