



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 2001

| Location | Date | Time<br>Local/<br>Standard | Path<br>Length<br>(Miles) | Path<br>Width<br>(Yards) | Number of<br>Persons<br>Killed | Number of<br>Persons<br>Injured | Estimated<br>Damage<br>Property | Estimated<br>Damage<br>Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

**CAZ099**                    **Se Kern Cty Desert**  
**02**                    **1047PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **Wind**  
**1411PST**  
 Gusty wind in the SE Kern County Desert area. Localized high wind with the Mojave area reaching 60 KTS at 1047 PST and gusts to 55 KTS at 1146 PST. Laurel Mountain in the desert reported wind at 42 MPH with gusts to 52 MPH at 1413 PST.

**CAZ089>091**                    **W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley**  
**04**                    **0429PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **31.9M**                    **Freeze**  
**0629PST**  
 A relatively late spring frost, in pockets, did extensive damage to San Joaquin Valley grapes and, to a lesser extent, some other fruits in Merced, Madera, Fresno, and Kings Counties. Temperatures were unofficially reported as low as 27 degrees F. in Madera County. In combination with rain and hail events in the first three weeks in April, the continued cool spell did extensive damage to the numerous crops maturing or being planted. These damage figures assigned to frost could very well have been caused on the morning of the 8th, especially for Merced and Madera County areas. Specifically assigned damage figures by county: Fresno \$14.0M, Kings \$1.1M, Madera \$16.4M, and Merced \$0.4M.

**CAZ096>097**                    **S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns**  
**06**                    **1400PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **Winter Storm**  
**07**                    **2200PST**

**CAZ095**                    **Kern Cty Mtns**  
**06**                    **2200PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **Winter Weather**  
**07**                    **1500PST**  
 Winter storm verification occurred for the Southern Sierra Nevada from the Kern County line northward through Yosemite National Park with heavy snow reported: Fish Camp 12" by 07/0551 PST; Hume Lake 20" by 07/1600 PST; Lodgepole 23" by 07/0600 PST. The Kern County Mountains had lighter snow amounts but gusty wind: Greenhorn Summit/Alta Sierra 11.5" by 07/0653 PST; Tehachapi 1.5"; and Jawbone Canyon Remote Automatic Weather Station gusting to 55 MPH.

**CAZ095-098>099**                    **Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**  
**07**                    **0700PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **Wind**  
**2200PST**  
 Gusty wind conditions occurred through the Kern Mountains and Desert regions on the 7th of the month: Indian Wells Canyon had wind gusts to 67 MPH at 1413 PST; Laurel Mountain gusts to 48 MPH at 0700 PST; Edwards AFB Wind Tower gusts to 47 MPH at 1800 PST; and, Jawbone Canyon gusts to 55 MPH.

**Merced County**  
**5 SE Merced to**                    **07**                    **1621PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **220K**                    **Hail (0.75)**  
**7 SE Merced**                    **1630PST**

**Fresno County**  
**Fresno**                    **07**                    **1855PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **10.4M**                    **Hail (0.75)**  
**1900PST**

**Madera County**  
**16 NW Madera to**                    **07**                    **1910PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **7.8M**                    **Tstm Wind/Hail**  
**10 SE Madera**                    **1940PST**

**Kings County**  
**15 W Hanford to**                    **07**                    **1940PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **3.8M**                    **Tstm Wind/Hail**  
**10 E Hanford**                    **2030PST**

**Tulare County**  
**Traver to**                    **07**                    **2015PST**                    **0**                    **0**                    **19M**                    **Tstm Wind/Hail**  
**Orosi**                    **2040PST**

Heavy rain and hail (often less than 3/4-inch) accompanying widespread convective activity through Interior Central California late in the afternoon and early evening of Saturday, April 7th, caused extensive damage to agriculture. Although isolated severe hail swaths occurred and some were defined as technically non-severe, widespread heavy rain in conjunction with the hail damaged young fruit, grape, grain, and early planted cotton crops in several counties. The crop damage figures should be considered



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### CALIFORNIA, South Central

approximate because they are in conjunction and need to be summed with the crop damage figures reported for the April 4th freeze and frost event through much of the same area.

#### Fresno County

|        |    |                    |     |    |   |   |      |  |              |
|--------|----|--------------------|-----|----|---|---|------|--|--------------|
| Clovis | 07 | 1958PST<br>2003PST | 0.3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 150K |  | Tornado (F0) |
|--------|----|--------------------|-----|----|---|---|------|--|--------------|

Post storm analysis and evaluation yielded a 0.3 mile swath for a small F0 tornado through an older, residential neighborhood of Clovis, CA, 2 miles northeast of the Fresno Air Terminal. No injuries were reported with damage essentially limited to uprooted trees, roof, small structure, and fence damage. Confirmation was determined by damage evidence and eyewitness reports. Interesting Note: One of the uprooted trees was a replacement from its predecessor damaged from the 1980 Fresno Air Terminal tornado!

#### CAZ095

|                      |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |              |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Kern Cty Mtns</b> |    |                    |  |  |   |   |  |  |              |
|                      | 09 | 1600PST<br>1800PST |  |  | 1 | 0 |  |  | Thunderstorm |

Cold frontal passage and spring thunderstorms through Interior Central California during the afternoon hours resulted in low snow levels in shower activity. In the Kern Mountains, snow clogged Interstate-5 with 1-inch of snow caused a traffic death near Lebec.

F34VE

#### CAZ090

|                            |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |            |
|----------------------------|----|---------|--|--|---|---|--|--|------------|
| <b>E Central Sj Valley</b> |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |            |
|                            | 12 | 1200PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Dust Storm |
|                            | 13 | 1800PST |  |  |   |   |  |  |            |

A dust storm that started in Mongolia and picked up industrial pollution from China spread haze across the west quarter of the United States, including the Interior Central California CWFA. Despite cloudless skies, the high level haze provided an unusual appearance to the sky.

#### CAZ093>094-096>097

|  |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |              |
|--|----|---------|--|--|---|---|--|--|--------------|
| <b>S Sierra Foothills - Tulare Cty Foothills - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns</b> |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |              |
|  | 20 | 1500PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Winter Storm |
|  | 21 | 0300PST |  |  |   |   |  |  |              |

#### CAZ095

|                      |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |                |
|----------------------|----|---------|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------------|
| <b>Kern Cty Mtns</b> |    |         |  |  |   |   |  |  |                |
|                      | 20 | 2200PST |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | Winter Weather |
|                      | 21 | 0300PST |  |  |   |   |  |  |                |

A late season major snow storm swept over the mountain areas of Interior Central California. Snow amounts reported at elevations less than 4000 feet MSL: 6" at North Fork; 4" at Oakhurst; 6" near Coarsegold; and 4-6" by Sequoia Park at elevations at 3000 feet MSL. In the Kern Mountains above 4000 feet MSL: Tehachapi and Bear Valley 4"; Frazier Park 3"; and light snow accumulations on Interstate-5 over the Grapevine and Highway 58 through Tehachapi Pass. Accompanying winds gusted to 54 MPH through Jawbone Canyon in the Kern Mountains. In the higher elevations, snow amounts reported: Fish Camp 12"; Yosemite 16" at 6000 feet MSL (trees downed from heavy snow and wind); Hockett Meadow at 8200 feet MSL and Lodgepole 20"; Grant Grove 12"; and Mountain Home at 5400 feet MSL 13".

#### Madera County

|                 |    |                    |  |  |   |   |      |  |            |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------|--|------------|
| 3 SW Chowchilla | 20 | 1830PST<br>1900PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 3.3M |  | Small Hail |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------|--|------------|

Small hail southwest of Chowchilla caused more than \$3.25M in damage to 600 acres of apples and 40 acres of cherries.

#### Fresno County

|            |    |                    |  |  |   |   |      |  |                         |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------|--|-------------------------|
| 6 N Fresno | 20 | 1955PST<br>2000PST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 350K |  | Thunderstorm Wind (G50) |
|------------|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|------|--|-------------------------|

Storm analysis and survey concluded that two straight line wind events occurred within a few minutes of each other in and around the California State University Campus in North Fresno. An initial gust from the southwest was followed closely by another from the west-northwest. Large trees and roof damage was noted in clearly distinct damage areas. Some evidence existed for rotation by debris but the likely culprit was some gustnado action on the leading edge of the outflows. Convection was noted on radar immediately to the south and west at the time of the event but note overhead. The largest damage track was close to 0.75 miles and up to 1/8 mile wide.



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|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
|          |      |                            |                           |                          | Killed               | Injured | Property            | Crops |                    |

### CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ095-098>099

**Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert**

|    |                    |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |             |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| 21 | 0600PST<br>1700PST |  |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | <b>Wind</b> |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|

Gusty wind through the Kern County Mountains and Desert on the 21st of the month: Jawbone Canyon had gusts to 58 MPH at 1100 PST; Indian Wells Canyon 58 MPH at 0715 PST; and Mojave Fire Station reported wind at 40 to 60 MPH through the morning hours.

**Kings County**

10 S Kettleman City to  
20 S Kettleman City

|    |                    |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |                     |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------|
| 26 | 1605PST<br>1635PST |  |  |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | <b>Thunderstorm</b> |
|----|--------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------|

A thunderstorm with impressive radar signatures of 63 dbz reflectivity and a VIL of 55 were observed in a remote corner of Kings and ultimately Kern Counties of Central California. No reports of damage were received from the lone tower thunderstorm during the late afternoon of the 26th.