

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2020

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

(CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	05/01/20 02:26 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
	05/01/20 20:00 PST	0		

As a result of increased onshore pressure gradients which developed following the passage of a dry cold front on April 30, strong wind gusts developed over along the ridge tops and below the passes in Kern County during the evening of April 30. These strong winds continued through the evening of May 1 and several stations measured gusts above 55 mph. The winds finally decreased by the morning of May 2, but several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts reported gusts above 45 mph through the evening of May 2.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	05/12/20 09:10 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
	05/14/20 05:27 PST	0		

A low pressure system moved through northern California during the morning of May 12. This system pushed a cold front through the area later that day which brought cooler temperatures, isoalted showers and a period of strong winds to the Kern County Deserts as well as to the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas in the Kern County Moutnains. The strong winds continued through May 13 and finially tapered off during the morning of May 14. Several stations measured gusts beteeen 40 and 55 mph while a few low impacpt indicator stations measured gusts near 70 mph.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

	05/14/20 11:18 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
	05/15/20 02:50 PST	0		

Not long after winds diminished following a cold frontal passage associated with a storm that moved to the north of the area, another low pressure system pushed across the Pacific Northwest during the afternoon of May 14 and a shortwave impulse dropped east of the area during the evening hours which produced another period of strong winds across the Kern County Deserts and the Lake Isabella areas where there were several stations reporting wind gusts between 45 and 60 mph. A few low impact indicator sites reported gusts between 65 and 70 mph.

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

	05/18/20 07:00 PST	0		Heavy Snow
	05/19/20 07:00 PST	0		

FRESNO COUNTY --- RIVERDALE [36.43, -119.87], 0.1 N RIVERDALE [36.43, -119.87], 0.2 NE RIVERDALE [36.43, -119.87], 0.1 E RIVERDALE [36.43, -119.87]

	05/18/20 16:14 PST	0		Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	05/18/20 18:00 PST	0		Source: NWS Employee

An NWS Employee observed roadway flooding just west of Riverdale at the intersection of W. Mount Whitney Ave and S. Brawley Ave.

MADERA COUNTY --- 1.6 E SOUTH FORK [37.23, -119.47]

	05/18/20 16:43 PST	0		Funnel Cloud
	05/18/20 16:45 PST	0		Source: Public

Public observation of a funnel cloud near North Fork.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.9 S PARLIER [36.61, -119.52], 1.1 S PARLIER [36.60, -119.52], 1.1 S PARLIER [36.60, -119.52], 0.9 S PARLIER [36.61, -119.52]

	05/18/20 17:00 PST	0		Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	05/18/20 18:00 PST	0		Source: Public

Public report of roadway flooding and half inch hail in Parlier.

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

	05/18/20 21:18 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 59 kt)
	05/19/20 18:27 PST	0		

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A low pressure system dropped southward off the northern California coast on May 17 than moved inland across central California on May 18. As a result, precipitation spread southward across the area north of Fresno County during the evening of May 17 and became widespread across our area on May 18. Several stations in the Sierra Nevada picked up between an inch and 2.50 inches of liquid precipitation while a few stations from Madera County northward picked up between 2.50 and 3.25 inches of liquid precipitation. Snow levels were between 8000 to 9000 feet early on, but lowered to around 6000 feet by the afternoon of May 18. Several higher elevation SNOTEL stations picked up between 2 and 6 inches of new snowfall while a few stations picked up 7 inches or more. As a cooler airmass pushed into the area during the afternoon of May 18, thunderstorms developed during the afternoon. One thunderstorm produced nuisance roadway flooding near Riverdale while another produced nuisance roadway flooding near Parlier. A third thunderstorm produced a funnel cloud near North Fork. Finally, This system produced a period of strong winds over the Kern County Deserts as well as over the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas between the evening of May 18 and the morning of May 19. Several stations in these areas reported wind gusts between 45 and 60 mph. A few low impact indicator sites reported gusts between 60 and 70 mph. The winds diminished by late morning on May 19 as the storm moved out of the area.

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

05/22/20 07:27 PST	0	High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
05/22/20 21:26 PST	0	

A dry cold front pushed through the area during the morning of May 22. While daytime temperatures cooled by a few degrees from the day before, the main impact from this system was increased winds between the late morning hours and the evening. Several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts measured gusts exceeding 45 mph while a few low impact indicator sites measured gusts above 55 mph.

(CA-Z179) WEST SIDE HILLS, (CA-Z180) SAN JOAQUIN CONFLUENCE, (CA-Z181) MERCED AND MADERA, (CA-Z182) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, (CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM, (CA-Z184) FRESNO, (CA-Z185) TULARE COUNTY, (CA-Z186) SOUTHERN KINGS COUNTY, (CA-Z187) WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY IN KERN COUNTY, (CA-Z188) EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY IN KERN COUNTY, (CA-Z189) BAKERSFIELD, (CA-Z191) SOUTHERN SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

05/26/20 10:00 PST	0	Excessive Heat
05/28/20 19:00 PST	0	

A large area of high pressure built into California on May 25 and May 26. This resulted in much above normal daytime temperatures on both days with some locations setting new daily records on May 26. The high then strengthened on May 27 and May 28 resulting in widespread record heat over the region on both days with highs in the San Joaquin Valley mainly between 103 and 107 on both days. Triple digit heat was also observed across portions of the Sierra foothills and Kern County Deserts. Temperatures cooled by several degrees on May 29 and lowered to below seasonal averages by May 30 as the large area high pressure broke down, and a cold front pushed through the area.