

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2015

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-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

05/01/15 00:00 PST	0	Drought
05/31/15 23:59 PST	0	

The California drought continued in full force during the month of May, 2015. Temperatures continued to average above normal. While there was some precipitation in May, it was not uniformly distributed. Fresno received 0.57 inches of rain (133% of normal) while Bakersfield received 0.68 inches (377% of normal). Overall, seasonal rainfall amounts continued to be only 35-65 percent of normal across central California.

The U.S. Drought Monitor continued to report exceptional drought conditions across the entire Central California region. This extent of exceptional drought is extremely unusual for California. The 2013-2014 water year (July 1 - June 30) concluded with Fresno setting its second driest on record (4.81 inches) and Bakersfield setting its third driest (2.41 inches). For the calendar year, 2014 was the warmest year on record for Fresno and Bakersfield. The trend of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures has continued through the first few months of 2015.

There continues to be significant media coverage on the on-going drought conditions. These reports include discussion of significant re-allocation of water resources from the east to west side of the San Joaquin Valley, farmers forgoing planting of some crops, a decrease in the snow-related tourism activity in the Southern Sierra Nevada, reduction in air quality due to persistent stagnant air, loss or reduction of ground water, wells drying up in several communities leaving them with no water, and an unprecedented increase in fire danger across the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains.

(CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY

05/07/15 08:30 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 55 kt)
05/07/15 14:00 PST	0	

MERCED COUNTY --- LIVINGSTON [37.38, -120.72]

05/07/15 12:50 PST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
05/07/15 13:00 PST	0	Source: Public

Facebook user submitted a picture of one inch hail next to coins.

An upper level low moved across the northern Sierra-Nevada Range, bringing breezy winds and scattered thunderstorms.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.5 S FIG GARDEN VLG [36.80, -119.80], 1.0 SE FIG GARDEN VLG [36.81, -119.79], 1.4 SSE FIG GARDEN VLG [36.80, -119.79], 1.3 WNW HAMMOND [36.78, -119.80]

05/14/15 19:00 PST	0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
05/15/15 05:15 PST	0	Source: Social Media

A thunderstorm moved over the Fresno area producing a few tenths of an inch a short period of time. This heavy rainfall was compounded with poor drainage which lead to areas of curb to curb flooding, one road closure at an underpass where water was multiple feet deep, and flood waters entering buildings.

An upper level low moved onto the central California coast the morning of the 14th, with the bulk of the storms energy moving through Kern County. As the system moved through the area on the 14th thunderstorms developed across the Southern and Central San Joaquin Valley, which brought heavy rainfall. This resulted in some street flooding in the Bakersfield and Fresno areas.