



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2000

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

CAZ090

**E Central Sj Valley**

**01 0001PST**  
**29 2359PST**

**0 0**

**Rain**

As indicated in the December 1999 report, Interior Central California had the 3rd driest start of its water year on record based on Fresno records. With the rain from mid-to-late January, rain again returned on February 9th to Central California and remained through the end of February onto March 8th. The amount of rain that occurred in Fresno during the 52-day period from January 15th through March 8th, exceeded the yearly rainfall (10.60") for only the 2nd time in history (having occurred previously in a benchmark water year of 1969). The key to this water-year recovery was the record-setting rainfall for February where Fresno received 6.11" eclipsing the old 28-day February record of 5.97" set in 1962. This unusual recovery from near-drought to normal water-year rain/snow brought sufficient water supplies for the upcoming, typical summer drought.

CAZ091>092-095

**Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley - Kern Cty Mtns**

**03 1130PST**  
**1800PST**

**1 4 100K**

**Wind**

Infrequent gusty wind occurred on this date in Central California. Tehachapi and Frazier Park in the Kern County Mountains reported gusts of 45 knots. Bakersfield had gusts to 36 knots and Lemoore had sustained wind at 21 knots on the South San Joaquin Valley floor. Over 4500 power company customers in the South San Joaquin Valley lost power due to downed trees from Bakersfield to Taft along with several weather-related vehicle accidents ... including one with a fatality due to areas of blowing dust 5 mi SE of Shafter that lowered visibility to near zero at 1220 PST. F73VE

CAZ089>092

**W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**

**08 0737PST**  
**1000PST**

**0 0**

**Fog**

Visibilities dropped to less than 1/4 mile in dense fog with representative reports for surrounding areas at Merced, Madera, Fresno, Visalia, and Hanford.

CAZ095>097

**Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**

**11 2000PST**  
**12 0735PST**

**0 0**

**Winter Storm**

Reported snow amounts as precipitation again spread over Interior Central California (and thereby continued relatively consistent through the end of the month) were: Tuolumne Meadows 11 inches new snow, Lodgepole 14 inches, and Mammoth Mountain 38 inches.

CAZ090

**E Central Sj Valley**

**13 0000PST**  
**2359PST**

**0 0**

**Rain**

The San Joaquin Valley floor received 2/3rds of an inch of rain during the rain episode resulting in its typical flooded streets. Fresno reached 5.59" of water-year rain by the afternoon of the 13th ... 87% of normal for the date...and ended with 1.08" for the 24-hour period. This broke the old rain record for-the-date of 0.80" set in 1936. Fresno's 4-day rainfall total ending on the 13th was 2.08".

CAZ096>097

**S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**

**13 0900PST**  
**14 2359PST**

**0 0**

**Winter Storm**

Tuolumne Meadows had 24 inches of new snow and Mammoth Mountain reported 40 inches additional snow through the 14th.

**Mariposa County**

**Mariposa**

**13 1220PST**  
**14 2200PST**

**0 0**

**Urban/Sml Stream Fld**

Mariposa Sheriff and CALTRANS reports numerous roads in the county closed where crossing creeks are flooding roads. Rainfall and snowfall in the northern portions of Mariposa County reached close to 110% of normal-for-the-date after the dismally dry start of the water-year. In the mountain areas for a 4-day period ending on the 13th Yosemite Valley had 4.72" of rain, Shaver Lake 3.55", and Tehachapi 0.72".



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### CALIFORNIA, South Central

**CAZ095>097**      **Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**  
**16**      **1600PST**      **0**      **0**           **Snow**  
**2100PST**  
 Lodgepole received 11 inches of new snow, and Mammoth Mountain reported 7 inches. Snowfall occurred in the Tehachapi Mountains below pass levels as well.

**Kern County**  
**Lamont**      **16**      **1723PST**      **0**      **0**           **Hail (0.75)**  
**1730PST**  
 The hail covered the ground completely from a thunderstorm southeast of Bakersfield

**CAZ089>092**      **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley**  
**20**      **0945PST**      **0**      **0**      **200K**      **Wind**  
**2100PST**  
 Bakersfield/Meadows Field reported winds sustained at 32 knots and gusting to 43 knots at 1556 PST. California Highway Patrol closed some South San Joaquin Valley roads due to visibilities less than 50 feet in blowing dust. Other locations with gusty wind included; Fresno G35 Kts at 1922L; Merced G31 Kts at 1925L; Madera G31 Kts at 1527L; Hanford G31 Kts at 1854L; and Visalia G35 Kts at 1915L. CALTRANS reported trees down along Highway 198; and subsequent power outages occurred. Over 6000 customers lost power in the Fresno Area along with numerous reports of trees being blown down .. including some commercial fruit trees.

**CAZ096>097**      **S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**  
**20**      **1600PST**      **0**      **0**      **25K**      **Winter Storm**  
**21**      **0945PST**  
 Lodgepole received 8 inches of new snow in 12 hours; Mammoth had 12 inches overnight. In addition, gusty wind caused a loss of power to about 8500 customers in the Southern Sierra Nevada between Mariposa and Madera Counties.

**CAZ095**      **Kern Cty Mtns**  
**20**      **2200PST**      **0**      **0**      **20K**      **Blizzard**  
**21**      **0400PST**

**CAZ099**      **Se Kern Cty Desert**  
**20**      **2200PST**      **0**      **0**      **40K**      **High Wind (G70)**  
**21**      **0400PST**  
 A 70-knot gust of wind as 12:30 AM on the 21st damaged a glider and felled a 3-foot diameter tree at Mountain Valley Airport. Subsequent reports of roof damage from high wind was also received from the California City area in the Kern County Desert. These wind reports were in conjunction with snowfall reported overnight in the Kern County Mountains at and above the 4000 foot elevation. Frazier Park received 5 inches of new snow with 2.19 inches of precipitation total. There were several road closures in and leading out of the Tehachapi Valley due to snow accumulations. Winter Storm type conditons began as early as 5 PM and ended by 945 AM on the 21st.

**Kern County**  
**2 SE Tehachapi**      **21**      **0050PST**      **0**      **0**           **Urban/Sml Stream Fld**  
**1200PST**  
 Local road flooding with debris deposited on the roadway occurred in the Tehachapi Valley along Highline Road.

**CAZ095>097**      **Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**  
**22**      **1600PST**      **0**      **0**           **Winter Storm**  
**24**      **0200PST**

**Kern County**  
**5 E Maricopa**      **23**      **0200PST**      **0**      **0**      **100K**      **Rain**  
**24**      **0200PST**  
 Reports of heavy snow in the high country as noted by the following: Fish Camp 24 inches; Tuolumne Meadows 9"; Lodgepole 13"; Frazier Park 6"; Bear Valley 6"; and, Mammoth Mountain 36". Yosemite Valley received 1.30" of rain from late on the 22nd through just early on the 23rd to start the event. Heavy snow was also reported in the Tehachapi Mountains the afternoon of the 23rd



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### CALIFORNIA, South Central

with snow restricting travel on Interstate-5, especially during the evening of the 23rd, and closing Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road. A high number vehicle accidents occurred on Kern County's San Joaquin Valley roads along with local flooding due to the steady rain during the afternoon of the 23rd. Edward AFB in the Kern Desert received 0.47" of rain; Frazier Park in the mountains got 0.71".

CAZ093>094

**S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills**

22	2130PST				0	0			
23	1200PST								<b>Snow</b>

Snowfall amounts, although relatively, light fell to lower elevations overnight and were general a few inches or less

**Fresno County**

**Fresno**

27	0000PST				0	0			
	2359PST								<b>Rain</b>

**Mariposa County**

**Mariposa**

27	0800PST				0	0			
	2359PST								<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>

Minor flooding and ponding problems were reported with several secondary roads closed to heavy rain (and snow at the higher elevations). Several secondary roads were closed by the Mariposa Sheriff as area streams ran bankfull. Significant precipitation occurred along the Southern Sierra Nevada including the foothill areas from Mariposa through Tulare County. On the San Joaquin Valley floor ..especially around the city of Fresno.. the steady rain continued with 1.87" of rain in a 24-hour period setting a new record for the date by eclipsing the old one of 1.03" in 1904.

CAZ096>097

**S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**

27	0400PST				0	0			
	1600PST								<b>Winter Storm</b>

At Fish Camp 18" of new fell overnight with Mammoth Mountain receiving 24 inches of new snow

CAZ096>097

**S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**

27	0400PST				0	0			
28	0400PST								<b>Winter Storm</b>

CAZ093>094

**S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills**

27	0800PST				0	0			
	2100PST								<b>Snow</b>

Over 2 inches of snow fell at Mariposa (at the 3200-foot level) along with several other foothill locations from Mariposa southward into Tulare County. In the Southern Sierra Nevada Fish Camp had 18 inches of new snow; and Mammoth Mountain had 24".

**Madera County**

**10 SW Madera to  
9 SW Madera**

27	1337PST		1	50	0	0			
	1347PST								<b>Tornado (F0)</b>

Tornado path through rural area over pasture land and fallow crop land. Tornado from a cell on the northern segment of a bowed line of convection. The tornado was a straight-up tube shape on the ground for 10 minutes.

**Fresno County**

**3 WSW Kerman to  
2.9 WSW Kerman**

27	1359PST		0.5	25	0	0	25K		
	1404PST								<b>Tornado (F0)</b>

Numerous almond trees knocked down in a rural area of Fresno County. Eyewitness accounts indicate rotational motion in almond blossom petals, more than 20 fallen trees in the debris field, and the movement of irrigation pipe as indicators. Event reported to the NWS several hours afterwards. Tornado traveled from east and ending heading northeast. This tornado developed on the south end of the line of convection referenced in the Madera County tornado event

**Fresno County**

**5 NNW Caruthers to  
5.4 NNW Caruthers**

27	1410PST		0.5	25	0	0			
	1415PST								<b>Tornado (F0)</b>

Reported 48 hours late by a storm spotter. Another tornado within this event in a rural area of Fresno County (intersection of Parlier



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

and Brawley to Parlier and Valentine). The tornado moved east over open land and fallow row crops. No damage.

#### Madera County

2.2 S Madera to  
2.2 SE Madera

27	1417PST 1427PST				0	4	30K		Hail (0.75)
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Hail from the day's severe weather activity lead to a multiple-car accident on heavily travelled State Highway 99 on the northbound on-ramp from Avenue 12 in Madera County.

#### Fresno County

6 WNW (Fch) Chandler  
5.8 WNW (Fch)  
Chandler Af

27	1453PST 1458PST				0	0			Hail (0.75)
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No damage reported. Large hail occurred in the a rural area that has primarily fallow crop land so minimal number of deciduous crops were exposed to damage.

#### Fresno County

2.2 SSW Calwa to  
2 SSW Calwa

27	1517PST 1520PST	0.2	25		0	0			Tornado (F0)
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The small, short-lived tornado moved over open ground close to a warehouse and ending up close to the Fresno County dump south of Fresno and the small community of Calwa. No damage.

#### Fresno County

7 W Sanger to  
6.8 W Sanger

27	1600PST 1605PST				0	0	50K		Hail (0.75)
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Larger hail damaged strawberry fields west of Sanger. Actual size not reported but presence of damage indicates larger hail present. One other Severe Thunderstorm warning was issued late in the afternoon (at 1610 PST) that was based on a meso-cyclone radar signature in the vicinity of Kingsburg. However, no verification occurred from this storm that was warned for both Fresno and Tulare County.

#### CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

29	0400PST 2000PST				0	0			Snow
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Tuolumne Meadows and Mammoth Mountain both reported an additional 6 inches of new snow.