



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1999

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>021

01	0001PST				0	0			Excessively Dry
31	2359PST								

In Bakersfield (Southern San Joaquin Valley)...just 0.13 inches of rain fell tying with December in 1976 and 1903 as the 10th driest December on record. Six Decembers had no rainfall. In Fresno (Central SJV)... only 0.03 inches fell and it was the 3rd driest on record. The rainy season total had only 0.52 inches by the end of December which was the 3rd driest season start and eclipsed only by 1917 with 0.49" and 1929 with 0.51". Fresno has had only 6 years in which at least one inch of rain had not fallen by the end of December. Interior Central California mountain snow packs reflected the much below normal rainfall on the adjacent San Joaquin Valley floor.

CAZ020

02	0500PST				0	0			Fog
	0830PST								

Dense Fog formed along the east side of the Central San Joaquin Valley around dawn with visibilities dropping to less than 1/4 mile from Merced to Fresno.

CAZ020>021

03	0200PST				0	0			Frost
08	0800PST								

The morning of the 3rd in the South San Joaquin Valley had the first "freezing" temperature of this episode with Wasco as the lone reported 32 degree F reading. For this cold episode of the 3rd through the morning of the 8th, the 4th was the coldest with numerous stations in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley below freezing including Arvin at 24F, Wasco, 25F, and Visalia and Merced at 28 degrees F. For citrus crops... no substantial frost damage likely occurred. It was a little milder the mornings of the 5th through the 7th. On the 8th...Coldest citrus locations were in the 26-28 deg F range. Some readings included 26F at Arvin, 27F at Visalia and Wasco, 28F at Lemoore, Hanford, and Madera, and 27F at Riverbend (Duration less than freezing of 7 hours and 1 hour at 27F). The first night likely for agriculture to protect its coldest locations occurred on the 4th and subsequently on the 8th

CAZ024>025

07	1405PST				0	0			Gusty Wind
	2345PST								

Relatively strong gradient wind over Interior Central California brought advisory level winds to broad areas of the Kern County Mountain and Desert areas. While desert wind was generally in the 35 to 41 knot range...Mojave did have very localized high west-northwest wind at 60 gusting to 80Kt at 1426 PST. Edwards AFB reported the peak wind for the day from the west at 34 knots at 1658 PST with China Lake at 43 knots from the west-southwest at 41 knots at 1453 PST. Mojave wind jumped from 10 knots gusting to 40 knots as early as 0847 PST. Mountain wind peaked later in the day at 2252 PST with reports of gusts to 43 knots from the NNW (Sandberg, CA).

CAZ020>024

10	0600PST				0	0			Gusty Wind
	1200PST								

Lemoore NAS ASOS reported a northwest wind gust to 31 Knots at 1055 PST with blustery conditions over much of the remainder of Interior Central California.

CAZ020>021

10	2300PST				0	0			Frost
11	0900PST								

The west side of the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley beneath clear skies went below freezing just below midnight on the 10th and dropped eventually to the upper 20s close to dawn on the 11th. Coalinga dropped to 27 degs F. to verify the freeze warning with several locations at 28F for 3 to 4 hours. Along the east side many stations dipped to 29 to 31F as stratus persisted during the middle of the night before clearing before dawn. Madera dropped to 28F as the coldest location in the eastern zones. Any frost protection measures taken by agricultural were likely effective during this night.



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ020>021

12	0100PST 0800PST				0	0			Frost
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Overnight temperatures were seasonal in regard to the winter months but likely necessitating some protective measures by local citrus agriculture to protect in the colder locations on the morning of December 12th. Overnight low temperatures: Merced 29F, Madera 31F, Coalinga 25F, Fresno 30F, Lemoore 27F, Hanford 29F, Visalia 28F, Porterville 28F, and Bakersfield 31F

CAZ020>021

14	0200PST 0730PST				0	0			Frost
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The Central and north portions of the Southern San Joaquin Valley were rather cool overnight causing local concern to agriculture. Observed low temperatures: Merced 28F, Madera 28F, Fresno 32F, Lemoore 30F, Hanford 30F, Visalia 28F, and Coalinga 28F. The southern portion of the South Valley remained above freezing due to residual cloudiness.

CAZ020>021

15	0030PST 0830PST				0	0			Frost
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Overnight low temperatures likely adversely affected colder locations within the ag area. Observed overnight lows: Merced 29F, Madera 31F, Fresno 32F, Lemoore 27F, Hanford 29F, Visalia 28F, Coalinga 31F, Porterville 27F, Delano 28F, Arvin 33F, and Bakersfield 33F.

CAZ020>021

16 30	0200PST 0800PST				0	0			Frost
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With persistent high pressure and the resulting much drier than normal conditions over Central Interior California, overnight minimum temperatures, with only a couple of mornings as exception, continued near and below freezing for an extended period of time through the remainder of the month of December. While minimum temperatures did drop low enough to cause concern and some protection measures among area citrus growers, only the very coldest grove locations likely needed extensive protection. Overnight minimums during the period for both the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley ranged from the 26 to 36 degree F range. The morning of the 16th was apparently the coldest for the period of the 16th - 30th. Temperature durations up to 9 hours below freezing at the coldest locations were reported and a number of the locations dropping as low as 26 deg F

CAZ020>021

18	0030PST 1000PST				0	0			Fog
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Several areas in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley experienced dense fog this morning with reported visibilities from less than 1/4 mile to zero. Areas impacted included Merced County southward through Kings and Tulare Counties.

CAZ020

19	0500PST 0830PST				0	0			Fog
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Locally dense fog developed with visibilities less than 1/4 mile around Fresno.