Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details

CALIFORNIA, South Central

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	04/02/09 16:05 PST	1.50K	Strong Wind (MAX 36 kt)
	04/03/09 19:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

	04/03/09 06:08 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 55 kt)
	04/03/09 19:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	04/04/09 04:15 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
	04/04/09 06:35 PST	0	

April began as an upper-level trough approached the California coast. This trough moved through California during the afternoon and evening of April 2nd, then into the Great Basin on the 3rd. The trough brought gusty winds to the Kern County mountain and desert areas, with gusts to around 60 mph at River Kern, Mojave and the China Lake NAWC that began in the late afternoon of the 2nd and persisted through midday of the 3rd. In the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, the upper-level trough caused gusts to 40 mph during the afternoon of April 3rd.

The trough also brought an unseasonably cold airmass to the San Joaquin Valley, with low temperatures on April 4th falling into the 30-32-degree range over the east side of the Valley.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	04/07/09 07:05 PST	1K	Strong Wind (MAX 37 kt)
	04/07/09 17:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

	04/07/09 17:00 PST	0	Winter Weather
	04/08/09 10:00 PST	0	

A late-season winter storm reached interior central California on April 7th, bringing rain to the region and up to 19 inches of snow to the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada (above 7000 feet). A narrow band of showers and thunderstorms developed over the San Joaquin Valley on the 7th and continuing into the 8th. Fresno received all of its measurable rain during this two day period, recording 0.72 inch of rain. As a measure of how narrow this precipitation band was, Madera (to the north of Fresno) and Hanford (to the south) only received a few hundredths of an inch of rain.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	04/14/09 08:15 PST	0	Dust Storm
	04/15/09 03:27 PST	0	

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

	04/15/09 10:02 PST	1.50K	Strong Wind (MAX 36 kt)
	04/15/09 12:02 PST	0	

(CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	04/16/09 04:50 PST	0	Frost/Freeze
	04/16/09 05:50 PST	0	

Another short-lived upper-level ridge built into California on April 11th-12th, then gave way to a mostly dry system that reached California on the 13th. This cold front brought strong winds to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on April 14th, with dust storms occurring near Coalinga and Avenal. Both dust storms produced areas of near-zero visibility. Winds gusted to 41 mph at Meadows Field—Bakersfield—and to 35 mph at Fresno-Yosemite International Airport. The gusts at Meadows Field were only 4 mph less than the ASOS-era record for April of 45 mph, set on April 3rd, 1999. (Because the ASOS measures winds in a different manner than older anemometers, wind records for ASOS sites only go back to the date the ASOS was commissioned).

On the 14th at 1425 PDT, the California Highway Patrol reported blowing dust at Avenal cutoff on I-5 with near-zero visibility. The CHP determined it caused a traffic collision along Interstate 5. No fatalities were reported although several people were injured.

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Winds continued to gust to 35 mph through the morning of April 15th, and spread across the central Valley to the cities of Merced and Atwater. The winds then abated a bit, but increased again the next day. A gust to 40 mph was measured at Fresno-Yosemite International Airport on April 16th, only 1 mph less than the ASOS-era record gust for April of 41 mph on April 14th, 2002.

The storm brought only a trace of rain to Fresno and Bakersfield. The highest reported rainfall was only 0.06 inch at Mariposa Grove in the Southern Sierra Nevada southeast of Wawona.