

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2021

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

(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-Z190) CENTRAL SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z191) SOUTHERN SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z192) CENTRAL SIERRA, (CA-Z193) NORTH KINGS RIVER, (CA-Z194) SEQUOIA KINGS, (CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z197) FORT TEJON, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

05/01/21 00:00 PST		0	Drought
05/31/21 23:59 PST		0	

Nearly all of the central California Interior was classified as being in an extreme or exceptional drought by the end of May, 2021 due to a long term precipitation deficit. As of May 31, 2021, most of the impacted area has received less than 50% of normal precipitation since July 1, 2020.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

05/01/21 15:00 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 67 kt)
05/01/21 22:14 PST		0	

A cold front dropped southward through the area on May 1 producing strong wind gusts across the Kern County deserts as well as across the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas between the afternoon of May 1 and the early morning of May 2 as a strong onshore pressure gradient developed. Several stations measured gusts exceeding 45 mph while a few low impact indicator sites measured gusts exceeding 60 mph. The winds decreased during the day on May 2 as gradients relaxed.

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

05/07/21 11:27 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
05/08/21 00:40 PST		0	

An upper trough pushed through California on May 7. While this system lacked moisture, a strong cold front associated with it moved through our area during the afternoon and evening of May 7 producing a period of gusty northwest winds across the Kern County Deserts as well as across the Tehachapi and Lake Isabella areas. Several stations in the aforementioned areas measured gusts exceeding 40 mph while portions of the Kern County Deserts and some low impact indicator sites in the Tehachapi area had gusts exceeding 55 mph. The winds diminished during the morning of May 8 as the trough moved to the east of our area.

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

05/17/21 18:14 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
05/17/21 23:00 PST		0	

A low pressure system moved through the area on May 16. While there was not much moisture associated with this system, some showers and thunderstorms developed over the Sierra Nevada and the Kern County Mountains and Deserts. Amounts were generally light, ranging from a few hundredths of an inch to a quarter inch of liquid precipitation. The precipitation fell as snow above 9000 feet and some high elevations SNOTELS picked up between 1 and 3 inches of new snowfall. The low moved east of our area on May 17, but gusty northwest winds developed behind this system during the afternoon of May 17 until the early morning of May 18 due to an increased onshore pressure gradient. Several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts measured gusts exceeding 40 mph while a few stations reported brief gusts exceeding 55 mph.

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

05/18/21 18:14 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
05/19/21 03:30 PST		0	

Onshore pressure gradients strengthened again during the afternoon of May 18 resulting in another episode of gusty winds across the Kern County. Deserts and the Tehachapi area in the Kern County Mountains. Several stations reported gusts exceeding 45 mph while a handful of stations measured gusts exceeding 60 mph. The gradients relaxed some during the early morning of May 19 resulting in winds decreasing across the impacted area.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA, (CA-Z196) TEHACHAPI AREA, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, (CA-Z199) KERN COUNTY DESERT

05/20/21 06:10 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 81 kt)
05/20/21 23:27 PST		0	

(CA-Z183) FOGGY BOTTOM

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2021

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	05/20/21 12:00 PST		1.50K	Strong Wind (MAX 26 kt)
	05/20/21 12:00 PST		0	

A cold upper low pressure system dropped into northern California during the morning of May 20 carving out a strong upper trough into the western U.S. A cold front associated with this system also pushed through the area during the day and brought a period a very strong winds to the Kern County Deserts as well as to the Tehachapi and Lake Isabella area in the Kern County Mountains. Several stations reported gusts exceeding 60 mph while a few low impact indicator sites briefly measured gusts exceeding 90 mph. Several roads across the impacted area were closed as a precaution between the late morning and the late evening hours of May 20. The winds diminished during the early morning of May 21 as the cold front moved out of the area, leaving an unseasonably cool airmass over the area for a few days. Some instability allowed for some rain and snow showers to develop during the afternoon of May 21 mainly over the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills. Precipitation amounts were generally light, mainly up to a quarter inch of liquid precipitation with elevations above 6000 feet picking up at much as 2 inches of new snowfall.

(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				
	05/31/21 10:00 PST		0	Heat
	05/31/21 19:00 PST		0	

A very strong upper ridge built inland into California during the Memorial Day holiday weekend resulting in temperatures rising to near record levels across the San Joaquin Valley and the West Side Hills by Memorial Day (May 31). Several stations across these areas had maximum temperatures exceed the century mark on May 31 prompting the issuance of Excessive Heat Warnings and the opening of cooling centers due to this event taking place early in the season.