# Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2010

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

## CALIFORNIA, South Central

**TULARE COUNTY --- 2.4 NNE KAWEAH [36.50, -118.90]**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/02/10 06:42 PST | 5K | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/02/10 06:42 PST | 0 | Source: Law Enforcement |

Twenty four hour storm total rainfall 1.75 inches. The Highway Patrol reported a mudslide on North Fork Road near Three Rivers. The slide blocked the highway in both directions for about two hours.

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/02/10 12:00 PST | 0 | Winter Weather |
| | 03/04/10 04:00 PST | 0 | |

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/03/10 17:22 PST | 1K | Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt) |
| | 03/04/10 19:00 PST | 0 | |

**March began with an upper-level ridge over the central California interior. The ridge kept a low-level inversion over the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, resulting in patchy Tule fog for the first day of the month, mainly near Hanford and Visalia. The ridge was not over the state long, however, as an upper-level trough reach the state the next day, bringing the first, and largest, precipitation event of March to the region.**

**This was a two-part storm, with the first—and weaker—system arriving on the 2nd, with the stronger system reaching the central California interior the next day. The first system brought up to 9 inches of new snow to the Southern Sierra Nevada in Yosemite National Park and in Madera County, while the focus of the second system was further south. Up to a foot of new snow fell on the Tulare County Mountains above 6000 feet on March 3rd, and up to 5 inches fell in the Tehachapi Mountains. As the second storm moved through the Kern County deserts, it caused gusts up to 58 mph during the evening of the 3rd and through much of the 4th.**

**(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/08/10 11:45 PST | 0.50K | High Wind (MAX 54 kt) |
| | 03/08/10 15:52 PST | 0 | |

**(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/08/10 21:00 PST | 0 | Winter Weather |
| | 03/09/10 08:00 PST | 0 | |

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/09/10 06:55 PST | 1.50K | Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt) |
| | 03/10/10 16:37 PST | 0 | |

**(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**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/11/10 04:30 PST | 0 | Frost/Freeze |
| | 03/11/10 06:50 PST | 0 | |

**An upper-level ridge built into California behind the early March storm, bringing dry weather and calmer winds. A low-pressure system in the east Pacific dropped south parallel to the coast on March 6th, but the low stayed well offshore and only brought a few showers and thunderstorms to the Kern County Mountains and deserts on the 6th and 7th, including 10 inches of snow that fell on Pine Mountain Club, 6 inches at Alta Sierra, and 2 inches at Frazier Park.**

**After a short break on March 8th, another Pacific storm reached central California on the 9th. This storm brought 5 inches of new snow to the Tulare County Mountains above 6000 feet, and several wind gusts to around 50 mph to the Kern County Mountains and deserts. Isolated gusts over 60 mph also were reported from this storm.**

**(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/12/10 16:00 PST | 0 | Winter Storm |
| | 03/13/10 04:00 PST | 0 | |

**(CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS**

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| | 03/12/10 16:00 PST | | 0 | Winter Weather |
| | 03/13/10 04:00 PST | | 0 | |
| **(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY** | | | | |
| | 03/13/10 08:34 PST | | 0.50K | Strong Wind (MAX 44 kt) |
| | 03/13/10 15:19 PST | | 0 | |
| **MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 0.9 NE ELLIOTT CORNER [37.48, -119.76]** | | | | |
| | 03/13/10 09:33 PST | | 0 | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/13/10 09:33 PST | | 0 | Source: Trained Spotter |

Twenty four hour total at Ponderosa Basin was 1.5 inches.

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT** | | | | |
| | 03/13/10 13:09 PST | | 0 | High Wind (MAX 63 kt) |
| | 03/13/10 21:47 PST | | 0 | |
| **MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 0.6 W FISH CAMP [37.48, -119.64]** | | | | |
| | 03/13/10 16:27 PST | | 0 | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/13/10 16:27 PST | | 0 | Source: Trained Spotter |

Thirty six hour storm total rainfall was 1.60 inches.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FRESNO COUNTY --- SHAVER LAKE HGTS [37.10, -119.32]** | | | | |
| | 03/14/10 02:56 PST | | 0 | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/14/10 02:56 PST | | 0 | Source: Mesonet |

The twenty four hour storm total rainfall was 1.5 inches.

**The break between mid-month storms was short-lived as the next storm already was dropping out of the Aleutian Islands. This storm brought 7-13 inches of new snow to the Southern Sierra Nevada high country on March 12th-13th, up to 1.5 inches of rain to the Sierra at and below 5000 feet, wind gusts to 50 mph to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, and gusts up to 70 mph in the Kern County Mountains and deserts.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS** | | | | |
| | 03/18/10 20:00 PST | | 0.10M | Strong Wind (MAX 48 kt) |
| | 03/18/10 23:00 PST | | 0 | |

**During the evening of March 18th, a Mono wind event occurred in Yosemite National Park. A Mono wind event is characterized by strong northeast winds on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, which can often cause widespread tree damage. The event on the 18th occurred between about 9 pm to midnight, according to park personnel. Winds were estimated between 50-60 mph, which caused extensive tree damage. Trees were toppled in a characteristic northeast to southwest pattern, indicative in most Mono wind events.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT** | | | | |
| | 03/26/10 02:40 PST | | 0 | High Wind (MAX 50 kt) |
| | 03/26/10 04:00 PST | | 0 | |

**A mostly dry system moved through California on March 25th-26th. This storm brought more gusty winds to the mountains and deserts, with several gusts in the 40-50 mph range. Gusts to around 60 mph occurred in the Jawbone Canyon and the south end of the Tehachapi Pass in Kern County.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS** | | | | |
| | 03/30/10 07:00 PST | | 0 | Winter Storm |
| | 03/31/10 16:01 PST | | 0 | |
| **(CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT** | | | | |
| | 03/30/10 10:55 PST | | 1K | Strong Wind (MAX 44 kt) |
| | 03/31/10 16:00 PST | | 0 | |
| **FRESNO COUNTY --- 5.2 NW ACADEMY [36.93, -119.60]** | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/31/10 10:16 PST | | 0 | Funnel Cloud |
| | 03/31/10 10:16 PST | | 0 | Source: Broadcast Media |

A funnel cloud was captured by a broadcast media skycam.

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**FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.3 WSW BURROUGH [36.97, -119.35]**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/31/10 12:00 PST | | 0 | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/31/10 12:00 PST | | 0 | Source: Mesonet |

Wishon Dam reported a 24 hour storm total rainfall of 0.85 inches.

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**MADERA COUNTY --- 0.7 N PONDEROSA ACRES [37.38, -119.62]**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 03/31/10 12:48 PST | | 0 | Heavy Rain |
| | 03/31/10 12:48 PST | | 0 | Source: Mesonet |

Twenty four hour rainfall total was 0.86 inches.

**March ended with a late-season storm moving through interior central California. Ahead of the storm, temperatures warmed to several degrees above normal, and Fresno finally hit 80 on March 28th, the first time this year. The storm moved into northern California on the 29th, and slowly sagged southward on the 30th. A weak pre-frontal boundary did move south over the central San Joaquin Valley during the afternoon and evening of the 29th, triggering brief gusts to 25-30 mph.**

**Light rain and mountain snow spread into the northern part of the region during the morning of March 30th, but the main energy of the storm did not arrive until the next day. Rainfall amounts in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley generally were less than two tenths of an inch. However, there were reports of hail up to a half-inch in diameter as weak thunderstorms moved over the east side and south end of the San Joaquin Valley, and a funnel cloud was photographed northeast of the city of Fresno. Two-day snow totals of up to 21 inches were reported in the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada. In the Kern County Mountains, gusts to 75 mph were measured, while gusts over 50 mph were observed in the Kern County deserts.**

**Despite a wet start to March—which saw Fresno receive 0.62 inch of rain in 3 days (March 2nd-4th)—rainfall tapered off sharply for the remainder of the month. Fresno had a monthly total of 0.96 inch, only 43.6 percent of the normal for March of 2.20 inches. Bakersfield fared even worse, with a total of only 0.25 inch for March. This was a mere 17.7 percent of the monthly normal of 1.41 inch. Even so, the rain season through March 31st was almost exactly normal for both cities (100.2 percent for Bakersfield; 101.1 percent for Fresno), due to above normal rainfalls during December through February (except near normal for Fresno in January).**