



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



October 2004

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

Merced County

5 E Merced to 9 SE Merced	17	1301PST 1310PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Spotter reports indicated a funnel cloud east to southeast of Merced during the early afternoon of the 17th

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns	17	1345PST			0	0			Winter Storm
	18	1100PST							

CAZ097

Tulare Cty Mtns	17	1345PST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
	18	1100PST							

A significant early snowfall occurred in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains of Central California in mid-October. Precipitation amounts included 16 inches of new snow at Agnew Pass; 14" at Upper Burnt Corral; 13" at Green Mountain; 11" at Blackcap Basin; and, 7" at Farewell Gap (Tulare County Mountains).

Fresno County

(Fat) Air Terminal	19	0457PST 1711PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns	19	1624PST			2	0			Winter Storm
	20	1500PST							

F400U, M400U

CAZ095

Kern Cty Mtns	19	2244PST 2300PST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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Following the early-season Winter Storm that began on the 17th, extensively more snow fell on the 19th and 20th in the higher elevations of Central California. High winds accompanied this system throughout much of the state. This early winter storm caught numerous climbers and hikers throughout the Southern Sierra Nevada in the open. Two climbers in Yosemite National Park froze to death as they were climbing the El Capitan Face. Snow amounts for the period from the 19th through 21st in the South Sierra Nevada included 45" at Blackcap Basin; 40" at Gin Flat; 39" at Chilkroot Meadow, Tamarack Meadow, and Agnew Pass; and, 38" at Mitchell Pass and West Woodchuck Meadow. In the Tulare County Mountains 25" of snow was reported at Big Meadows with 22" at Farewell Gap. Accompanying the winter storm in the Southern Sierra Nevada were gusty wind throughout Interior Central California. In the Kern Mountains south winds were sustained at 15 MPH but had gusts to 50 MPH at the Bear Valley RAWS site west of Tehachapi, CA. On the Central San Joaquin Valley floor Fresno recorded a daily rain total of 0.75" shattering the old record of 0.21" on the date set in 1936.

CAZ089>091-093

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - S Sierra Foothills	19	1031PST 2000PST			0	0	4K		Strong Wind (MG41)
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CAZ098

Indian Wells Vly	19	1413PST 1500PST			0	0			High Wind (MG51)
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With the mid-month series of winter storms were relatively strong pre-frontal wind conditions in areas of Interior Central California. On the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley Floor southeast wind reports included 47 MPH at Los Banos RAWS; 41 MPH at San Luis Reservoir; 36 KTS at Merced; 31 KTS at Madera; and 36 MPH at Kettleman Hills. In the Sierra Foothills, Catheys Valley had gusts up to 46 MPH. In the Kern County Deserts, the Indian Wells Canyon RAWS had gusts reach 59 MPH from the south in the afternoon of the 19th.

Tulare County

5 SE Dinuba	20	1305PST 1310PST	0.5	15	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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A rope shaped tornado was relatively stationary even as the parent cell moved northeast. The tornado was short-lived as reported by



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

a spotter and did not have an extensive ground track. No damage was seen in the rural area at the time nor noted by a subsequent NWS survey.

Fresno County

2.7 E Reedley	20	1340PST 1343PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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This funnel was reported looking south toward the location of the "Dinuba Tornado" but was on a line behind the convection line that supported the tornado and 30 minutes later.

Kern County

5 WNW Bakersfield to 5 N Arvin	20	1349PST 1406PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Several spotter reports seem to indicate a funnel cloud passed over Bakersfield from the WNW early in the afternoon of the 20th.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley	25	0530PST 0900PST			0	0			Dense Fog
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After significant rain events at mid-month sufficient moisture on the Central and South San Joaquin Valley floor led to dense fog formation near sunrise on the morning of the 25th.

Fresno County

(Fat) Air Terminal	26	0827PST 1737PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Kern County

(Bfl) Meadows Field Ap	26	1122PST 1900PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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CAZ092-095

Se Sj Valley - Kern Cty Mtns	26	1532PST			0	0	10K		Flood
	27	0241PST							

Associated with the heavy snows at higher elevations, locally heavy rain in the San Joaquin Valley portion of Tulare County and the lower elevations of the Kern County Mountains brought localized flooding to those areas. Kern County Mountain rainfall amounts included 1.33" rain at Granite Station; 1.20" at Glennville; and, 1.20" of rain and 2" of snow at Frazier Park. Other rain totals in the area included Visalia 0.85", Lemoore 1.30", and Rosamond 0.96"(Kern County Desert). This month ended with several records reflecting the relatively early start of the cold season. For Bakersfield...a new record for rainfall was set on the 26th when 0.96" of rain fell shattering the old record of 0.37" for the date set in 1982. For Fresno...a new record rainfall on the 26th occurred with 1.05" eclipsing the previous daily record of 0.77" set in 1991. October 2004 ended up being the 4th wettest on record for Fresno and Bakersfield on the San Joaquin Valley Floor with 2.45" and 1.54", respectively.

CAZ095>097

Kern Cty Mtns - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns	26	1000PST			0	0			Winter Storm
	27	0235PST							

The last part of the month again had a significant enough frontal passage to bring winter storms to the higher elevations of Interior Central California. Snow amounts included 29 inches at Kibby Ridge and Tunnel Guard Station; 24" at Mammoth Mountain; 23" at Upper Burnt Corral; and 18" at Farewell Gap in the Southern Sierra. In the Kern Mountains 8" of new snow fell at Alpine Forest