

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2020

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

(CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

01/01/20 02:13 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/01/20 10:40 PST	0	

High pressure built inland into California as 2020 began. With mainly clear skies, light winds and low level moisture from recent storms in place over the San Joaquin Valley, areas of dense fog formed overnight and adversely impacted travel in the central portion of the valley during the morning hours. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which dissipated during the afternoon.

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

01/01/20 19:14 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
01/01/20 19:14 PST	0	

An upper level system dropping south through the Great Basin during the afternoon and evening of January 1 produced a period a strong wind gusts in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts as pressure gradients strengthened. Several stations measured gusts exceeding 45 mph.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA

01/02/20 01:50 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/02/20 10:45 PST	0	

The system that dropped through the Great Basin during the afternoon and evening of January 1 produced a northerly flow over the area which caused low level clouds to bank up over the southern San Joaquin Valley. This inhibited fog formation south of Fresno during the morning of January 2. However, skies remained mainly clear north of Fresno and fog formed along the State Route 99 corridor between Madera and Turlock; impacting travel along State Route 99. The fog lifted by late morning.

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

01/02/20 18:35 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/02/20 21:35 PST	0	

The low clouds which persisted over the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley on January 2 pushed southward during the afternoon and evening causing low level moisture to push into the Tehachapi Mountains. This resulted in dense fog forming around Tehachapi. The fog also produced black ice as temperatures fell below freezing during the evening impacting travel along State Route 58. The fog dissipated by late evening and skies cleared out overnight.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

01/03/20 01:10 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/03/20 11:15 PST	0	

High pressure shifted inland into California during the morning of January 3. With clear skies, light winds and low level moisture, an area of fog formed along the center of the San Joaquin Valley during the early morning. The fog reduced visibility to below a quarter mile in portions of Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties before lifting by late morning.

(CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

01/04/20 06:16 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/04/20 10:08 PST	0	

Although high pressure weakened over central California on January 4 as the upper ridge axis shifted east of the area, Some patchy dense fog formed toward sunrise in Kings and Fresno counties and reduced visibility in Hanford and Lemoore. The fog dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY

01/05/20 00:50 PST	0	Dense Fog
01/05/20 11:40 PST	0	

A dry cold front pushed through central California during the early morning of January 5. Clearing skies and upslope flow behind the front allowed for low level moisture to bank up along the east side and south end of the valley allowing for widespread fog to form. By sunrise the fog covered a large portion of the San Joaquin Valley. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which dissipated during the afternoon.

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(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA				
	01/05/20 19:15 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/06/20 10:00 PST		0	
<p>Dense fog formed around Tehachapi and Fresno during the evening hours as low level moisture banked up against the foothills. Although the fog dissipated by midnight as the upslope flow diminished, clearing skies and light winds overnight made conditions favorable for fog to form by daybreak over much of the San Joaquin Valley. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which slowly eroded during the afternoon.</p>				
(CA-Z180) SAN JOAQUIN CONFLUENCE, (CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY				
	01/06/20 22:00 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/07/20 12:45 PST		0	
<p>An upper level ridge prevailed over the area January 6 and 7. Dense fog formed parts of the San Joaquin Valley during the evening of January 6 and expanded throughout much of overnight as light winds and inversion conditions in the valley were favorable for dense fog which resulted in traffic being paced by law enforcement and several school districts either opening late or delaying bus service. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by early afternoon, but many areas did not clear out until the following day.</p>				
(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z197) FORT TEJON				
	01/07/20 20:00 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/08/20 16:15 PST		0	
(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA				
	01/08/20 05:32 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 57 kt)
	01/08/20 05:32 PST		0	
<p>The dense fog which prevailed over much of the San Joaquin Valley on January 7 lifted into a stratus deck which expanded toward the valley facing slopes of the Sierra foothills and Kern County Mountains. Northerly flow resulted in the stratus banking up in the Fort Tejon and Tehachapi areas which resulted in dense fog which impacted travel over the Tejon and Tehachapi passes on January 8. Downslope wind gusts impacted the ridge tops and below the passes in Kern County Mountains during the morning hours of January 8 with several locations measuring gusts exceeding 45 mph, and a few low impact indicator sites briefly measuring gusts exceeding 55 mph.</p>				
(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT				
	01/09/20 02:40 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 59 kt)
	01/09/20 04:14 PST		0	
<p>A low pressure system dropped southward out of the northeast Pacific and pushed through central California on January 9. This system produced some generally light precipitation across much of the area with most stations picking up between a tenth and a quarter inch of liquid precipitation while a few stations in Merced County and along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley picked up between a quarter and a half inch of rain. Light snow fell above 4000 feet with several stations picking up between 1 and 3 inches. The system was also accompanied by a period of strong wind gusts over the Kern County Mountains and Deserts during the early morning hours with several stations measuring gusts exceeding 40 mph and a few sites having brief gusts above 50 mph.</p>				
(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY, (CA-Z189) BAKERSFIELD				
	01/10/20 06:45 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/10/20 11:25 PST		0	
<p>Following the departure of the storm of January 9, shortwave ridging resulted in period of clear skies, light winds and inversion conditions over the San Joaquin Valley during the morning of January 10 making conditions favorable for fog in the valley. Areas of dense fog formed by daybreak and visibility was reduced to a few hundred feet at several locations. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which dissipated by early afternoon.</p>				
(CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY				
	01/11/20 01:00 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/11/20 09:31 PST		0	
<p>A weak system moved across northern California on January 11 and while it produced mixing to inhibit fog formation north of Fresno, dense fog was present during the morning in the center of the valley which reduced visibility to below a quarter mile at times along the State Route 198 corridor between Lemoore and Visalia. The fog dissipated by late morning.</p>				
(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY				

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	01/12/20 06:35 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/12/20 09:15 PST		0	

Clear skies and light winds resulted in a brief period of patchy dense fog just after sunrise which reduced visibility below a quarter mile across parts of the central portion and east side of the San Joaquin Valley for around 2 hours. The fog dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

	01/13/20 01:14 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
	01/13/20 05:27 PST		0	

A dry cold front pushed through the area during the morning of January 13. This produced some gusty winds in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts with several locations measuring gusts between 35 and 45 mph. Gusts above 50 mph were reported in the Mojave area while a few low impact indicator sites measured gusts above 60 mph. Another dry cold front produced a brief period of gusty winds in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts on January 14.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

	01/13/20 02:45 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/13/20 10:15 PST		0	

Although dry cold front moved through the area during the morning of January 13, inversion conditions, clear skies and light winds persisted in the San Joaquin Valley which resulted in another morning of locally dense fog which persisted in the citrus belt along the east side until late morning when the fog dissipated.

(CA-Z192) CENTRAL SIERRA, (CA-Z193) NORTH KINGS RIVER, (CA-Z194) SEQUOIA KINGS

	01/16/20 12:00 PST		0	Heavy Snow
	01/17/20 00:00 PST		0	

(CA-Z192) CENTRAL SIERRA, (CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

	01/16/20 14:00 PST		50K	High Wind (MAX 76 kt)
	01/17/20 04:10 PST		0	

(CA-Z189) BAKERSFIELD

	01/16/20 17:30 PST		2K	Strong Wind (MAX 39 kt)
	01/16/20 17:42 PST		0	

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA

	01/17/20 00:00 PST		0	Winter Storm
	01/17/20 12:00 PST		0	

A cold front that was associated with an upper trough which pushed through California on January 16 crossed central CA during the afternoon and evening hours, and provided much of the area with 6 to 8 hours of precipitation. Much of the San Joaquin Valley picked up between a quarter and a half inch of rainfall while several locations in the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills picked up between a half inch and an inch of liquid precipitation. The precipitation fell mainly as snow above 4000 feet where several locations picked up between 5 and 10 inches of new snowfall while a few stations picked up as much as 14 inches. Between a quarter to half an inch of liquid precipitation also fell across the Kern County Mountains, but the snow levels were a bit higher (4500 to 5000 feet), and the major passes remained open although several roads in the Tehachapi area were closed overnight for accumulating snow and ice. Strong winds accompanied the cold front in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley and along the ridge tops and below the passes in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts. There were a few reports of minor wind damage from fallen trees and several locations measured gusts exceeding 40 mph while some low impact indicator sites briefly measured gusts exceeding 70 mph before the winds diminished by daybreak on January 17.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

	01/17/20 06:45 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/17/20 11:45 PST		0	

Clearing skies and diminished winds behind a cold front during the early morning of January 17 allowed for some radiational fog to form in the San Joaquin Valley mainly between Interstate 5 and State Route 99 north of Kern County. The fog reduced visibility below a quarter mile for a few hours in the Merced area and along the State Route 198 corridor between Lemoore and Visalia. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning and dissipated during the afternoon.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	01/17/20 22:20 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/18/20 11:15 PST		0	

An upper ridge strengthened over the region between the afternoon of January 17 and the morning of January 18. With clear skies, light winds and inversion conditions over the San Joaquin Valley, widespread dense fog formed overnight and reduced visibility below a quarter mile across much of the valley north of Kern County until late morning when the fog lifted into a low cloud deck. The low clouds hung on across much of the valley for much of the day and kept visibility above a quarter mile the following night.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

	01/20/20 03:25 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/20/20 08:10 PST		0	

A persistent low cloud deck which hung over much of the San Joaquin Valley on January 18 broke up by the afternoon of January 19 as some mixing took place across the area. Some high clouds pushed through the area during the morning of January 20, but patches of dense fog formed near Madera and near Porterville. The fog was fairly shallow and lifted not long after sunrise.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

	01/22/20 07:55 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/22/20 09:40 PST		0	

A weak storm system moved north of the area on January 21 which provided for enough mixing to prevent widespread fog from forming during the morning hours. However, a patch of dense fog formed near sunrise near Hanford, Lemoore and Riverdale and reduced visibility to below a quarter mile for a few hours and resulted in a few school districts either opening late or delaying bus service.

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z187) WESTERN KERN COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN KERN COUNTY, (CA-Z189) BAKERSFIELD

	01/23/20 02:45 PST		0.10M	Dense Fog
	01/23/20 10:30 PST		0	

High pressure kept clear skies and light wind over the area during the morning of January 23. With inversion conditions persisting in the San Joaquin Valley, widespread dense fog formed and persisted across much of the valley until late morning. The fog was responsible for at least two multi-vehicle accidents (one fatal) and resulted in several school systems either opening late or delaying bus service.

(CA-Z180) SAN JOAQUIN CONFLUENCE, (CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO

	01/24/20 02:30 PST		50K	Dense Fog
	01/24/20 11:25 PST		0	

High pressure continued to strengthen over the area on January 24, although some high clouds pushed through the area, light winds and inversion conditions allowed for an areas of dense fog to form in the center of the San Joaquin Valley north of Kern County where low level moisture has persisted. The fog reduced visibility to less than an eighth of a mile at several locations, and resulted in several school districts either opening late or delaying or cancelling bus service as it persisted until late morning when it lifted into a low cloud deck. The low stratus deck slowly dissipated during the afternoon. The fog also contributed to two multi-vehicle accidents near Caruthers.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

	01/25/20 03:10 PST		0	Dense Fog
	01/25/20 08:45 PST		0	

Although high pressure remained over the area, some high clouds pushed through and were able to inhibit the formation of widespread dense fog on the morning of January 25. However, a strip of dense fog formed in the center of the San Joaquin Valley along State Route 99 north of Fresno and impacted travel through Merced and Madera during the morning. The fog completely dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	01/26/20 15:27 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 61 kt)
	01/26/20 19:00 PST		0	

The upper ridge that that was responsible for mild temperatures across the area and periods of night and morning fog in the San Joaquin Valley for the previous several days broke down during the morning of January 26 as a low pressure system moved across northern California. While most of the precipitation from this system remained north of the area, it did produce between a quarter to half an inch of liquid precipitation near Yosemite Park with the precipitation falling as snow above 8000 feet. The system also produced

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between a tenth and a quarter inch of rain over the Sierra Nevada between Yosemite Park and Kings Canyon and up to a tenth of an inch in the adjacent foothills and across Merced County. Further south in the San Joaquin Valley and in the mountains south of Kings Canyon, precipitation amounts were generally only a few hundredths of an inch at most. This system did produce a period of gusty winds during the evening across the mountains and deserts of Kern County with several stations measuring gusts exceeding 45 mph.

(CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z189) BAKERSFIELD

01/27/20 03:10 PST			0	Dense Fog
01/27/20 11:35 PST			0	

The low pressure system which moved across northern California and brought some light precipitation and gusty winds to the area on the previous day moved out of the region with high pressure building back into the area overnight. This resulted in clearing skies and diminished winds on the San Joaquin Valley and areas of dense fog subsequently formed in the valley overnight. The fog mainly impacted the south end of the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, and the east side of the valley in Tulare County as well as a portion of Fresno County near Reedley and Sanger. The fog lifted into a low cloud deck by late morning which then slowly dissipated during the early afternoon hours.

(CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY

01/28/20 00:55 PST			0	Dense Fog
01/28/20 07:50 PST			0	

Fog formed once again over the central portion of the San Joaquin Valley during the early morning of January 28. While the fog reduced visibility to below a quarter mile in several locations, it did not last very long due and impacts to travel were minimized travel to lifting effects from a strong low pressure system moving through the Pacific Northwest which resulted in much of the valley being under a low cloud deck during the morning commute.

(CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

01/28/20 16:20 PST			0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
01/28/20 16:20 PST			0	

A strong low pressure system pushed through the Pacific Northwest on January 28 which was accompanied by strong cold front which pushed southward through California during the day. As this front moved through central California during the afternoon, a period of gusty winds accompanied the front across the mountains and deserts of Kern County with several stations measuring peak gusts exceeding 40 mph; and several stations on the lee side of the Tehachapi mountains briefly measuring peak gusts exceeding 50 mph. The winds slowly decreased overnight.

(CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

01/30/20 06:00 PST			0	Dense Fog
01/30/20 09:00 PST			0	

High pressure strengthened over central California during the morning of January 30 following the departure of a strong cold front. Winds diminished as the high built inland. However, with high clouds being present dense fog was confined to the center portion of the western San Joaquin Valley during the morning commute, most noticeably near Lemoore. Several school districts in Kings and western Fresno Counties opened late or delayed bus service as a result. The fog dissipated by late morning.

(CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

01/31/20 04:25 PST			0	Dense Fog
01/31/20 09:15 PST			0	

High pressure remained over the region on January 31. With light winds and mainly clear clear skies prevailing, patches of dense fog formed in Kings and western Fresno Counties although impacts were not as significant as the previous day. The fog completely dissipated by late morning. Overall, January was a mild and dry month across the area with dense fog a common occurrence in the San Joaquin Valley as high pressure prevailed over the area for a good portion of the month.