

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - June 2008

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

(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

06/01/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
06/30/08 23:59 PST	0	

June saw the fourth consecutive month of below-normal rainfall in the central California interior, as neither Fresno nor Bakersfield had any rain. While dry Junes are not uncommon (this was Bakersfield's 72nd dry June, and Fresno's 50th), the prospect of a dry June coming on the heels of the driest March-May on record for Bakersfield, and the 4th driest for Fresno, was a factor in Governor Schwarzenegger declaring a drought for the state on June 4th. In addition to the agricultural and hydrological impacts of the dry weather, the fire danger due to dried brush and other vegetation was high, and thunderstorms that moved through the state during the latter half of the month triggered numerous wildfires.

Bakersfield ended the 2007-2008 rain season (which runs from July 1st to June 30th) with a season total of only 2.38 inches, or 36.7 % of the normal of 6.49 inches. The past season was the 2nd driest on record, surpassed only by the 1933-34 season which saw only 2.21 inches. Fresno fared much better, due to an unseasonably wet December through February, but the rains ended abruptly in late February and the season ended with 8.40 inches. This was 74.8 % of Fresno's normal of 11.23 inches.

The Clover Wildfire, in the Sequoia NF, ignited on May 28, 2008, and was finally contained July 20, 2008. This wildfire was caused by lightning. The location was 8 miles north of Kennedy Meadows, CA in Tulare County. The size was 15,262 acres. No fatalities or lost structures. The cost to contain this fire was \$8,310,000.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

06/11/08 00:00 PST	0	Wildfire
06/30/08 00:00 PST	0	

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Wildfire "41", CalFire, Merced-Madera-Mariposa Unit, ignited on June 11 due to unknown causes. The location was Highway 41 at Highway 145, approx. 15 miles east-northeast of Madera in Madera County. The size was 15,262 acres. No fatalities or lost structures. The cost to contain the fire was \$6,500,000.

(CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS

06/21/08 14:00 PST	0	Wildfire
06/30/08 23:59 PST	0	

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The Mariposa Complex wildfire, CalFire, Merced-Madera-Mariposa Unit, ignited on June 21 at 1500 PDT. The cause was lightning. The location was in and around Mariposa in Mariposa County. The size was 2500 acres. This fire was contained on 6/24/08 at 0730 PDT. There were no fatalities or lost structures. Cost unknown.

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The Oliver wildfire, CalFire, Merced-Madera-Mariposa Unit, ignited on June 21 at 1710 PDT. The cause was lightning. The location was North of Ponderosa Basin. The size was 2789 acres and the fire was finally contained on 7/5/08. No fatalities or lost structures. Cost to containment was \$12,217,857.

The Silver Complex wildfire, Sierra NF, ignited on June 21 at 1710 PDT. The cause was lightning. The location was from Fishcamp, north to the Merced River Canyon. The size was 1,161 acres and the fire was contained on 7/3/08. No fatalities or lost structures. Cost to contain was \$3,340,000.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

06/28/08	14:59 PST	1M	Wildfire
06/30/08	23:59 PST	0	

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The Piute wildfire, Sequoia NF, ignited on June 28 at 1459 PDT. The cause was unknown. The location was 8 miles North of Twin Oaks, Kern County. The size was 37,026 acres, and the fire was finally contained on 7/25/08. No fatalities. There were 51 structures lost (6 Primary, 45 Outbuildings). Cost to contain was \$25 Million.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

06/03/08	09:00 PST	3.40K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
06/05/08	02:00 PST	4K	

A trough of low pressure reached the central California interior between the 2nd to the 4th. A dry cold front associated with the trough brought gusty winds to the Kern County deserts on June 3rd, and several degrees cooling to the entire region on the 4th. Winds gusted to 50 mph in the Indian Wells Valley, and to nearly 70 mph at Mojave. In the San Joaquin Valley, winds gusted to 35 mph at Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, with similar readings across the Valley floor. This trough was stronger than its predecessor, and the push of cold air that moved into the region dropped high temperatures from the mid 80s on the 3rd to the upper 70s to around 80 the next day.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

06/10/08	13:00 PST	1.20K	Strong Wind (MAX 39 kt)
06/11/08	02:00 PST	6K	

A weak weather system brought gusty winds to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on June 7th, with a few gusts reaching around 35 mph. Another cold front moved through central California on June 10th. Winds gusted to 40 mph at Fresno-Yosemite International Airport and the Merced Municipal Airport, and gusts to around 45 mph were reported in the Kern County mountains and deserts. Temperatures dropped as much as 7 degrees in the cold air behind the front, but as with the earlier system, the cooling was short-lived.

High pressure built into California during the middle of the month, pushing temperatures several degrees above normal. Fresno had a high of 103 degrees on June 13th, for its first triple-digit temperature since May 19th. Bakersfield only hit 99 on the 13th, but had a high of 101 the next day, for the first triple-digit reading at Meadows Field since May 17th. Temperatures remained above normal for the next several days, culminating in record highs of 110 degrees at both Bakersfield and Fresno on June 21st.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY

06/26/08	00:00 PST	1K	Strong Wind (MAX 33 kt)
06/26/08	03:00 PST	0	

A low pressure trough brought some cooling to the region, with temperatures falling back to near normal, during the late evening of the 25th. The movement of marine air spilling through the Pacheco Pass triggered gusts to 38 mph over the San Luis Reservoir.