

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2023

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

FRESNO COUNTY --- 2.4 NW SANGER WNDR VLY ARPT [36.83, -119.32], 2.8 NNW SANGER WNDR VLY ARPT [36.83, -119.33], 2.1 WNW PIEDRA [36.83, -119.41], 2.5 WNW BELMONT AVENUE [36.79, -119.49], 2.8 SSW PARLIER [36.58, -119.54], 3.0 W KINGSBURG [36.51, -119.60], 2.7 SW CLARKS CORNER [36.57, -119.41]

	05/01/23 00:00 PST	2	0	Flood (due to Planned Dam Release)
	05/30/23 11:00 PST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

Fresno, Kings and Tulare County Emergency Managers reported flooding along the Kings River downstream from Pine Flat Dam as a result of increased releases prompted by increased runoff from snow melt. Two young children who were swimming in the river with their mother on May 21 were swept away by the fast moving waters and were found dead shortly afterward. Neither child was wearing a life vest.

Direct Fatalities: M4IW, F8IW

KINGS COUNTY --- 9.2 NE SHIRLEY [36.50, -119.54], 1.8 NW HARDWICK [36.42, -119.74], 1.0 WNW HARDWICK [36.41, -119.74], 8.4 NE SHIRLEY [36.47, -119.53]

	05/01/23 00:00 PST		0	Flood (due to Planned Dam Release)
	05/30/23 11:00 PST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

Fresno, Kings and Tulare County Emergency Managers reported flooding along the Kings River downstream from Pine Flat Dam as a result of increased releases prompted by increased runoff from snow melt.

TULARE COUNTY --- 3.7 W DELFT COLONY [36.51, -119.52], 4.2 WNW TRAVER [36.48, -119.55], 3.7 W TRAVER [36.45, -119.55], 2.3 SW DELFT COLONY [36.50, -119.48]

	05/01/23 00:00 PST		0	Flood (due to Planned Dam Release)
	05/30/23 11:00 PST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

Fresno, Kings and Tulare County Emergency Managers reported flooding along the Kings River downstream from Pine Flat Dam as a result of increased releases prompted by increased runoff from snow melt.

Continued increased releases at Pine Flat dam due to heavy snow melt runoff resulted in a continuation of flooding near the Kings River downstream of Pine Flat Dam through most of May. The increased runoff produced flooding at Lindy's Landing campground near Reedley, and the Kings River Golf and Country Club near Kingsburg. The releases were cut back on May 30 which resulted in lowered impacts from flooding.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 4.2 S HUMPHREYS STATION [36.91, -119.44], 4.0 S HUMPHREYS STATION [36.91, -119.44]

	05/04/23 09:38 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	05/04/23 09:38 PST		0	Source: Broadcast Media

KFTV Channel 30 filmed a funnel cloud west of Trimmer. The video was posted on Twitter.

MERCED COUNTY --- ATWATER [37.35, -120.60], 0.1 NNE ATWATER [37.35, -120.60]

	05/04/23 10:30 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	05/04/23 10:30 PST		0	Source: Broadcast Media

KMPH Channel 26 filmed a funnel cloud over Atwater.

MERCED COUNTY --- 1.3 NE SOUTH DOS PALOS [36.99, -120.64], 1.4 NE SOUTH DOS PALOS [36.99, -120.63]

	05/04/23 16:30 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	05/04/23 16:30 PST		0	Source: COOP Observer

A cooperative observer observed a funnel cloud over Dos Palos.

An upper level low pressure system moved slowly inland across central California on May 4. The low brought enough moisture and instability to the area for scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop across the area. While precipitation amounts were generally a quarter of an inch or less, some stations in Merced and Mariposa Counties measured between a quarter and three quarters of an inch of rainfall. In addition, some of the thunderstorms produced funnel clouds as the environment was highly sheared.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.9 S COALINGA [36.12, -120.38], 1.9 S COALINGA [36.12, -120.37], 2.0 S COALINGA [36.12, -120.37], 2.0 S COALINGA [36.12, -120.38]

	05/09/23 16:55 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	05/09/23 18:14 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

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California Highway Patrol reported rocks and mud on the roadway at the intersection of SR 198 and Firestone Ave.

An upper trough moved across Central California on May 9. This system provided for enough instability for scattered thunderstorms to break out along the West Side Hills and the Sierra Nevada during the afternoon. One thunderstorm produced heavy rainfall near Coalinga which resulted in a brief closure of SR 198 just to the southwest of Coalinga as rocks and mud impacted the highway.

(CA-Z305) WEST SIDE OF FRESNO AND KINGS COUNTIES, (CA-Z309) BUTTOWILLOW- LOST HILLS - I5, (CA-Z310) DELANO - WASCOS - SHAFTER, (CA-Z314) BAKERSFIELD, (CA-Z316) SOUTH END SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

05/14/23 10:00 PST	0	Heat
05/14/23 19:00 PST	0	

A strong upper ridge built slowly inland into California between May 12 and May 14 which brought a significant warming trend to the area with temperatures rising to well above normal levels by May 13 after colder than normal temperatures prevailed for the first 11 days of the month. Portions of the southern San Joaquin Valley had high temperatures above 100 degrees F on May 14 which was the first day of triple digit heat in several months which resulted in elevated heat related impacts. Temperatures cooled a little by May 15 as the ridge weakened slightly.

MARIPOSA COUNTY --- 1.3 E CAMP CURRY [37.73, -119.55], 0.3 E YOSEMITE VLG [37.75, -119.57], 1.2 WSW YOSEMITE VLG [37.75, -119.60], 2.4 NE FORESTA [37.73, -119.72], 1.9 W COULTERVILLE [37.72, -120.23], 1.9 SSW BAGBY [37.59, -120.15]

05/16/23 00:00 PST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Snow Melt)
05/31/23 23:59 PST	0	Source: Park/Forest Service

Yosemite National Park Rangers reported that the Merced River exceeded its flood stage of 10 feet at Pohono Bridge between May 16 and May 31 and exceeded its flood stage of 8 feet at Happy Isles between May 20 and May 23.

The Merced River at Pohono Bridge rose to above flood stage at 10 feet on May 16 and peaked above flood stage each day through May 31. The Merced River at Happy Isles rose to above flood stage at 8 feet on May 20 and peaked above flood stage each day through May 23.

KERN COUNTY --- 2.9 NNE RAND [35.44, -117.67], 2.6 NE RAND [35.43, -117.67], 2.8 NE RAND [35.43, -117.67], 3.1 NE RAND [35.44, -117.67]

05/20/23 18:22 PST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
05/20/23 20:22 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported debris flow flooding along U.S. 395 near the intersection of Garlock Rd.

The combination of a strong upper ridge over the region which provided for much above normal temperatures across the area, and an easterly flow over central California provided for some mid and upper level moisture to stream into the area. With moisture and instability sufficient for convection to take place, scattered thunderstorms broke out during the afternoon over the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains as well as across the Kern County Deserts. One thunderstorm in the desert produced heavy rainfall which resulted in debris flow flooding over a portion of U.S. 395 near Randsburg.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 SE (NID)NAF CHINA LAKE [35.67, -117.67]

05/21/23 17:56 PST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 57 kt)
05/21/23 17:56 PST	0	Source: ASOS

The China Lake NWTC ASOS measured wind gust of 66 mph with a thunderstorm.

KERN COUNTY --- 3.2 NNE RAND [35.44, -117.67], 2.5 NE RAND [35.43, -117.68], 2.7 NE RAND [35.43, -117.67], 3.3 SSW SEALERS [35.44, -117.66]

05/21/23 20:01 PST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
05/21/23 23:01 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding along U.S. 395 near the intersection of Garlock Rd. A Jeep was observed pulling vehicles out of the flooded roadway.

The combination of a strong upper ridge over the region which provided for much above normal temperatures across the area and an easterly flow over central California continued to provide for mid and upper level moisture to stream into the area. With moisture and instability sufficient for convection to take place, scattered thunderstorms broke out during the afternoon over the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains as well as across the Kern County Deserts. One thunderstorm in the desert produced heavy rainfall which resulted in debris flow flooding over a portion of U.S. 395 near Randsburg, while another thunderstorm produced wind gusts above 60 mph in Ridgecrest.