

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - October 2007

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

10/05/07 04:32 PST		1K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
10/05/07 12:13 PST		0	

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

10/05/07 12:13 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 66 kt)
10/05/07 13:13 PST		0	

A cold, mostly dry trough reached California on the 4th, and San Joaquin Valley temperatures plunging into the lower to mid 70s (a drop of 13-14 degrees from the previous day), and further cooling into the 60s the next two days. Light precipitation fell on the northern parts of the San Joaquin Valley, but stayed mainly north of Fresno. To the south, the main impact was wind, as winds occasionally gusted over 55 mph in the Kern County mountains and deserts on October 4. During the morning of the 5th winds gusted as high as 68 mph, about 10 miles northwest of Ridgecrest in Kern County. Gusty winds continued through the afternoon, with a wind gust of 76 mph reported at Indian Wells Canyon.

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

10/16/07 10:45 PST		0.50M	Dust Storm
10/17/07 10:45 PST		0	

The third weather system of the month of October brought only light precipitation to the region on the 16th-17th, but also brought strong wind gusts to the Kern County mountains and deserts, where gusts as high as 67 mph were recorded.

Winds gusting to around 60 mph in the Mojave area on October 16 reduced visibility to near zero, with numerous accidents reported. Peak wind at the Mojave Air/Space Port was 50 knots (58 mph) at 1847Z (1147 AM PDT) and 2046Z (1346 PM PDT). The fatal accidents occurred at 1845Z (1145 AM PDT); both involved vehicles colliding with big rigs. One accident occurred when the driver of a van reportedly made a "U-turn" in low visibility and collided with a big rig; one passenger in the van was killed. Portions of Highway 58 near Mojave were closed for about a day due to the blowing dust and sand. The two deaths that occurred during the dust storm near Mojave were indirect fatalities related to the high winds that occurred.

Also due to the high winds in the Mojave area, the roof was blown off a Public Utility District facility's two large water storage tanks.

Fatalities related to the dust storm on October 16, 2007, were the first dust storm related fatalities in the state of California since 1993, according to official Storm Data records.

FRESNO COUNTY --- FRESNO [36.78, -119.77]

10/12/07 13:00 PST		50K	Heavy Rain
10/12/07 18:00 PST		0	Source: Newspaper

The second storm of the month hit Central California on the 12th as a low pressure disturbance moved through the region. Nearly all of Fresno's measurable rainfall occurred with this storm (0.14 inch — the month total was 0.15 inch), but Bakersfield only saw a trace of rain. (Meadows Field did not have any measurable rainfall in all of October 2007.) The storm on the 12th caused several car crashes and power outages during the evening in the Fresno area. Merced measured 0.63 inches of rain with this storm. A brief power outage occurred at 449 pm PDT and darkened about 3000 customers in the Fresno area.

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

10/20/07 15:00 PST		0	Dust Storm
10/20/07 19:00 PST		0	

The fourth, and final, storm in a series of weather disturbances since October 10 in Central California, hit the San Joaquin Valley on October 20, again bringing gusty winds to the Kern County mountains and deserts, with wind gusts of up to 67 mph measured at automated weather stations. Again, only light precipitation occurred with this storm, and mainly north of Fresno.

Saturday afternoon, October 20, a dust storm occurred near Mojave and prompted highway patrol to close two heavily traveled freeways. Highway 58 was closed between exits 167 and 172 due to the severe visibility restrictions from the dust storm.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 SE FORD CITY [35.14, -119.46]

10/29/07 15:45 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
10/29/07 15:47 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
A trained spotter reported penny sized hail.				
KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 SW KERN CITY [35.34, -119.03]				
	10/29/07 15:48 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 15:50 PST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
TV meteorologist reported penny sized hail.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- FIREBAUGH [36.85, -120.45]				
	10/29/07 16:22 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:25 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
A trained spotter reported penny sized hail.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- FIREBAUGH [36.85, -120.45]				
	10/29/07 16:29 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:31 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
A newspaper journalist reported hail at least penny sized.				
KINGS COUNTY --- 0.6 W CIMARRON [36.30, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 16:41 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:45 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
A trained spotter reported penny sized hail at Highway 41 near Mount Whitney Avenue.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.6 E KERMAN [36.72, -120.06]				
	10/29/07 16:44 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:45 PST		0	Source: Storm Chaser
A storm chaser reported penny sized hail.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.6 E KERMAN [36.72, -120.06], 11.9 WNW BIOLA [36.89, -120.20], 5.7 NNW HERNDON [36.90, -119.97], 4.0 E ROLINDA [36.74, -119.90]				
	10/29/07 16:44 PST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 19:00 PST		0	Source: Storm Chaser
Strong thunderstorms caused streets to flood and be closed in the Kerman area.				
KINGS COUNTY --- 0.6 W CIMARRON [36.30, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 16:49 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:53 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Trained spotter reported penny sized hail at Grangeville Road and Highway 41.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 16:55 PST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	10/29/07 16:59 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Penny sized hail occurred on the west side of Fresno.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 16:55 PST		25K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 16:59 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
A trained spotter reported trees down on the west side of Fresno.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.6 E SELMA [36.57, -119.61]				
	10/29/07 17:03 PST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	10/29/07 17:06 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
A NWS employee observed quarter sized hail at Mount Whitney and Peach Roads.				

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FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NE FIGARDEN [36.83, -119.86]				
	10/29/07 17:08 PST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	10/29/07 17:12 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Quarter sized hail in the northwest sector of Fresno.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NE FIGARDEN [36.83, -119.86], 3.4 NNE BIOLA [36.84, -119.99], 3.2 NE ROLINDA [36.76, -119.93], 1.6 NNW FRESNO [36.80, -119.78], 2.0 NW FIG GARDEN [36.85, -119.84]				
	10/29/07 17:20 PST		0.50M	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 21:00 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
Newspapers and broadcast meteorologists reported a number of roadways flooded in Northwest Fresno. Numerous vehicles were stranded and water rescues occurred. Heavy rain caused a roof to collapse at an industrial plant on the northwest side of the city. Damages were estimated at 250,000 to the roof structure alone.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 17:20 PST		50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 17:25 PST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
Downed powerlines caused power outages to 16,000 customers, according to local Broadcast media in Fresno.				
MERCED COUNTY --- CREGAN [37.30, -120.48]				
	10/29/07 17:25 PST		60K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 55 kt)
	10/29/07 17:28 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
The local newspaper reported at least 8 downed trees, observed by Public Works Crews. Some powerlines were also downed.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 17:32 PST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	10/29/07 17:35 PST		0	Source: NWS Employee
A NWS employee observed nickel sized hail in Downtown Fresno at the intersection of Manning and Mendocino Roads.				
MADERA COUNTY --- 5.7 ESE GREGG [36.86, -119.83], 3.6 E STOREY [36.98, -119.95], 5.6 WSW INDIAN SPGS [37.01, -119.82], 9.1 S INDIAN SPGS [36.92, -119.74]				
	10/29/07 17:32 PST		25K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 19:30 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
A vehicle was stuck in flash floodwaters at Freeway 99 and Shaw Avenue. There was also a tree downed in the slow lane.				
KERN COUNTY --- 1.5 SSW CABLE [35.13, -118.51], 0.4 WSW MONOLITH [35.12, -118.38], 2.5 SE TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.08, -118.39], 3.1 SSW TEHACHAPI MTN VLY AP [35.06, -118.45]				
	10/29/07 18:00 PST		10K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 21:00 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Debris was reported on the roadway causing the road to be closed.				
FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 NW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.79]				
	10/29/07 18:06 PST		8K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 18:10 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Local police reported a tree down at Gettysburg Avenue and Van Ness Boulevard.				
TULARE COUNTY --- 0.9 SW PORTERVILLE [36.06, -119.03]				
	10/29/07 18:06 PST		30K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 18:12 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Local police in Tulare reported trees and powerlines downed.				
TULARE COUNTY --- 0.6 E CINOWTHS CORNER [36.33, -119.32], 1.9 W LEMONCOVE [36.38, -119.05]				

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	10/29/07 18:08 PST		0.11M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 62 kt)
	10/29/07 18:12 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Powerlines and trees were downed on roadways. Boats were damaged at a Lake Kaweah boat dock. It was estimated that 200 boats were affected by severe thunderstorm wind gusts as the lake boat dock was cut loose.				
TULARE COUNTY --- 0.6 E CINOWTHS CORNER [36.33, -119.32]				
	10/29/07 18:15 PST		0.15M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 55 kt)
	10/29/07 18:20 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
Newspaper accounts of trees downed on two houses causing property damages. One house had roof and structural damage.				
TULARE COUNTY --- 0.6 E CINOWTHS CORNER [36.33, -119.32], 1.8 NW TULARE GALLAHER ARPT [36.29, -119.32], 1.4 NW RECTOR [36.31, -119.27], 1.6 SE PATTERSON TRACT [36.35, -119.28]				
	10/29/07 18:15 PST		20K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 22:00 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
Newspaper reports several roadways flooded in the City of Visalia, mainly in the downtown and southside areas. The time was estimated using radar data and newspaper accounts.				
TULARE COUNTY --- 1.5 SSE TULARE [36.20, -119.34]				
	10/29/07 18:25 PST		60K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 18:30 PST		0	Source: Newspaper
There were several reports of trees downed in the city of Tulare. There were also reports of trees and power lines downed in the town of Lindsay. A tree fell on a family's automobile between Visalia and Tulare.				
MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 3.0 SE SOUTH FORK [37.62, -119.84]				
	10/29/07 18:45 PST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	10/29/07 18:48 PST		0	Source: Mesonet
A Mesonet station reported a wind gust of 61 knots in association with a severe thunderstorm near Yosemite National Park.				
TULARE COUNTY --- LEMONCOVE [36.38, -119.02]				
	10/29/07 18:49 PST		22K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 18:54 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Trees and powerlines were downed causing power outages.				
TULARE COUNTY --- LODGEPOLE [36.60, -118.73]				
	10/29/07 19:00 PST		12K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	10/29/07 19:08 PST		0	Source: Park/Forest Service
The Park Service reported a few trees downed.				
MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 1.3 WSW YOSEMITE VLG [37.74, -119.60], 13.2 NW YOSEMITE LODGE [37.93, -119.71], 15.7 NNE YOSEMITE LODGE [37.99, -119.51], 10.6 NE YOSEMITE NATL PARK [37.85, -119.40]				
	10/29/07 19:30 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	10/29/07 21:30 PST		0	Source: Park/Forest Service
The Park Service reported minor flooding of road surfaces at low water crossings.				
<p>An upper-level low developed off Point Conception by October 27, and slowly drifted northeast toward the central California coast. The low pulled a moist, tropical airmass, including remnants from former Tropical Storm Kiko, into the central California interior on the 29th. A dry air flow became trapped in the area around the storm, clearing skies over the San Joaquin Valley during the late morning, allowing for extensive heating of an already unstable airmass. Then, in the late afternoon, a weather disturbance moved over the southern half of the San Joaquin Valley.</p>				
<p>This combination of weather patterns triggered the worst severe thunderstorm outbreak over the central California interior in recent memory, with 15 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, two Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisories, and a Flash Flood Warning issued between 4 PM and 8 PM. Another Severe Thunderstorm Warning had been issued earlier in the day, at 1:16 PM PDT, for the Sierra foothills in Madera and Mariposa counties. Hail up to an inch in diameter was reported, and flooding occurred in parts of the San Joaquin Valley, including sections of northwest Fresno and downtown Visalia.</p>				

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Thunderstorm activity continued into the early morning hours of October 30, as a cold front moved through central California. A strong push of cold air into the region dropped the high temperature at Fresno from 80 on the 29th to 68 on the 30th. Bakersfield saw even stronger cooling, from 84 on October 29th to 63 the next day, a 21-degree cooling.

Severe thunderstorms caused several reports of downed power lines and trees, large hail, and flash flooding throughout portions of the San Joaquin Valley.