



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 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

Madera County

Madera	01 15	0000PST 2000PST			0	0	7.8M		Heavy Rain
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As reported in the April 2003 time period, abnormally cool and wet weather persisted well into the Spring in the Central San Joaquin Valley. In addition to the damage reported to various crops in the Central San Joaquin Valley, the Madera County Ag Commissioner also reported that the wheat crop in the county was afflicted with striped rust due to the inclement weather due to the cool, wet April and into mid-May.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns	02 03	0830PST 1930PST			0	0			Winter Storm
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The last major winter storm of the season brought over 15 to 25 inches of snow to the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare County Mountains at the first of the month.

Kern County

Oildale	03	1220PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

2.5 S Atwater to 2.5 SE Atwater	03	1630PST 1645PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

3.2 SE Merced	03	1635PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

Livingston	03	1739PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

1 S Le Grand	03	1814PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Convective activity spawned widespread funnel cloud activity across the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. No confirmation could be made of tornado activity despite rumors of damage to an oat field from the funnel in the Atwater area of Merced County. However, 1.26" of rain occurred in one hour along with a wet microburst as reported by trained spotters around that time period.

Tulare County

Porterville	03	1515PST 1730PST			0	0	2K		Heavy Rain
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One of many thunderstorms on this day throughout the Central and South San Joaquin Valley resulted in an estimated rainfall rate of 2"/hour near Porterville in the SE San Joaquin Valley. Spotters and police reported street flooding from the downpour with two homes damaged due to the excessive water.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns	08	0230PST 2000PST			0	0			Heavy Snow
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The last snow event of this cool season occurred on the 8th as 10" of new snow fell at higher elevations in the Southern Sierra Nevada.

CAZ098>099

Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	08	0911PST 1630PST			0	0	2K		Strong Wind
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Gusty wind occurred in the SE Kern County Deserts for much of the daylight hours with gusts as high as 55 MPH in several locations from Mojave up northward to Ridgecrest, including Edwards AFB.

Tulare County

1.5 S Goshen	14	1245PST			0	0			Lightning
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Tulare County

1 SE Visalia Arpt	14	1245PST			0	0	3K		Lightning
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Tulare County

9.5 W Tipton	14	1405PST			0	0			Lightning
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Lightning, strong wind, and pea-sized hail accompanied convective activity that spread over the South-Central part of the San Joaquin Valley in the afternoon of the 14th. Newspaper reports noted several lightning strikes in and around the city of Visalia

Kings County

4.5 ENE (Nlc)Nas Lemoo	14	1448PST 1452PST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
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CAZ091

Sw S.J. Valley	14	1541PST 2000PST			0	0	150K		Strong Wind
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A thunderstorm outflow 6.5 miles NW of the town of Lemoore and ENE of NAS Lemoore swept southward on the afternoon of the 14th. Damage occurred to fences, dairy barns, and small structures. Eyewitnesses also reported the presence of a gustnado along the outflow that focused damage along the vortex's 15-yard wide, 3/8 mile path length. Gusty wind contributed to downed power lines setting off about 4 minor fires around the southwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. Damage was primarily to agricultural commodities destroyed by the wind-caused fires.

CAZ090-092-095-098>099 E Central S.J. Valley - Se S.J. Valley - Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

	28	1400PST 1900PST			0	0			Excessive Heat
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Unusually early heat brought record high temperatures to the Kern County Mountains and Deserts on the 28th. Temperatures climbed to 109F at China Lake on the desert floor and even reached 96F at Tehachapi at the 4000 foot level in the Kern County Mountains. On the San Joaquin Valley floor Fresno climbed to 105F and Bakersfield to 106F.