



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1998

| 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 |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ022

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| | 09 | 1800PST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Heavy Snow |
| | 10 | 0600PST | | | | | | | |

8 inches of new snow at the higher elevations.

January began a very wet time for the Central California area with January having 16 days of measureable precipitation at Fresno, CA. The subsequent month of February continued with 13 of the first 16 days having precipitation and resulted in widespread flooding problems.

CAZ022

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| | 12 | 0100PST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Heavy Snow |
| | 13 | 0500PST | | | | | | | |

14 inches of new snow at the higher elevations.

CAZ020>021

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|------------|
| | 13 | 0300PST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Fog |
| | | 1100PST | | | | | | | |

Dense fog formation after shower activity had occurred on the 12th. Visibilities in Fresno and Bakersfield dropped to near zero by 0350 AM PST with satellite imagery showing dense fog in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley forming between KBFL and KFAT, especially along State Highways 99 and 43

CAZ020

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| | 15 | 1830PST | | | 0 | 0 | 5.3M | 0 | Flood |
| | 16 | 0300PST | | | | | | | |

Merced County flooding event. Minimal damage to agriculture from this flooding event.

Tulare County 6 N Springville

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | 16 | 0015PST | | | 2 | 0 | | | Urban/Sml Stream Fld |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|-----------------------------|

In trying to cross the Tule River in the mountains of Tulare County, an elderly couple's car was swept downstream off of a 100-foot low-water crossing. The river was running at a higher than normal level of 5 feet deep due to recent rains in Central California. M74VE, F70VE

Rain amounts of 2.0 to 2.5 inches...with peaks up to 3 inches... in the Southern Sierra Nevada foothills in East Merced and West Mariposa Counties lead to small streams running at bankfull in Merced County. Streams affected were those as depicted in flood plain maps, i.e., Miles, Dutchman, Deadman, Mariposa, Owens, and Bear Creeks. Bear Creek overtopped its banks on the lower end of Merced City affecting numerous residences (180), inundating roads and over 5000 acres of farmland west-southwest of town. The event most likely began around 1830 PST on Thursday, Jan 15, with Bear Creek reaching 7000+ CFS of flow and it did not go below that figure until after 0300 PST on the 16th. Flow contributions from Black Rascal Creek likely led to the inability of the Bear Creek channel to handle the combined flow. The peak flow at a gauging station just east of town reached 7533 CFS at midnight. This was the first flooding from Bear Creek since 1955 according to the County Emergency Manager.

CAZ022

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|--|--|---------------------|
| | 18 | 1800PST | | | 0 | 0 | | | Winter Storm |
| | 19 | 0900PST | | | | | | | |

Frontal passage brought 12-18 inches of new snow inside a 24-hour period to the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada in CA Zone 22. Sierra Summit Ski Area received 9 inches of new snow overnight at the 7000 foot level

Fresno County 7 WSW Shaver Lake

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| | 19 | 0215PST | | | 0 | 0 | 5K | | Heavy Rain |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|-------------------|

Heavy downpour dislodged rocks above Highway 168 northeast of Fresno at the 2500 foot level of the Southern Sierra Nevada.

Frontal passage through Central California brought pre-frontal high wind to the Southern San Joaquin Valley including Tulare County. Over 4700 customers lost power at 1549 PST due to wind in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties. Subsequent heavy



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

rain/snow followed in the upper elevations of the CWFA.

CAZ020>021

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|-----|--|-----|
| 23 | 0400PST 1000PST | | | | 0 | 6 | 60K | | Fog |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|-----|--|-----|

Dense fog formation through the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley brought numerous vehicle collisions including one in Clovis, 1 in Hanford with an injury, and another in Porterville that involved a school bus (5 injured).

CAZ022

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|------------|
| 29 | 0100PST | | | | 0 | 0 | | | Heavy Snow |
| 30 | 0600PST | | | | | | | | |

13 inches of new snow at the higher elevations of the S.Sierra Nevada.

Fresno County

Fresno

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------|
| 29 | 1209PST 1230PST | | | | 0 | 0 | | | Tstm Wind/Hail |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------|

Thunderstorm occurrence brought 36Kt wind from the southeast to the Fresno Air Terminal along with large amounts of 1/8-inch hail. Over 7000 customers lost power in the Fresno City area due to downed powerlines and the small hail felled nursery tents in North Fresno. In Southeast Fresno 1/2-inch hail occurred between 1215-1230 PST.

Fresno County

7 N Fresno

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------|
| 29 | 1215PST 1600PST | | | | 0 | 0 | | | Urban/Sml Stream Fld |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------|

Small hail and heavy rain led to numerous intersections and streets being flooded within North-Central Fresno. The small hail piled up 2-3 inches deep thereby plugging drains and contributing to the overall urban flooding problems

Fresno County

Selma

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|
| 29 | 1300PST | | | | 0 | 0 | | | Lightning |
|----|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|

Numerous power outages in the Selma area affected 3400 customers. A lightning strike took out a power pole at 1300 PST.

Tulare County

(Vis)Visalia Arpt

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------|
| 29 | 1330PST | | | | 0 | 0 | | | Tstm Wind/Hail |
|----|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------|

Numerous locations within Tulare County having power outages to over 5000 customers associated with thunderstorm wind and locally heavy rain/small hail. Cities reporting lines down due to trees/limbs include Visalia, Tulare, Woodlake, Exeter, and Ivanhoe. Over 1000 customers experienced power loss in Visalia alone.

A line of strong thunderstorms swept through Central California during the early afternoon hours of Thursday, Jan 29. Small hail occurred with this line to such an extent that 2-3 inches accumulated on the ground. In fact, some confusion occurred about hail size being one inch when the reference was to the depth of hail on the ground. Hail sizes during the day varied from 1/8- to 1/2-inch in diameter. Reflectivity values depicted by WSR-88D reached 64 dBz. VIL values ranged from 23 for 1/4-inch hail to 28 for 1/2-inch hail on this day. The southern end of the thunderstorm line was Kings County and eastward. The initial thunderstorm line moved into the S.Sierra Foothills around 1400 PST.