

Storm brings rain to Valley, snow to foothills, but shortfall persists

BY CARMEN GEORGE

The Fresno Bee April 2, 2014 Updated 4 hours ago

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/04/02/3857421/storm-brings-rain-to-valley-low.html?sp=/99/217/&ihp=1>



A spring storm dusted the Oakhurst area with snow early Wednesday morning, April 2, 2014. **PHOTO PROVIDED BY MADERA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Storms that rolled in Tuesday night brought total precipitation for the rainy season, which began July 1, up to 5.51 inches for the Fresno area -- nearly six inches less than normal for this time of the year, said meteorologist Kevin Durfee with the National Weather Service in Hanford.

The snowline dropped as low as about 2,500 feet into the early hours of Wednesday, Durfee said. National Weather Service readings in Oakhurst measured up to seven inches of snow, and about four inches fell in Yosemite Valley.

The average temperature throughout March in the Fresno area was 62.4 degrees, which was the third warmest March average on record since the late 1800s, Durfee said.

Temperatures are expected to keep heating up into next week, he said, except for some possible precipitation Friday in the Sierra Nevada and foothills. But dry conditions are expected through the weekend. By midnext week in the Fresno area, temperatures could be in the high 80s or even low 90s, Durfee said.

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