Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2011

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

CALIFORNIA, South Central

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

09/04/11 10:32 PST		10M	Wildfire
09/10/11 18:00 PST		0	

The Canyon wildfire was caused by lightning and occurred on 9/4/11 at 1132 PDT. The location was 5 miles Southeast of Tehachapi in Kern County. The size was 14,585 acres. Containment was reached on 9/10/11. There were no fatalities. There were 32 primary structures lost and 68 outbuildings. The cost to containment was $10 million.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

09/10/11 03:00 PST		0	Wildfire
09/30/11 18:00 PST		0	

KERN COUNTY --- 1.1 E RIDGECREST [35.63, -117.66]

09/10/11 21:15 PST		0	Lightning
09/10/11 21:15 PST	1	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Another resident of Ridgecrest was injured by a lightning strike from a thunderstorm.

KERN COUNTY --- RIDGECREST [35.63, -117.68]

09/10/11 21:15 PST		0	Lightning
09/10/11 21:15 PST	1	0	Source: Law Enforcement

A resident of Ridgecrest was struck by lightning and injured.

KERN COUNTY --- KERNVILLE [35.75, -118.43], 1.0 SSW KERNVILLE [35.74, -118.44], 1.4 E KERNVILLE [35.75, -118.41], 1.3 NNE KERNVILLE [35.77, -118.42]

09/11/11 16:37 PST		25K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/11/11 18:37 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Highway Patrol reported street flooding in Kernville.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.6 E KERNVALE [35.62, -118.47], 0.4 WNW KERNVALE [35.62, -118.49], 0.8 NNW ISABELLA [35.64, -118.49], 1.7 ENE ISABELLA [35.64, -118.45]

09/11/11 17:16 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/11/11 19:16 PST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter reported areas of street flooding in Lake Isabella and Bodfish as well as small hail.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 2.6 NW YOSEMITE LODGE [37.80, -119.60]

09/13/11 16:00 PST		0.10M	Lightning
09/13/11 16:00 PST		0	Source: Park/Forest Service

Park Service officials reported 14 vehicles damaged by lightning at Porcupine Flat.

A dry southwest flow aloft set up over the area on the 6th along the leading edge of a upper level trough over the Pacific Northwest and northern California, bringing dry weather through the 8th. However, an upper level low moved from the Great Basin into central California on the 9th. This atypical movement of the low occurred because it was cut off from the prevailing westerly winds aloft. These systems usually move into the area from the Pacific Ocean. This low changed the flow aloft over the region to southeasterly, drawing moisture into central California from Arizona and northwestern Mexico. This warm, unstable airmass brought showers and thunderstorms to much of interior central California from the 9th through the 14th. Isolated thunderstorms continued over the Sierra Nevada crest on the 15th, as residual moisture remained over the area while the southeasterly flow transitioned to a more southwesterly direction.

The low meandered across central and southern California during these several days. This low allowed for unstable conditions over the entire district; quite a few locations in the San Joaquin Valley received at least a trace of rain. On the 9th, thunderstorms produced little rainfall, but they did cause quite a few wildfires due to lightning over the mountains in Kern County (around Keene, Breckenridge, and just to the east of Arvin and Bakersfield). As for the 10th, numerous thunderstorms developed over Kern County and much of the southern San Joaquin Valley during the evening. In addition, more wildfires developed over the Kern County mountains A severe thunderstorm warning and numerous significant weather advisories were issued throughout Kern County that evening; these storms

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moved westward into San Luis Obispo County later that night. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms redeveloped mainly over the Tehachapi Mountains and the Southern Sierra Nevada daily on the 11th, 12th, and 13th, and a few showers occurred over the south end of the San Joaquin Valley, including Bakersfield, on the 13th. Thunderstorms that developed over the Piutes during the afternoon of September 11th were nearly stationary, and runoff from these storms caused road flooding in the area south of Lake Isabella.

The South Lightning Tennessee Fire occurred in Tulare county 5 miles north of Fountain Springs. Reports indicated that the fire began on 9/11/11 at 1200 PDT due to heavy lightning strikes from thunderstorms.

The Tamarack wildfire occurred just northeast of Yosemite Valley in Mariposa County on 9/13/11 at 1912 PDT. This wildfire was caused by extensive lightning. The size was 480 acres. The fire was contained on 10/6/11. There were no lost fatalities or structures. Cost to containment was $75,000.

The Breckenridge wildfire Complex occurred in the Kern County Mountains, 10 miles NE of Bakersfield. The fire started on the 10th and was contained on the 17th, and caused by lightning strikes. The size was a whopping 25,213 acres. There were no fatalities or structures lost. The cost to containment was $7.1 million.

The Comanche wildfire Complex in Kern County mountains occurred on 9/10/11 at 0400 PDT, about 8 miles Southeast of Arvin, caused by lightning. The size was a whopping 29,338 acres. Containment was reached on 9/16/11. There were no fatalities or lost structures. The cost to containment was $6.8 million.

The Keene wildfire Complex occurred because on lightning on 9/10/11 at 1200 PDT. The location was along the Highway 58 corridor from Keene to Mojave in Kern County. The size was 10,479 acres. Containment was reached on 9/15/11. There were no fatalities or Structures Lost. The cost to containment was $8,839,174.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.6 W BAKERSFIELD EAST [35.37, -118.99]

	09/23/11 17:40 PST	15K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	09/23/11 17:40 PST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A severe thunderstorm toppled a tree and a power pole. In Bakersfield 3723 customers lost power.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.6 E CHAFFEE [35.08, -118.14]

	09/23/11 18:15 PST	0.10M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	09/23/11 18:34 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

A big rig was blown over in Highway 58 near mile marker 170 due to a severe thunderstorm wind gust.

On the evening of the 15th, a significant marine push occurred and moved well inland toward the west side of the central San Joaquin Valley as an upper-level trough moved onshore; Pacheco Pass experienced a 42 mph wind gust that evening. That gust prompted a wind advisory that was issued during that evening for the west side of the San Joaquin Valley for Fresno and Merced Counties. Temperatures on the 16th fell several degrees from the previous day, including in the San Joaquin Valley. The trough remained over the region through the 17th. Temperatures were several degrees normal on both of these days, with highs in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley only in the mid to upper 80s for high temperatures, and upper 80s to lower 90s in the desert areas of eastern Kern County.

The upper-level ridge returned to interior central California by the 18th. Temperatures rose to a few degrees above average by the 19th. The weather has remained mainly dry through September 22nd, with mainly cumulus cloud buildups over the southern Sierra Nevada crest.

Off the coast of California, a low-pressure system developed within the ridge and drifted toward the coast. By September 23rd, the flow around this low drew subtropical moisture into southern and central California. The ridge remained the dominant large-scale feature over central California, bringing unseasonably warm weather to the region. Fresno had a high of 101 degrees on the 23rd, the third, and last, time Fresno say triple digits in September. With a very warm and unstable airmass, thunderstorms developed across the region. Although there was moisture in the mid-level of the atmosphere, the lowest levels remained dry, and the thunderstorms were mostly dry with numerous lightning strikes. The lightning triggered several wildfires in Kern County, with a few fires started in Tulare County. Outflow winds from the thunderstorms toppled power poles in northeast Bakersfield, knocking out power to over three thousand people. In the Mojave Desert northeast of Mojave, winds blew a big rig over on State Route 58.

Clouds from the showers and thunderstorms remained over the central California interior through September 24th, keeping low temperatures unseasonably warm. Fresno set record high minimum temperature records on both the 23rd and 24th.
A strong cold front moved into central California on September 25th, bringing sharp drops in temperature. The highs at Bakersfield and Fresno on the 24th were 97 degrees; the next day, the high at Bakersfield was only 80 and Fresno was only a degree warmer. The unseasonably cold airmass lingered over the region the next two days, slowly mixing out. A weak upper-level ridge boosted high temperatures over the central and southern San Joaquin Valley into the mid to upper 90s on September 29th, but highs fell back to near normal the next day. A weak surge of monsoonal moisture at the end of the month brought isolated thunderstorms to the Southern

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Sierra Nevada crest.

Bakersfield had five days in September with highs at or above 100 degrees, and Fresno had 3 triple-digit days. For the summer, through the end of September, Bakersfield had 30 days with highs at or above 100 degrees, while Fresno had 28 days. The average temperature for September was 80.3 degrees at both Bakersfield and Fresno. This was the third warmest September on record for Fresno, while Bakersfield tied for its ninth warmest September on record.