



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2006

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

CAZ090-092	E Central Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley								
	01 0000PST				0	0			Excessive Heat
	31 2359PST								

The November through January time period in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley has been abnormally mild. The chilling hours (durations of temperatures less than 45 degrees F. and needed by deciduous trees for winter dormancy) are much lower than previous mild years and much below normal seasonal readings. In general the chilling hour totals were only about 5/8ths of the previous 4 years' relatively low average at several key agricultural research stations. Similarly, official NWS records at Fresno and Bakersfield reflect the mild winter season. In November 2005 Fresno had an average monthly temperature 4.8 degrees F. above normal, +6.8F in December, and +2.7F in January 2006. Bakersfield was +3.1F in November 2005, +4.9F in December, and +1.8F in January 2006. Agricultural losses will be difficult to assess caused by this abnormally mild winter

Merced County

Countywide									
	01 1008PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
	02 1937PST								

CAZ089>090

	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley								
	01 1730PST				0	0	2K		Strong Wind (MG40)
	2002PST								

Merced County

3.4 NNE Snelling									
	02 0200PST				0	0			Flood
	2200PST								

Rainfall in excess of 2 inches fell in a 30 hour period throughout Merced County. California Highway Patrol reported water over the roadway from stream flooding on La Grange Road NNE of the rural town of Snelling by 1050 PST on the 2nd. Gusty southeast wind commonly hit 40+ MPH during the late morning and early afternoon of the 1st in the northern portions of the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Kern County

(Bfl) Meadows Field Ap									
	01 1122PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
	2355PST								

Kern County

Countywide									
	02 0200PST				0	0			Flood
	2200PST								

CAZ091

	Sw Sj Valley								
	02 1530PST				0	0	25K		Strong Wind (EG44)
	1800PST								

Rainfall totals in excess of 2/3rds of an inch in less than 24 hours at Bakersfield resulted in significant water flows from nearby mountains onto the South San Joaquin Valley Floor. Flooding was reported on Highway 33 on the 2nd of the month on the west side of the Valley north of Highway 46 in the morning and also on Redrock-Randsburg Road in the Kern Desert area by mid-day. Strong southeast wind in the Taft area in the South San Joaquin Valley resulted in downed power poles during the mid-afternoon hours.

Kings County

Hanford Muni Arpt									
	01 1139PST				0	0			Heavy Rain
	2000PST								

Kings County

Countywide									
	02 0200PST				0	0	71K	1M	Flood
	2200PST								

CAZ091

	Sw Sj Valley								
	02 1800PST				0	0	100K		Strong Wind (EG44)
	1900PST								

Rainfall in excess of 2.5" in just over 30 hours lead to water covered roadways in several locations around Kings County. Hanford measured 2.82" of rain in that time period with the cities of Lemoore and Corcoran receiving just over 3" of rain. Ponding basins overflowed in the city of Lemoore and flooding occurred in smaller cities of Huron and Corcoran. Strong wind during the evening of



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

the 2nd brought down several large trees in the city of Lemoore including one 100-year old tree onto a house.

Tulare County

Countywide	01	1200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	02	2000PST							

Tulare County

Central Portion	02	0200PST			0	0	5.5M		Flood
		2200PST							

CAZ092-097

Se Sj Valley - Tulare Cty Mtns

02	1400PST				0	0	210K		Strong Wind (EG35)
	1800PST								

Consistent rain lead to more than 3 inches of rain in a 30 hour period from mid-day on the 1st to the evening hours of the 2nd around the city of Visalia and over 3.5" of rain in the city of Tulare. Over 2 feet of water flooded portions of West Visalia as well as reports of flooding just east of Tipton. Tulare County had 45 homes damaged to some extent by flooding on the South Valley floor. Ponding basins filled in the cities of Visalia, Tulare, Exeter, Lindsay, and Farmersville. At the 2000 foot elevation of the Tulare County foothills over 7.5 inches of rain was reported during the period. Strong wind in the Tulare County Mountains felled several large trees, including one onto a historic cabin near Mineral King.

Mariposa County

Mariposa	01	1200PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	02	2100PST							

Mariposa County

Countywide	02	0200PST			0	0			Flood
		2200PST							

CAZ093

S Sierra Foothills

02	1200PST				0	0	100K		Strong Wind (EG50)
	1900PST								

Heavy rainfall and strong wind occurred by the 2nd of the month in Mariposa County. Trees were downed at several locations and over 4 inches of rain occurred during the 1st two days of the month at the city of Mariposa.

Fresno County

(Fat) Air Terminal	01	1205PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	02	2055PST							

Fresno County

Central Portion	02	0200PST			0	0	1.4M		Flood
		2200PST							

Fresno County

6 SW Sanger	02	1405PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
		1410PST							

CAZ090

E Central Sj Valley

02	1424PST				0	0	100K		Strong Wind (EG45)
	1700PST								

Continuous rain, heavy at times, brought an abnormally high 2.84" of rain to the Fresno Air Terminal, 3.19" in Selma, and 2.25" at Coalinga in a little over 24 hours. A new rainfall record of 1.88" was set for the 2nd of January for Fresno. Flooding was observed in the city of Fresno as 15 ponding basins overflowed. Local flooding was also reported in smaller cities of Huron, Fowler, and Selma. Over 150 houses were damaged within the county. The strong wind downed trees and power lines leaving over 60,000 customers without power at some point.

Madera County

Madera Muni Arpt	01	1206PST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	02	2000PST							

Madera County

Madera	02	0200PST			0	0	10K		Flood
		2200PST							



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

CAZ093	S Sierra Foothills	02	1400PST 1800PST		0	0	10K		Strong Wind (EG45)
	Madera Airport received 2.31" of rain in a little more than 24 hours leading to widespread ponding of water on the Central San Joaquin Valley Floor. In the foothill regions of the county gusty wind caused damage around the community of Oakhurst along with numerous downed trees.								
CAZ096>097	S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns	01 02	1800PST 2200PST		0	0			Winter Storm
	A winter storm brought in the new year for the higher elevations of Interior Central California. Snowfall totals included 49 inches at Tuolumne Meadows over 2 days; Charlotte Lake 41"; Kaiser Point 75"; Chilkoot Meadow 67"; and 54" at Tamarack Summit in the S.Sierra Nevada. In the Tulare County Mountains Crabtree Meadow, Lodgepole, and Mineral King reported 36" of new snow but Farwell Gap received 72" of new snow during the period.								
CAZ098>099	Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert	02	0900PST 1515PST		0	0	2K		Strong Wind (MG52)
	Strong southerly wind buffeted the Kern Desert Areas around mid-day on the 2nd. Laurel Mountain had a gust to 60 MPH at 1213 PST while Mojave gusted to 46 MPH at 1335 PST.								
CAZ089>092	W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley	05 12	0400PST 0900PST		0	0			Dense Fog
	Following the exceptionally heavy 30-hour rain period on the 1st and 2nd of the month, dense fog developed by the morning of the 5th and prevailed during the late evening and morning hours in the Central San Joaquin Valley through the morning of the 12th; and in the South Valley through the morning of the 11th. Multi-vehicle accidents were reported just south of Merced on the morning of the 12th and just east of Coalinga on the morning of the 6th. Visibilities during this time period were very often as low as 200 feet. Dense Fog on the morning of the 11th led to a 9-vehicle accident in Madera on State Highway 99 that injured 5 people.								
CAZ090	E Central Sj Valley	11	0430PST 0800PST		0	5	90K		Dense Fog
	Dense Fog on the morning of the 11th led to a 9-vehicle accident in Madera on State Highway 99 that injured 5 people.								
CAZ096	S Sierra Mtns	14 15	0400PST 0400PST		0	0			Winter Storm
	A mid-month weather system again added to the snow that fell earlier in the month for the Southern Sierra Nevada. New snowfall amounts reported were 27 inches at Horse Meadow; 20" at Paradise Meadow, Agnew Pass, and Volcanic Knob; and 19" at Tenaya Lake. New snow amounts tapered off quickly to the south in Tulare County Mountains where Farewell Gap reported 15" of snow; 13" at Quaking Aspen; and 8" at Big Meadows. In the Kern County Mountains, Shirley Meadows reported 12" of new snow.								
Fresno County Academy		14	1355PST 1400PST		0	0			Hail(0.75)
Fresno County Prather		14	1410PST 1415PST		0	0			Hail(0.75)
	A severe thunderstorm deposited large hail near a couple of foothill communities northeast of Fresno early in the afternoon of the 14th.								



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CALIFORNIA, South Central

Mariposa County

3.5 NW Hornitos	14	1425PST 1439PST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Mariposa County

3.5 NW Hornitos	14	1425PST 1439PST	0.1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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Quarter size hail with a funnel cloud that had indications of debris movement at the surface was reported by a weather spotter in the mid-afternoon on the 14th. The ground track and width are uncertain with the brief touchdown in a remote area of Mariposa County.

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

16	0400PST 0800PST				0	0			Frost/Freeze
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Following a mid-month cold-frontal passage minimum temperatures on the morning of the 16th dipped below freezing in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Although most of the colder areas dropped to the 29 to 31 degree F. range, a low reading of 25F was reported by Allensworth State Park in Southwest Tulare County. These readings so late in the cold season likely had minimal impact on area agriculture.

CAZ096

S Sierra Mtns

17	2000PST				0	0			Winter Storm
18	1730PST								

Snowfall at the highest elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada ranged from 20 inches at Tenaya Lake to 15" at Lower Kibbie Ridge late on the 17th and early on the 18th.

CAZ095-098>099

Kern Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly - Se Kern Cty Desert

18	1010PST				0	0	3K		Strong Wind (EG44)
19	0400PST								

Gusty southwest wind prevailed over the Kern County Mountains and Desert areas during the afternoon of the 18th into the early morning hours of the 19th.

Merced County

4.5 NW Gustine to 4 N Gustine	18	1355PST 1358PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

5 SW El Nido to 5 WNW El Nido	18	1418PST 1419PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Merced County

5 NW Merced	18	1457PST			0	0			Lightning
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Madera County

Chowchilla	18	1458PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Instability behind a Central California frontal passage produced low-topped convection (20K Feet) during the mid-afternoon of the 18th. Numerous reports of funnels were noted along with lightning as thunderstorms developed along an eastward moving line from Merced County through northern Madera County.

Madera County

4.2 S Raymond	18	1555PST 1600PST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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Several small funnels quickly formed and dissipated with low-topped convection

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

20	0400PST				0	0			Dense Fog
21	1000PST								

With sufficient moisture from early and mid-month precipitation events, the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley had late night and early morning dense fog on the morning of the 20th and 21st.

CAZ090>091

E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley

21	0100PST				0	0			Frost/Freeze
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

0900PST

Minimum temperatures dipped to the 28 to 31 degree F. range at colder locations in the Central and South San Joaquin Valley on the 21st. There was no reported loss to agriculture.

CAZ096>098

S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns - Indian Wells Vly

22	0955PST				0	0	1.5K		Strong Wind (MG44)
23	0720PST								

Gusty northeast wind occurred over the highest elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tulare County Mountains from mid-day on the 22nd to the morning of the 23rd. The Indian Wells Valley experienced gusty north wind during the 22nd

CAZ089>092

W Central Sj Valley - E Central Sj Valley - Sw Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley

22	2315PST				0	0			Dense Fog
25	0449PST								

Dense fog occurred in widespread areas of the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley in the early morning hours of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

CAZ090

E Central Sj Valley

24	0230PST				0	0			Frost/Freeze
	0745PST								

Minimum temperatures in the Fresno County agricultural areas dropped to 29 to 31 degrees F. early on the 24th. No damage occurred.