

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2008

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

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

04/08/08 21:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
04/09/08 06:00 PST	0	

Weak high pressure moved over California on April 4, and plunged temperatures as much as 9 degrees the next day as a mostly dry upper-level trough moved into the state. The trough remained over the state through the 9th, with gusty winds developing over the Kern County mountains and deserts during the night of April 8th-9th, as strong upper-level winds developed through the region. Winds gusted to around 60 mph over the mountains, and to 65 mph at the base of the Tehachapi Pass near Mojave. Precipitation over the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada also was reported on the night of the 8th-9th, ranging from an inch of new snow at Tuolumne Meadows to a trace at Lodgepole. This was the only precipitation reported from this system.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

04/14/08 22:00 PST	3K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
04/15/08 21:00 PST	0	

A dry area of low pressure moved into California on April 14th, dropping central and southern San Joaquin Valley high temperatures as much as 18 degrees, from the lower to mid 90s on the 13th to only the mid 70s to mid 80s the next day. The trough also brought a punch of gusty winds to the Kern County mountains and deserts, with gusts in the 50-55 mph range reported on the 15th.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

04/19/08 18:00 PST	0	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
04/20/08 20:00 PST	4K	

An upper-level trough moved into the state of California on the 19th, and plunged high temperatures to their coldest values of the month on the 20th. This cold airmass brought isolated freezing to sub-freezing temperatures to the east side of the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of April 21st, with one report of a low of 27 degrees near the Sierra foothills.

In contrast to the trough at the beginning of April, this trough brought precipitation to the northern half of the WFO Hanford's warning/forecast area. Tuolumne Meadows received 3 inches of new snow on April 22nd, while light rain spread as far south as Hanford and Lemon Cove. Although the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport recorded only a trace of rain from the storm on the 22nd-23rd, the Fresno Air National Guard's rain gauge had 0.02 inch, evidence of the spotty nature of the precipitation.

Winds in the Kern County mountains and deserts gusted to 50-55 mph on April 19th-20th, as the surface cold front moved through the area.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

04/29/08 14:00 PST	0	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
04/30/08 23:59 PST	6K	

A dry cold front moved into California on April 29th, plunging San Joaquin Valley high temperatures as much as 17 degrees from the previous day. Gusty winds accompanied the cold front as it moved through California. Gusts to 60 mph were reported in the Kern County mountains and deserts, and a few gusts between 35-40 mph occurred in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. High temperatures in the central and south Valley continued to cool, falling several degrees below normal on the last day of April with readings in the upper 60s to mid 70s.

April was an exceptionally dry month for the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, with neither Bakersfield nor Fresno reporting measurable rain. For Bakersfield, it has been an extremely dry rain season so far, the third driest July-April in 119 years of records. As April historically marks the end of the wettest months of the rain season, Bakersfield could end with this season as one of the five driest on record; if no more measurable rain were to fall, only the 1933-34 rain season would be drier.