



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



June 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
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ021

01	0001PST				0	0	400K	100M	Flood
30	2359PST								

The above normal snowpack in the Southern Sierra Nevada led to an excellent water year for the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley agricultural areas, generally. The above normal water runoff filled reservoirs and the delay in the annual snowmelt usually occurring in late April and Early May occurred in mid-June. Unfortunately, the Kings, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers ran strong and limitations on water pumping and diversion capabilities was exceeded thereby leading to the reformation of old Tulare Lake. Over 32,000 acres of bottom land used for farming primarily south of Corcoran have been reclaimed by the waters with an estimated loss to production agriculture and some structures in Kings County. A \$1M office complex near El Rico is under 5' of water. (The recent total ag output for Kings County averages \$800M per annum and damage figures for agriculture have been revised upward to \$100M from the previous quoted figure of \$73.6M in the May report).

Tulare County
10 N Springville

03	0130PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
	0723PST								

Kern County
Glennville

03	0200PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
	0800PST								

At an elevation of 2400 feet, a weather spotter reported 1.17" of rain in a 6-hour period in the Springville area of Tulare County. Seasonal rainfall total at this point 48.63". In the Kern County community of Glennville, another spotter reported 1.02" on 6/3/98 with a storm total by 0625 on the 4th of 1.10".

Fresno County
Parlier

06	1645PST				0	0	50K		Lightning
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Lightning struck a house causing damage...but no injuries. The thunderstorm activity...between gusty wind and torrential rain... led to the disruption of power to over 25,000 residents in Central Fresno County.

Fresno County
Reedley

06	1645PST				0	0	17.1M		Hail (1.00)
	1800PST								

As reported by Fresno County Ag Commissioner that large amounts of hail with some reaching 1" in diameter occurred in the Reedley area. Other damage areas in Fresno County were around Kerman, Riverdale, Orange Cove, and Kingsburg.

Fresno County
2 W Orange Cove

06	1650PST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Thunderstorm wind blew down trees and powerlines near Orange Cove in Fresno County. Further damage was caused by small hail (less than 3/4" diameter) on crops from Fresno to Visalia including the communities of Reedley...Dinuba...Orosi...Exeter...Kingsburg...and Farmersville. Fresno County estimated \$16.4M damage with \$14.8M occurring in the Reedley area alone. The following were estimated as being damaged: 4000 acres citrus...152 acres apples...127 acres grapes...and a number of other stone fruit crops.

Tulare County
Sultana to
5 E Visalia

06	1700PST				0	0	10.5M		Hail (1.00)
	1730PST								

The Ag Commissioner's Office reported the Sultana area of Northwest Tulare County was especially hard hit by this spring storm with hail a "quarter" in size. Moderate to severe damage occurred on 3478 acres of citrus and stone fruit...splitting the young fruit...with another 1000 acres light damage and scarring. In Visalia, a spotter reported hail generally at 3/4" but reaching up to 1" in size.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Madera County

Chowchilla	06	1835PST 2000PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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By 1835PST 0.75" of rain had fallen from a thunderstorm in the previous 50 minutes in Chowchilla ...streets were flooded with standing water. Total rain in the period ending by 2000 PST was 1.46".

Merced County

Merced	06	1905PST			0	0			Lightning
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Lightning strike on a tree in south Merced reported by a spotter.

Fresno County

Laton to Fresno	06	2000PST 2230PST			0	0	50K		Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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A Thunderstorm deluge caused the roof of a car wash to collapse in southeast Fresno City. As measured by ASOS at FAT 1.23" of rain fell between 1900-2000PST (0.72" between 1856-1927PST) with a storm total of 1.80". This rain and additional rainy days combined to establish a new June rainfall record for Fresno, CA, at 1.93" (the old record was 1.66" in 1939). There were numerous instances of flooded streets all over Fresno from the storm system swinging from south to north through the area. The thunderstorm activity...between gusty wind and torrential rain... led to the disruption of power to over 25,000 residents in Central Fresno County. The rainfall season total stands at 20.31"... the third wettest on record behind 1982-83 and 1968-69. Agricultural losses continue to mount. As the unusual amount of rain from June adds disease to area strawberries and vineyards. Most crops continue to be 3-6 weeks behind a normal season growth.

Mariposa County

4 W Yosemite Vlg	07	0100PST 0700PST			0	0			Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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Thunderstorm activity brought sustained heavy rain up to the 8500-foot level of the Southern Sierra Nevada causing a subsequent spike in the height of the Merced River through Yosemite Valley. As measured at Pohono Bridge the height of the river climbed to 9.3 feet (up from 8.0 feet 24 hours previous) by 0400PST 6/7/98 just below the warning stage of 9.5 feet.

Fresno and neighboring counties of Kings and Tulare received widespread convective activity during the late afternoon and early evening of Saturday, June 6th. Unofficial reports of golfball sized hail occurred in the Tulare County town of Dinuba. The damage in Fresno County occurred in the west toward Kerman and areas around Orange Cove and Reedley southeast of Fresno City. Moderate to heavy hail damaged trees, vines, and tomatoes by stripping off fruit and foliage. Vegetable plants were damaged by heavy rains and mud...and some cotton by hail and heavy rain. Fungal and viral diseases were increased. The total extent of damage to citrus will not be known until the harvest.

Mariposa County

Yosemite Lodge	16	0200PST 1400PST			0	0	100K		Urban/Sml Stream Fld
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After the much delayed spring warming, snowmelt runoff finally began in earnest with the Merced River reaching a height of 10.5 feet in the wee hours of the morning of Monday, June 16th, with a flow of 7111CFS at the Pohono Bridge Gauge in lower Yosemite Valley. The warning stage is 9.5 feet with flood stage at 12.0 feet. Per WSOM definition the flow was contained pretty much within the Merced riverbanks with some low-lying meadows flooded near the river and precautionary evacuations of 20 campsites right on the river by the Park Service. No damage reported on the Yosemite Valley floor from the flooding although a repair in State Highway 140 just downstream of the Pohono Bridge from the January 1997 floods again failed due to the increase in water pressure from the rise in the river.