



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



November 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

CAZ020

02	0610PST 0700PST				0	9	100K		Fog
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Multiple vehicle accident 2 miles southeast of Merced, CA, on Highway 99 involving several cars and a tractor-trailer truck rig just around 0610 PST. Injuries were reported by the California Highway Patrol. Another accident in Fresno County east of Easton involved two tractor-trailer rigs with injuries also reported. This fog was localized and very short in duration (0600 to 0700 hours).

CAZ025

05	1046PST				0	0			High Wind (G50)
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An upper level short wave moved across Central and Southern California on November 5th and supported locally gusty winds. While windy conditions prevailed over the Kern Deserts, the wind-prone area around Mojave reached Wind Warning thresholds with a sustained speed of 50Kts gusting to 80Kts at 1046 PST. No damage was reported in the Desert. Kern Mountain areas had gusts to 51Kts later in the evening with speeds during the day running around 40Kts sustained. The San Joaquin Valley had winds in the 15 to 30Kt range. Short Term Forecasts had been issued as early as 0515 PST for the gusty wind ... and a transition to a High Wind Warning (NPW) at 1120 PST with the confirmation of high wind.

CAZ022

07	0600PST 2100PST				0	0			Winter Storm
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Winter storm warnings were posted for CA Zones 22/23 for Saturday November 7th from afternoon through the evening but widespread storm conditions did not materialize in Zone 23. However 1st season storm snow amounts were received with the Tuolumne Ranger Station reporting a total snow of 8" over a 24 hour period of November 7th...3" on the ground by 0900 PST with another 5" in the afternoon as reported by the morning of the 8th. Lodgepole in the Tulare County Mountains received 0.78" of rain but snow levels were above the station height. A Winter Storm Watch was posted on the 6th at 1600 PST with warnings issued subsequently at 0400 PST on the 7th.

CAZ020>021

13	0026PST 1006PST				0	2	100K		Fog
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In the Madera/Merced/Fresno/Kings/Tulare County California Highway Patrol District there were 11 accidents during the morning hours of the 13th. Only a few minor injuries were reported despite one accident involving a school bus, and another a CHP vehicle. Dense Fog Advisory issued at 1446 PST 11/12/98.

CAZ020>021

14	0530PST 1000PST				2	78	1.4M		Fog
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One of the states's worst multiple vehicle accidents occurred in dense fog beginning at 0850 PST Saturday, November 14. Over 74 vehicles, including 19 tractor-trailer rigs, were involved within a 1-mile stretch of State Highway 99 approximately 2 to 3 miles southeast of Kingsburg in Tulare County. There were 2 fatalities, and 51 injuries, 10 of those critical, of the 132 people involved. Dense fog advisories had been issued along with short term forecasts beginning at 1600 PST Friday afternoon. California Highway Patrol had been issuing statements about the dangers of dense fog specifically within the preceding 48 hours before the accident(s).

Within Fresno County another 8 accidents occurred due to excessive speed in dense fog from the time period from 0710 to 0955 PST. While two of these accidents occurred in rural Fresno County, 6 of them occurred along Highway 99 between Herndon and Shaw in Northwest Fresno. The number of vehicles involved varied from 2 to 6 at each of these accident sites (the largest involving 6 cars at Highway 99 and Herndon Ave at 0725 PST). The number of vehicles involved through the Fresno area was 30 with 22 injuries reported.

On State Highway 198 approximately 2 miles west of Highway 99 in Tulare County over 8 vehicles, including 2 tractor-trailer rigs, were involved in another area of fog-related accidents around 0830 PST. There were at least 5 injuries from this series of accidents. M42VE, F69VE



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ020>021

14	2128PST				0	0			Fog
15	1056PST								

Dense fog formed at Merced by 2245 PST on 11/14/98, subsequently following at Fresno by 0156 PST. The Dense Fog Advisory had been issued for widespread fog at 0010 PST on 11/15/98. A spotter from the Livingston area confirmed dense fog of less than 100 feet visibility at 0748 PST on 11/15/98.

CAZ021

16	0153PST				0	0			Fog
	1000PST								

A Dense Fog Advisory was issued at 1550 PST 11/16/98 for dense fog the following morning. A weather spotter reported dense fog with visibilities less than 300 feet at 0710 PST. Dense fog formed at Hanford by 0153 PST; Visalia at 0636 PST; and Navy Lemoore upon opening at 0655 PST.

CAZ022

30	1200PST				0	0			Winter Storm
	2359PST								

Mammoth Mountain reported a storm total of 20" of snow by 0600 PST on 12/1/98...the storm carried into the wee hours of 12/1/98 ending essentially by 0500 PST. The heaviest snow occurred in the 24 hours prior to 0500 PST 12/1/98 but light snow began in the early morning hours of the 29th. The Tuolumne Ranger Station reported on overnight snow accumulation of 12" at 0900 PST on 12/1/98. Confirm winter storm for Zone 22...snow accumulations in Zone 23 did not reach storm thresholds...Lodgepole only reported 1" of new snow at the 6700 foot level. Winter storm watch issued at 1600 PST on the 29th for Zones 22/23...Warning issued 0400 PST on the 30th for the afternoon and coming night.