



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 2003

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

Kern County

13 SW Lake Isabella	01 04	0000PST 1700PST			0	0			Wildfire
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The China Fire started in July and was contained late in the day on August 4th...see July Stormdata

Tulare County

15 NE Camp Nelson	01 27	0000PST 1600PST			0	0			Wildfire
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The Cooney Fire was ignited by lightning late in the afternoon of the 31st of July and eventually managed as a resource burn. Designated a resource burn by August 27th, it was reported to have burned 1928 acres. There were no injuries with this fire and costs were unknown. The Cooney Fire was one of 17 fires started by lightning between July 28th and August 1st in the Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.

Mariposa County

25 N Yosemite Vlg	01 31	0000PST 2359PST			0	0	20K		Wildfire
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The Kibbee Complex Fire was lightning started on July 20th approximately 18 miles northeast of Miwok Village in the NW corner of Yosemite National Park. The fire eventually was managed as a resource burn as it continued into the month of August. No injuries occurred and the cost of this fire was still assessed at \$20K at the end of August. The total acreage of this fire was 651 acres at the end of the month.

Tulare County

14 E Wilsonia	01 31	0000PST 1700PST			0	0	22K		Wildfire
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The Williams Fire was lightning started in the wee hours of the morning of July 28th and burned through the month of August as a managed resource fire. No injuries were reported but the fire cost was assessed at \$22K. The fire burned 827 acres by the end of August.

Mariposa County

2 N Yosemite Vlg	01 31	0000PST 2359PST			0	0			Wildfire
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The Duncan Complex continued to burn through the month as a resource burn within Yosemite National Park

Kern County

4 WSW Tehachapi	01	1509PST 2000PST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Excessive rainfall resulted in early flooding in the Kern County Mountains and valleys in the vicinity of Tehachapi. Spotters reported 1.24 inches of rain in 2 hours ending by 1600 PST along Indian Creek north of Tehachapi. Stud Horse Canyon had 0.96 inches in the hour ending at 1600 PST. Flooding was reported in Brite Valley at Highway 202 and Banducci Road due to mountain runoff.

Kern County

4.5 NE Loraine to 4.5 NNE Loraine	01	1807PST 2000PST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Kern County

9 WSW Tehachapi	01	1807PST 2000PST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Excessive rainfall rates of over 1 inch per hour from late summer monsoon thunderstorm activity led to flooding events at several locations in the mountains of Kern County. Moist antecedent conditions existed as thunderstorms with estimated rainfall amounts of 3-6 inches had tracked over the area the previous evening (the 31st of July).

Tulare County

Mineral King	02	1710PST 1800PST			0	0			Flash Flood
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Very strong thunderstorms as indicated by radar in the Tulare County Mountains in Kings Canyon National Park near Grant Grove estimated rainfall rates of 3-4 inches per hour in an area from near Lake Wishon south to near Lodgepole from 1506-1545 PST. Mineral King Road flooded in Mineral King from heavy rain.

Kern County

**8 S Ridgecrest to
7 SW Ridgecrest**

20	1727PST 1737PST				0	0			Funnel Cloud
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A trained spotter noted the wall cloud development on a monsoonal thunderstorm in the Kern Desert and subsequently observed the development and dissipation of the funnel south of Ridgecrest

Kern County

17 SSE Lake Isabella

20	1730PST 1900PST				0	0			Flash Flood
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Kern County

Kernvale

20	1740PST 1900PST				0	0			Flash Flood
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Kern County

6 ENE Lake Isabella

20	1745PST 1900PST				0	0			Flash Flood
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Water from nearby washes and small, normally dry creeks ran through the town of Lake Isabella late in the afternoon of the 20th. Rainfall rates of 1 inch in 15 minutes was reported by the Kern Fire Department with radar estimates of 1 to 3 inches per hour in the mountains to the east and south. Additional flooding was reported from Erskine and Bodfish Creeks just southwest of Lake Isabella and also just east of the Walker Basin/Piute Kern County Fire Station. Trees and power poles were carried over Highway 178 in the water flow off nearby mountains ENE of Lake Isabella. Some of the heavier rain amounts reported for the 20th: 1.78" at Piute KCFD in the Kern Mountains; 1.24" at Blackrock RAWs in the S.Sierra Nevada Mountains; and 1.24" at Laural Mountain in the Kern Desert.

Tulare County

2.5 SW Porterville

20	2013PST				0	0	40K		Lightning
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Tulare County

Lindsay

20	2020PST 2035PST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Tulare County

.5 N Porterville

20	2056PST				0	0	1K		Lightning
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Tulare County

.5 W Porterville

20	2127PST				0	0	1K		Lightning
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High wind from a thunderstorm led to power transmission line damage, subsequent power outage, and reports from spotters of visibility restrictions from blowing dust in the Lindsay area on the 20th due to a collapsing thunderstorm cell. A lightning strike ignited a stack of 800 bales of hay southwest of Porterville as well as two other locations within the city limits of Porterville

Tulare County

10 ESE Mineral King

21 31	1300PST 2359PST				0	0	2K		Wildfire
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The West Kern Fire was lightning-ignited during the afternoon of the 21st. It reached a size of 120 acres by the end of the month but it was managed as a resource burn. There were no injuries as the result of this fire.

Fresno County

Reedley

21	1905PST				0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG40)
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Two instances of broken tree limbs in Reedley in the Central San Joaquin Valley along the Sierra foothills resulted in power outages from damaged power lines. Over 2200 Reedley residents were without power on the evening of the 21st due to continued thunderstorm activity over the east Valley floor.



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					Killed	Injured	Property Crops

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Kern County

Lake Isabella	24	1654PST 1854PST			0	0	Heavy Rain
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Tulare County

Johnsondale	24	1654PST 1854PST			0	0	Heavy Rain
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Slow moving thunderstorms dropped locally heavy rainfall with amounts over one inch near Lake Isabella in Kern County as well as Johnsondale in Tulare County resulting in local nuisance flooding near Johnsondale

Kern County

20 E Lake Isabella	25	1530PST 1654PST			0	0	Heavy Rain
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CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

25		1600PST 1800PST			0	0	Flood
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With continued monsoonal influences over the Kern Deserts and Mountains, rain amounts during the month of August were often relatively heavy. Several instances of concern for local flooding from small streams in the mountains and deserts occurred, including radar reports of heavy rain on the 25th. Sequoia National Forest reported road closures at Johnsondale, and Sherman Pass Road on the Kern Plateau in the Southern Sierra Nevada. Rain amounts at reporting stations from late on the 25th into the 26th: 1.68" at Cottonwood Creek in the S.Sierra Nevada Mountains northeast of Fresno; 1.48" at Lost Hills on the San Joaquin Valley Floor WNW of Bakersfield; and 1.30" at Agnew Pass north of Fresno in the mountains.

Mariposa County

Countywide	26	0030PST 0530PST			0	0	Lightning
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Merced County

Countywide	26	0100PST 0530PST			0	0	Lightning
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Madera County

Countywide	26	0130PST 0530PST			0	0	Lightning
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Fresno County

Countywide	26	0430PST 0630PST			0	0	Lightning
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Kern County

Countywide	26	0430PST 0730PST			0	0	Lightning
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Another surge of monsoonal moisture from the remnants of Hurricane Ignacio brought thunderstorm activity to the deserts and higher terrain of Interior Central California. With east to southeast wind flow aloft, thunderstorms developed and moved over the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley early on the morning of the 26th. Many lightning strikes again occurred. Infrequently occurring, the Central San Joaquin Valley began taking lightning strikes by 0200 PST and continuing heavily from Mariposa County south through Madera County and west to Merced County through 0430 PST. Additional lightning activity began in earnest on the west side of Fresno County at 0430 PST with a pocket of lightning activity in the Bakersfield Metropolitan area near dawn. Over 300 lightning strikes occurred in the 6-county area of Interior Central California from 0400 to 0500 PST alone. Merced County fire crews responded to over 14 lightning-caused fires on the Valley floor and resulted in loss of power to over 3500 customers in the Merced/Atwater area.

Mariposa County

Catheys Vly	26 27	0700PST 1500PST			0	0	Wildfire
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The Mariposa Lightning Series of fires were battled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection starting on the 26th



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

and contained by the afternoon of the 27th. There were three notable locations in this series: a fire of 77 acres was located in Catheys Valley; another of 640 acres at the Mariposa-Madera County line 13 miles SSW of Catheys Valley; and yet another of 100 acres at Road 200 and Fine Gold Creek Bridge. The cost to fight this series of fires was not reported but no fatalities occurred as the result.