



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2005

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

CAZ096>097	S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns				0	0			Winter Storm
	01	1400PST							
	02	0600PST							

Kern County

2 NW Bakersfield	02	0000PST 1200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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While a couple of storm systems had brought a few inches of snow to the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada earlier in the cool season for Interior Central California, the first winter storm for the high elevations came on the 1st of December. Overnight new snow totals included 55" at Kaiser Point, 30" at Tuolumne Meadows, and 26" at Charlotte Lake. In the Tulare County Mountains, 24" of new snow fell at Crabtree Meadows. Precipitation totals included 2.51" at Mariposa, 3.61" at Yosemite, 4.56" at Bass Lake, 5.16" at Kaiser Point and Chilcoat Meadow, and Wishon Dam 5.26". The higher snow totals were the result of strong orographic influence in the southwest wind flow aloft. While the Central San Joaquin Valley had only minor amounts of rainfall of less than 0.10" in the frontal passage, the Southern San Joaquin Valley locally accumulated substantial amounts: Lemoore 0.30" and a spotter in Bakersfield reported 0.60" before the rain ceased.

CAZ098	Indian Wells Vly				0	0	5K		Strong Wind (MG76)
	01	2320PST							
	02	0500PST							

Strong westerly wind in a mountain wave caused damage in the vicinity of Inyokern during the very early morning hours of the 2nd. Wind speeds of 87 MPH and 77 MPH were reported at two different sites between 2320 Hours PST and 0110 Hours PST, respectively. Damage was reported at sites about 8 miles north of Inyokern Airport from the localized high wind

CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley				0	0			Frost/Freeze
	04	0200PST							
	07	0800PST							

Temperatures dropped into the mid 20s to around 30 degrees for the mornings of the 4th through the 7th. While the lowest minimum temperatures (in the mid 20s F.) occurred along the axis of the San Joaquin Valley, temperatures in the agricultural citrus belt were generally around 30F for the period. The coldest morning of the string was the 5th when temperatures generally ranged from 24F to 30F in rural areas in the valley. Local citrus growers were able to provide some protection from the early season cold...but protection was especially necessary at their colder grove locations.

CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley				0	0			Dense Fog
	08	2300PST							
	15	1000PST							

Weak or flat pressure gradients across Central California for the period from the very early morning of the 9th through the morning of the 15th provided conditions for the first seasonal long-lived episode of late night and early morning dense fog for much of the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. While some high clouds due to the proximity of low pressure off the Southern California Coast kept the fog from becoming its most dense, cleared skies by the evening of the 12th provided for widespread dense fog for all of the Central and South San Joaquin Valley during the evening of the 12th through the morning hours on the 13th. Residual moisture maintained the occurrence of late night and early morning fog for the mornings of the 14th and 15th. The dense fog was a contributing factor to a double fatal plane crash in the vicinity of Visalia, Tulare County, late in the night of the 10th. Numerous motor vehicle accidents had the dense fog as a contributing factor from Merced County south through the San Joaquin Valley to Kern County on the morning of the 10th, including a fatality near Riverdale in Southern Fresno County

CAZ096	S Sierra Mtns				0	0			Winter Storm
	18	0400PST							



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ097	20	0000PST	Tulare Cty Mtns		0	0			Heavy Snow
	18	0600PST							
	20	0000PST							
<p>A winter storm affected the higher elevations of the northern portion of the Southern Sierra Nevada where 27 to 50 inches of new snow fell on the 18th and 19th. In the Tulare County portion of the range 17 to 28 inches of snow fell at the higher elevations. Rainfall totals on the adjacent Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley floor ranged from 0.68" at Merced, 0.45" at Fresno, 0.41" at Madera, to less than 1/4" south of Fresno. Sierra foothill locations recorded significant amounts of rain with Mariposa reporting 2.29", Yosemite 2.21", and Shaver Lake dropping off to 1.47" for the event.</p>									
CAZ089>092			W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley						
	24	1655PST			0	0			Dense Fog
	25	0800PST							
<p>Dense fog settled early into the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley on Christmas Eve. A multiple vehicle accident occurred on Interstate-5 at the Kings-Kern County Line with visibilities lowered to 200 feet as a contributing factor.</p>									
CAZ096			S Sierra Mtns						
	25	2100PST			0	0			Winter Storm
	26	0829PST							
<p>Substantial snow fell in a short period of time Christmas night and early into the morning of the 26th in the Southern Sierra Nevada. Amounts received at the higher elevations ranged from 14" to 20" of new snow. To the south over the Tulare County Mountains only 8" to 12" of new snow occurred.</p>									
CAZ093			S Sierra Foothills						
	25	2224PST			0	0	1K	Landslide	
Fresno County (Fat) Air Terminal	26	0556PST			0	0			Lightning
<p>Locally heavy rain contributed to a small rockslide over Highway 140 at Bull Creek in Southwest Mariposa County. Subsequent convection resulted some lightning activity in the Central Valley including a strike near the Fresno Air Terminal early on the 26th</p>									
CAZ096			S Sierra Mtns						
	28	0000PST			0	0			Heavy Snow
		1700PST							
CAZ090>092			E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley						
	28	1900PST			0	0			Dense Fog
	29	0115PST							
<p>A quick moving but relatively weak frontal system crossed the Southern Sierra Nevada early on the 28th bringing new snow amounts of 7 to 10 inches. With the additional moisture on the adjacent Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley floor from the frontal passage dense fog developed later that evening before dissipating by midnight</p>									
CAZ096			S Sierra Mtns						
	30	2230PST			0	0			Winter Storm
	31	1630PST							
<p>A major winter storm swept into Interior Central California late on the 30th of the month and through the afternoon of 31st. The lower elevations of the area had rain but the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada accumulated large amounts of snow. Through the afternoon of the 31st, new snow reported was 46 inches at Agnew Pass, 43" at Black Cap Basin, 36" at Upper Burnt Corral and Bishop Pass, and 30" at Chagoopa Plateau. This weather system on the 30th was the first of several that continued into early January that brought significant rain to Central California</p>									