

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2013

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

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT				
	03/05/13 14:18 PST		16K	Strong Wind (MAX 49 kt)
	03/09/13 04:00 PST		0	

TULARE COUNTY --- 3.6 WSW SPRINGVILLE [36.11, -118.88], 4.1 SW SPRINGVILLE [36.09, -118.87], 2.7 S SPRINGVILLE [36.09, -118.82], 1.2 WSW SPRINGVILLE [36.12, -118.84]				
	03/07/13 19:24 PST		5K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/07/13 20:24 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Road flooding was reported at Highway 190 and Success Valley Drive.

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS				
	03/07/13 22:00 PST		0	Winter Weather
	03/09/13 04:00 PST		0	

KERN COUNTY --- 1.8 WSW MAGUNDEN [35.36, -118.93], 2.7 SW MAGUNDEN [35.34, -118.93], 1.7 WSW EDISON [35.34, -118.90], 1.0 ESE MAGUNDEN [35.36, -118.89]				
	03/08/13 08:37 PST		5K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/08/13 09:37 PST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Road flooding was reported at Edison Highway and Fairfax Road.

KINGS COUNTY --- 8.4 E HANFORD MUNI ARPT [36.33, -119.48], 8.3 E HANFORD MUNI ARPT [36.32, -119.48], 7.8 E HANFORD MUNI ARPT [36.32, -119.49], 8.0 E HANFORD MUNI ARPT [36.33, -119.49]				
	03/08/13 10:55 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/08/13 11:55 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Road flooding was reported at Highway 198 and 1st Avenue.

A strong ridge of high pressure prevailed at the beginning of the month. On the 1st, high temperatures reached around 10 degrees above average. Bakersfield had a high of 77 degrees, while Fresno reached 75. The strong ridge continued over the area during the following day; temperatures rose several degrees (Fresno reached 81 degrees, and Bakersfield reached 82 degrees). Thus, March arrived like the proverbial lamb.

A weak storm system passed over the central California interior on March 3rd and allowed temperatures to cool by around 10 to 15 degrees. Both Bakersfield and Fresno reported a trace of rainfall on this day. The clouds also kept overnight temperatures warm. Bakersfield tied its record high minimum temperature on March 3rd, and Fresno came within a degree of doing the same.

Weak high pressure briefly returned on the 4th and 5th, and temperatures warmed a few degrees each day. This was a brief period of relatively calm weather.

March 5th was a transition day, as a Pacific storm approached California. The first storm brought only light precipitation to the region beginning on the evening of the 5th, but strong winds developed as the cold front moved through the San Joaquin Valley. Winds gusted as high as 54 mph along the west side of the Valley.

The system that moved over the region on the 6th and 7th had a typical track of a Pacific storm system originating from the Gulf of Alaska. The next storm arrived late on March 7th and continued into the 8th. There was street flooding in the eastern San Joaquin Valley and the foothills near Lake Success from some heavy rain showers, but the heaviest rain fell further south, in Kern County, as the upper-level low came onshore near San Diego. With this system, Bakersfield picked up 0.80 inch of rain, while Fresno only received 0.11 inch.

The cold airmass aloft dropped snow levels down to around 3000-3500 feet, and created unstable conditions that triggered a few thunderstorms over the San Joaquin Valley during the late afternoon and evening of March 8th. Upslope clouds banked against the north slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains combined with low snow levels to produce snow on some of the mountain roads. The California Highway Patrol closed southbound Interstate 5 over the Grapevine during the morning of the 8th, and a spotter in Bear Valley Springs reported 7 inches of new snow. Further north in the mountains, another spotter reported 6 inches of new snow in Glennville. The storm continued over Kern County through the evening of March 8th. Rainfall in the Kern River Canyon was a factor in a rock slide on Highway 178, and winds gusted to 56 mph in the Mojave area below the Tehachapi Pass.

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Unsettled conditions continued through the 9th. Bakersfield had a total rainfall for the 4 days of 0.80 inches, and Fresno had a total of 0.32 inch. This is because the upper-level low moved onshore over southern California, and the northern end of the warp-around moisture passed over central California, with most of the moisture affecting Kern County.

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

03/19/13 00:00 PST	15K	Strong Wind (MAX 48 kt)
03/19/13 18:00 PST	0	

With abundant ground water, patchy dense fog developed in parts of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. This was not unexpected, as climatologically March 8th-10th marks the end of the dense fog season. Dense fog developed in the Los Banos area during the morning of the 10th, with the visibility at the Los Banos Municipal Airport falling to less than a quarter mile.

The fog formed further south the next morning, with dense fog in the Selma to Hanford area. The morning of March 12th also saw some fog development, mainly west of the Highway 99 corridor.

Beginning on the 10th, the east Pacific ridge returned once again, bringing a warming trend to the region over the next several days. By the 13th, temperatures reached around 15-20 degrees above average. In fact, Fresno set a new record high temperature of 85 degrees on the 13th; this beat the old record of 84 degrees set back in 2007. Another record high temperature was broken on the 14th in Fresno. The observed high was 84 degrees, and this broke the former record of 83 degrees set back in 2007. Bakersfield tied its second warmest March 14th on record with a high of 85 degrees.

An upper-level disturbance brought high clouds to the region on March 15th, as well as gusty winds to the Kern County mountains and deserts. Another disturbance brought another round of gusty winds to the higher terrain of Kern County during the late evening of March 16th and the early morning of the 17th; Jawbone Canyon had a gust to 59 mph shortly after midnight. Winds redeveloped the following night, but were not quite as strong.