

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2020

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

(CA-Z190) CENTRAL SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z198) INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

	03/01/20 23:49 PST	0		High Wind (MAX 72 kt)
	03/02/20 08:26 PST	0		

A cold upper low pressure system dropped southward off the California coast on March 1 bringing some mountain showers to the area. Several stations in the Sierra Nevada picked up between a tenth and a quarter of an inch of liquid precipitation while the adjacent foothills and Tehachapi Mountains picked up up to a tenth of an inch of liquid precipitation. The snow level lowered to near 3000 feet during the evening of March 1 and several stations in the mountains picked up between 1 and 3 inches of new snowfall. Pine Mountain Club measured four inches of snow and the roads in the area were briefly closed down. California Highway Patrol also paced traffic on Interstate 5 in the Grapevine and Tejon Pass areas due to black ice. Behind the trough axis after it pushed through during the evening, gusty northeast winds developed over the Sierra Nevada with several reports of gusts between 35 and 45 mph. One weather station 2 miles east of North Fork reported a peak gust of 83 mph. Gusty northerly winds also developed over the Kern County Deserts where there were also several reports of gusts between 35 and 45 mph, and a few low impact indicator sites measuring gusts above 60 mph. The winds remained gusty at times through the afternoon of March 2 then diminished during the evening.

KERN COUNTY --- FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.95]

	03/10/20 12:50 PST	0		Heavy Rain
	03/10/20 14:50 PST	0		Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter in Frazier Park measured 1.40 inches of rainfall in two hours. 2.40 inches in total fell on March 10. Two other stations in Frazier Park measured 2.88 inches and 1.95 inches of rain on March 10.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.7 E FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.94], 0.7 E FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.94], 0.8 E FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.94], 0.8 E FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.94]

	03/10/20 14:43 PST	0		Debris Flow
	03/10/20 23:00 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported mud covering the road on Mount Pinos Way near Johnson Rd. in the eastern portion of Frazier Park.

KERN COUNTY --- 1.1 W FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.97], 1.2 W FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.97], 1.1 W FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.97], 1.1 W FRAZIER PARK [34.82, -118.97]

	03/10/20 15:32 PST	0		Debris Flow
	03/10/20 23:00 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported mud, dirt and rock on the intersection of Frazier Mountain Park Road and Mount Pinos Way.

KERN COUNTY --- 4.1 N BUTTONWILLOW [35.46, -119.47], 4.2 N BUTTONWILLOW [35.46, -119.48], 3.6 N BUTTONWILLOW [35.45, -119.48], 3.6 N BUTTONWILLOW [35.45, -119.47]

	03/10/20 15:50 PST	0		Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/10/20 17:50 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding on Buttonwillow Dr. at the intersection of Interstate 5.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 NNW OIL JCT [35.41, -119.05], 1.0 N OIL JCT [35.41, -119.05], 0.9 N OIL JCT [35.41, -119.05], 0.8 N OIL JCT [35.41, -119.05], 0.9 NNW OIL JCT [35.41, -119.05]

	03/10/20 17:23 PST	0		Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/10/20 19:23 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding on State Rd. near Olive Dr. in Oildale.

KERN COUNTY --- 1.5 ESE JASTRO [35.37, -119.04], 1.6 ESE JASTRO [35.37, -119.04], 1.8 ESE JASTRO [35.37, -119.04], 1.7 ESE JASTRO [35.37, -119.04]

	03/10/20 17:51 PST	0		Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/10/20 19:51 PST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding along northbound SR 99 near California Ave. in Bakersfield.

KERN COUNTY --- 1.9 N CANTIL [35.33, -117.96], 2.5 SSW CENEDA [35.34, -117.94], 2.8 SSW CENEDA [35.33, -117.94], 1.8 NNE CANTIL [35.32, -117.96]

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	03/10/20 18:00 PST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/11/20 00:00 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported water, debris and tree branches covering Redrock Randsburg Road.

KERN COUNTY --- 0.9 NE OIL JCT [35.41, -119.04], 0.9 NE OIL JCT [35.41, -119.04], 0.9 NE OIL JCT [35.41, -119.04], 0.9 NE OIL JCT [35.41, -119.04]				
	03/10/20 18:42 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/10/20 20:42 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported flooding at the intersection of Airport Dr. and Roberts Ln. in Oildale.

An upper level low stalled off the coast of southern California on March 10. Moisture associated with this system pushed inland into the area during the day and combined with instability over Kern County to produce periods of heavy rainfall during the afternoon. Several stations in the Kern County Mountains and Deserts measured over an inch of rainfall while the Frazier Park area was hit hard by slow moving thunderstorms, and picked up over two inches of rainfall which produced debris flows in the area closing several roads. Meanwhile, law enforcement reported widespread flooding in Kern County during the afternoon and early evening hours. Further north precipitation amounts were significantly lower with Fresno County southward to northern Kern County picking up a tenth to half an inch of rain while areas north of Fresno County generally picked up a tenth of an inch or less of rainfall.

KERN COUNTY --- 1.4 NNW CANTIL [35.32, -117.98], 2.6 NNE CANTIL [35.34, -117.95], 0.6 NE SALTDALE [35.38, -117.87], 1.5 W GARLOCK [35.40, -117.81], 1.4 NW RANDSBURG [35.38, -117.67], 0.9 W RANDSBURG [35.37, -117.67]				
	03/12/20 17:00 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/13/20 06:06 PST		0	Source: County Official

Kern County Emergency Manager reported Redrock Randsburg Road was closed from SR 14 to US 395 due to flooding.

The upper low which had stalled off the southern California coast for a few days finally moved inland on March 13. However, showers and thunderstorms produced moderate to heavy rainfall in the Kern County Deserts during the evening of the March 12 and produced areas of flooding which resulted in some road closures that continued well into the following day when the high water finally receded.

(CA-Z192) CENTRAL SIERRA, (CA-Z193) NORTH KINGS RIVER, (CA-Z197) FORT TEJON				
	03/15/20 19:00 PST		0	Heavy Snow
	03/16/20 19:00 PST		0	

A low pressure system dropped slowly southward along the California coast on March 15 and 16. This system produced widespread precipitation across the area between the evening of March 15 and the afternoon of March 16. Snow levels plummeted to as low as 2000 feet during the afternoon of March 16 before the precipitation tapered off. Several stations in the mountains picked up heavy snowfall and much of the Sierra Nevada and adjacent foothills picked up between 1 to 2 inches of liquid precipitation while much of the San Joaquin Valley picked up between a quarter inch and an inch of rainfall.

FRESNO COUNTY --- 1.7 SSW SELMA [36.55, -119.63]				
	03/19/20 12:30 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	03/19/20 12:30 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol spotted a funnel cloud approximately 2 miles south of Selma.

An cold upper level low pressure system moved from the Great Basin westward to central California on March 18 and 19. This resulted in an unstable atmosphere over the area during the afternoon of March 19 with widespread showers and a few thunderstorms developing. Liquid Precipitation amounts varied due to the convective nature of the precipitation. Many locations measured between a tenth and a quarter inch of liquid precipitation with a few locations picking up around a half inch. A funnel cloud was observed near Selma by California Highway Patrol.

(CA-Z195) LAKE ISABELLA				
	03/25/20 02:32 PST		0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
	03/25/20 02:32 PST		0	

FRESNO COUNTY --- 0.6 E LACJAC [36.62, -119.46], 0.6 E LACJAC [36.62, -119.46], 0.7 E LACJAC [36.62, -119.46], 0.7 E LACJAC [36.62, -119.46]				
	03/25/20 15:11 PST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/25/20 16:30 PST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

California Highway Patrol reported roadway flooding at the intersection of E. South Ave. and N. Reed Ave. in Reedley.

KERN COUNTY --- 4.3 NE MAGUNDEN [35.41, -118.84]				
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	03/25/20 17:15 PST		0	Funnel Cloud
	03/25/20 17:15 PST		0	Source: Public

Video relayed by a Bakersfield television station showed a funnel cloud near Rio Bravo Country Club.

An unsettled pattern continued over central California between March 20 and March 29 with a mean upper trough over the state and several impulses moving through the area. One system produced moderate to locally heavy precipitation across much of the area on March 22 and March 23 with several stations measuring between a half an inch and an inch of liquid precipitation. The precipitation mainly fell as snow over the Sierra Nevada above 7000 feet with several reporting stations picking up between 8 and 12 inches of new snowfall. Another system moved through on March 25 and March 26 which produced locally strong wind gusts above 45 mph during the morning of March 25, and widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms during the afternoon of March 25. Rainfall totals generally ranged from a quarter inch to a half inch to a half inch of rainfall with widespread snowfall totals of 4 to 8 inches being observed above 6000 feet and as much as 2 inches of new snowfall down to 4000 feet. Some of the thunderstorms on March 25 produced pea sized hail and localized street flooding. In addition, a funnel cloud was briefly observed east of Bakersfield. One more system moved through the area during the morning of March 29 producing an additional tenth to a quarter inch of liquid precipitation over the Sierra Nevada and up to a tenth of an inch of rainfall elsewhere across the area.