



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



July 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

3 N Lebec

01 0000PST 0 0 Wildfire  
1700PST

The Tejon Fire burned 1155 acres in the Tehachapi Mountains of Kern County. See the month of June for further details.

#### CAZ089>092

W Central S.J. Valley - E Central S.J. Valley - Sw S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley  
01 1500PST 0 0 2K Excessive Heat  
30 0600PST

A consistently hot July was noted in Interior Central California denoted by the average high temperature of 101F at Fresno CA. During the month in the Central San Joaquin Valley, Fresno recorded 22 days of 100F or above which ties the 3rd highest number set in 1891. Similar conditions were noted at Bakersfield in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, adjacent foothill locations, and in the Kern Deserts. Furthermore, a relatively consistent wind flow aloft from the southeast brought monsoonal moisture over the area several times during the month providing for high minimum temperatures and several records due to the above normal amount of moist air over the area. Bakersfield in the South Valley tied its overall high minimum temperature with an 86F on the 29th. Several daily rainfall records were set even though amounts may not have been high (the area is not known for having rainfall in the July time period). There were unquantifiable losses to various grape crops on the East Side of the San Joaquin Valley, especially the Flame variety, due to the extended period of time with high heat.

#### Mariposa County

16 NW Mariposa

03 1019PST 0 0 810K Wildfire  
04 1700PST

The Hunter Fire was fought by the California Division of Forestry and consumed 562 acres. The cause of the fire was unknown but no fatalities occurred nor were any structures lost.

#### Kern County

8 N Lebec

07 1400PST 0 0 Wildfire  
08 1700PST

The Pump Fire was fought by Kern County Fire Department and burned 747 acres. Its cost and cause is unknown but no fatalities occurred nor were any structures lost.

#### Kern County

2 NE Lake Isabella

08 0518PST 0 0 Wildfire  
1700PST

The Point Fire was fought by Sequoia National Forest and burned 180 acres. The cause and cost is unknown but no structures or lives were lost.

#### Tulare County

4 W Springville

08 1213PST 0 0 Wildfire  
1437PST

The Frazier Fire was fought by California Division of Forestry and burned 750 acres. Its cause and cost is unknown but no structures were lost nor did any fatalities occur.

#### Madera County

6 S Oakhurst

08 1317PST 0 0 680K Wildfire  
10 1700PST

The North Fork Fire was fought by California Division of Forestry and burned 360 acres. The cause was human but no fatalities or structures were lost.

#### Mariposa County

El Portal

08 1455PST 0 0 1.3M Wildfire  
11 0500PST

The Woodlot Fire inside Yosemite National Park burned 458 acres. The cause is unknown but no structures or fatalities occurred.

#### Kern County

3 NW Tehachapi

15 1329PST 0 0 Wildfire  
16 1700PST

The Hillside Fire along Highway 58 and fought by Kern County Fire Department burned 1830 acres. Its cost and cause are unknown.



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### CALIFORNIA, South Central

but there were no structures or lives lost.

#### CAZ098

##### Indian Wells Vly

16	1400PST	1500PST			0	0	10K		<b>Strong Wind (EG35)</b>
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Thunderstorm gusts caused blowing dust, knocked down power lines, and caused a small structure fire in East Ridgecrest in the Indian Wells Valley of the Kern Desert on the 16th

#### Mariposa County

##### 2 N Yosemite Vlg

19	1600PST	2359PST			0	0			<b>Wildfire</b>
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The Duncan Complex fire was one of a number of lightning initiated fires that was allowed to continue as a resource management fire through the end of the month within Yosemite National Park

#### Kern County

##### 4 S Mettler

20	1122PST	0546PST			0	0			<b>Wildfire</b>
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The Grapevine Fire fought by Kern County Fire Department burned 1830 acres. The cause and cost are unknown but no structures or lives were lost.

#### Mariposa County

##### 25 N Yosemite Vlg

20	1600PST	2359PST			0	0			<b>Wildfire</b>
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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 assessed at \$20,000.

#### Kern County

##### 4 NW Tehachapi

21	1340PST	1623PST			0	0			<b>Wildfire</b>
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The Mercury Fire was fought by the Kern County Fire Department and it burned 300 acres. Its cause was human and no costs are known. There were no structures or lives lost in the fire.

#### Kern County

##### 5 SE Havilah

23	1710PST	1700PST			0	0	2.6M		<b>Wildfire</b>
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The Basin Fire was fought by Sequoia National Forest and burned 1002 acres. Its cause was unknown but there were no fatalities. One primary structure was lost in the fire.

#### Tulare County

##### 8.5 SW Mineral King

25	0800PST	1400PST			0	0			<b>Lightning</b>
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The Coffeepot Fire was one of five lightning fires in the Tulare County area from thunderstorm activity in the past two weeks in the Tulare County Mountains. The Coffeepot fire damage or cause is not known with no lives or structures reported lost

#### Tulare County

##### 14 E Wilsonia

28	0000PST	2359PST			0	0			<b>Wildfire</b>
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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.

#### Kern County

##### 13 SW Lake Isabella

30	0037PST	2359PST			0	0	650K		<b>Wildfire</b>
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The China Fire within Sequoia National Forest burned approximately 819 acres in the Kern River Canyon southwest of Lake Isabella. The fire was lightning caused but no structures or lives were lost. The fire was 85% contained at the end of July having burned 509 acres at that time. This fire was the largest of approximately fourteen forest and grass fires started due to lightning around this time period around this area of Kern County.



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### CALIFORNIA, South Central

#### Kern County

<b>10 E (Bfi) Meadows Field Taft</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0200PST 0530PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Lightning</b>
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Monsoonal moisture advected northwest around high pressure persistently centered over the Southwest U.S. supported nocturnal thunderstorm activity the night of the 29th and early the morning of the 30th. Many lightning strikes occurred on the South San Joaquin Valley floor beginning around 2 AM PDT just east of Bakersfield. As the thunderstorms moved westward over the South Valley a peak in lightning activity occurred by 4 AM in the Southwest Bakersfield Metropolitan area itself ... and subsequently moved westward toward Taft by 6 AM.

#### Kern County

<b>Taft to Mc Kittrick</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0245PST 0700PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50K</b>		<b>Lightning</b>
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Numerous power pole and grass fires were touched off by lightning strikes in the Southwest San Joaquin Valley from Taft northward to Fellows during the wee hours of the morning of the 30th. Over 8000 utility customers lost power during the thunderstorm/lightning episode in the Kern County area, including 4000 customers on the West Side of the South Valley

#### Kern County

<b>2 WSW (Bfi) Meadows Field</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0329PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75K</b>		<b>Lightning</b>
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A lightning strike on a house in Northwest Bakersfield caused damage from fire. There were numerous lightning strikes in Kern County during the early morning hours of the 30th, including tens of strikes in the Bakersfield Metropolitan area

#### Kern County

<b>Delano</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1000PST 1015PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Lightning</b>
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#### Tulare County

<b>9 SSE Earlimart to Blanco</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1000PST 1145PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Lightning</b>
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#### Kings County

<b>Corcoran</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1145PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Lightning</b>
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A west-to-east line of convection developed over the Kings-Tulare-Kern County line through the Southern San Joaquin Valley by 11 AM PDT on the 30th. Monsoonal moisture aloft from the east in combination with high surface heating brought lightning over the southwest portion of Tulare County in and around Delano. Over the next couple of hours the line slowly translated north with a center of lightning activity ending at Corcoran in Kings County around 1 PM PDT

#### Kern County

<b>Edwards</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1345PST 1400PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25K</b>		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (MG68)</b>
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Downburst wind struck Edwards AFB and caused damage to NASA facilities. This downburst raised dust to 1000 feet A.G.L. with visibilities down to only 650 feet as far as 15 miles away at California City. Damage was reported on the air base: windows broken, trees downed, and a couple of large aircraft moved.

#### Kern County

<b>1.5 SW Tehachapi</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1730PST 2000PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5K</b>		<b>Flash Flood</b>
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Highline Road southwest of Tehachapi in the Kern County Mountains was closed due to flooding over the roadway in the late afternoon/early evening of the 31st.

#### Tulare County

<b>15 NE Camp Nelson</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1800PST 2359PST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Wildfire</b>
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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 by late in August. There were no injuries with this fire and costs were unknown.