



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1997

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

Fresno County

50 ENE Fresno	06 14	1300PST 1700PST			0	0	1.9M		Wild/Forest Fire
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Named the "Choke Fire" it burned more than 3900 acres in the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada in the Sequoia National Forest. It was a lightning caused fire from thunderstorms associated with monsoonal moisture.

Kern County

4 SE Onyx to 5 SE Onyx	08 16	1100PST 1800PST			0	0	3M	0	Wild/Forest Fire
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Named the "Jacks Fire"; Southwest of Walker Pass in the Southern Sierra Nevada in Sequoia National Forest. It was a lightning caused fire from thunderstorms developing from monsoonal moisture. It burned a total of 5693 acres. No injuries or structures were reported lost.

CAZ021

	19	1300PST 1800PST			0	0	100K		Dust Storm
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Blowing dust in the South San Joaquin Valley from points east to south of Bakersfield obscured visibilities to near zero in 40 MPH wind.

Kern County

6 ENE Bakersfield	19 20	1300PST 0500PST			0	1	400K		Wild/Forest Fire
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Two homes destroyed and 4000 acres of grassland were burned.

Kern County

10 WSW Tehachapi	19	1300PST 2100PST			0	0	200K		Wild/Forest Fire
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1151 acres of grassland and forest were destroyed.

A gradient wind (non-thunderstorm) with speeds at 40 MPH plus was caused by the old center of Hurricane Ignacio moving over the San Joaquin Valley. Arsonist started blazes, named the "Chocktaw Fire," pushed into homes northeast of Bakersfield and two were destroyed with 4 others damaged. One firefighter was burned while fighting the fire. The damage cost was estimated. This same wind also was responsible for starting a fire in the Tehachapi Mountains by arcing power lines. Over 1150 acres were burned in the "Comanche Fire" located 10 miles WSW of Tehachapi. Points 8 miles east to 17 miles south of Bakersfield in the Southern San Joaquin Valley also experienced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust from this event. Numerous minor traffic accidents occurred but no injuries or fatalities were reported from California Highway Patrol. Damage costs for the blowing dusts were estimated. Crop damage may have occurred but not assessable by the County Ag Commissioner.