



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 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

Kern County

Countywide	05 06	1209PST 0300PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Fresno County

Countywide	05 06	1254PST 0100PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Kings County

Countywide	05 06	1300PST 0200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Madera County

Countywide	05 06	1411PST 0300PST			0	0	200K		Heavy Rain
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Madera received 1.42" of rain during a 24-hour period ending by early on the 6th with over half of that occurring between Noon and 3 PM PST on the 5th from afternoon thunderstorms. Water collecting on a roof in downtown Madera led to its collapse and subsequent damage in mid-afternoon. Numerous locations around Madera had street flooding with other reported flooding in Madera County including a freeway offramp in the city of Madera as well as rural roadway flooding 14 miles east of Madera. Chowchilla, in Madera County, reported 1.34" in the 24 hour period ending on the 6th. Fresno County reported several locations of roadway flooding from the heavy rain from Kerman, west of Fresno, to areas east of Fresno. Fresno reported a rainfall record-for-the-date of 1.02" during the 5th primarily due to the afternoon thunderstorm activity. Other areas reporting substantial rain from thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening of the 5th in Fresno County included Reedley and Avenal each with an inch of rain, and Clovis receiving 2.35 inches. The Southern San Joaquin Valley reported several instances of road flooding, including Highway 99 and Interstate Highway 5, from Northwest Bakersfield, south to the Grapevine, and east of Bakersfield. In Kings County, Hanford had 0.64" and Lemoore reported 0.71" during the 5th. Bakersfield reported 0.67" from the 5th through early on the 6th with undoubtedly higher amounts of rain received in outlying areas.

Kings County

9 E Kettleman City	05	1430PST 1500PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Kings County Fire Dept reported seeing 4 funnel clouds form and dissipate over a 30-minute time period on the 5th

Fresno County

Coalinga	05	1743PST 2045PST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Coalinga Police Department reported "all roads in town are flooded with some impassable" due to runoff from nearby mountains and ponding water from thunderstorms early in the evening of the 5th. The city reported 1.38" of rain falling from mid-afternoon to early evening.

CAZ096>097

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns

	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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A significant snowfall occurred in the higher elevations of Interior Central California late on the 8th and early on the 9th when 7 to 16 inches of new snow was reported overnight onto an already deep snow pack: Tunnel Guard Station in the Tulare County Mountains received 16 inches of new snow and Volcanic Knob in the Southern Sierra received 13 inches of new snow.

Fresno County

Central Portion	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0	21.9M		Heavy Rain
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Kings County

Countywide	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0	671K		Heavy Rain
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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

CALIFORNIA, South Central

Madera County

Countywide	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0	4M		Heavy Rain
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Tulare County

Countywide	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0	8.6M		Heavy Rain
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A series of three unseasonably heavy rain events, accompanied by hail at times, adversely impacted Interior Central California agriculture. Rain and large hail events around April 28th, and rain and small hail around May 5th, and again around May 9th caused extensive problems in the local cherry crop. Other crops negatively impacted from the rain included alfalfa, apricots, table grapes, nectarines, peaches, strawberries, cotton, and tomatoes.

Fresno County

Selma	08 09	1700PST 2000PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Fresno County

Selma	09	1050PST			0	0	1K		Lightning
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Fresno County

Selma	09	1110PST			0	0	1K		Lightning
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Thunderstorm activity late on the 9th brought a couple of lightning strikes within the city of Selma in Southern Fresno County. Additionally the city reported 0.94" of rain over the 24 hours period ending on the 9th which caused areas of flooding within the city due to ponded water.

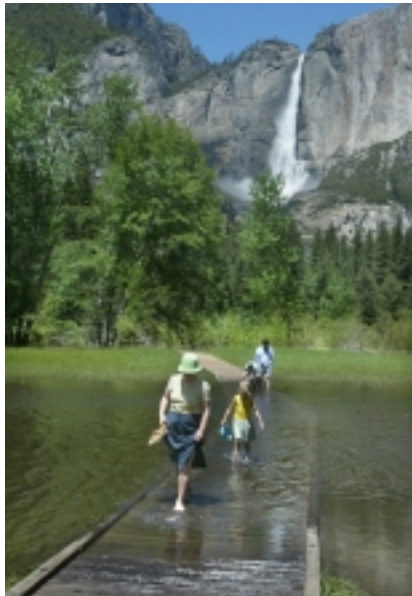
Fresno County

1 W Fowler	09	1018PST 1019PST	0	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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A brief touchdown of a small tornado occurred during the late morning of the 9th in Southern Fresno County near the town of Fowler. No damage was reported and the funnel was seen by numerous motorists and the California Highway Patrol.

Madera County

Countywide	15 16	2200PST 0900PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
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Meadow flooding in Yosemite Valley as the Merced River crested at mid-afternoon on the 16th. (Photo courtesy of the Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA).



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Mariposa County

Countywide	15	2200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	16	0900PST							

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns	16	0645PST			0	0	100K		Flood
		1500PST							

After a persistent and longer-than-normal cool season, significantly heavy rain occurred onto the large Southern Sierra Nevada snowpack beginning late in the evening of the 15th and continued into the morning of the 16th. With snow levels above 7000 feet, rainfall amounts averaging 1.75" in the mountain areas combined with a snowmelt runoff contribution of about 1" water equivalent caused river flooding on the Yosemite Valley floor in Yosemite National Park. The Merced River rose 3 feet between 0100 and 0500 PST on the morning of the 16th prompting park personnel to evacuate campers in Yosemite Valley. The Merced River on the Yosemite Valley Floor rose above its Flood Stage of 10.0 feet by 0645 PST and subsequently crested at 12.5 feet at 1430 PST on the 16th forcing park personnel to even close roads into the Yosemite Valley.

CAZ095-098>099

Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	16	1045PST			0	0	3K		Strong Wind (MG55)
	17	0234PST							

Gusty post-frontal wind occurred in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts from mid-day on the 16th into the early morning hours of the 17th.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns	20	2100PST			0	0			Flood
	31	2359PST							

The arrival of warm weather late in the month of May combined with a much above normal snowpack (179% of normal in the Mariposa County area) in the Southern Sierra Nevada led to snowmelt flooding along the undammed Merced River in Yosemite Valley. This longer-lasting snowmelt flooding event followed the rainfall-induced flooding event earlier in the month. Daily, during the period from May 20th to June 1st, the Merced River crested above its Flood Stage of 10.0 feet at the Pohono Bridge in the lower Yosemite Valley. The late spring snowmelt flooding caused problems for park personnel as overwinter construction projects and roadways were adversely affected by the natural flooding while the summer tourist season was beginning.

CAZ095-098>099

Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	29	1430PST			0	0	3K		Strong Wind (MG57)
		2100PST							

A weak frontal passage late in the month on the 29th led to gusty wind again in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts.