Reno/Virginia Peak (KRGX)
Initial Dome Failure

19 December 2008
Approx. 1030 UTC

National Weather Service
Reno, NV
Photos Taken by NWS Reno Electronics Team, on First Visit to Radar After Dome Failure (19 Dec.)
Photos Taken by NWS Reno Electronics Team, on First Visit to Radar After Dome Failure (19 Dec.)
140 mph Peak Gust Occurred at the Same Time the Radar Failed
Lee Waves

High Resolution MODIS Water Vapor Image Taken ~4 Hours Before Radar Failed.

Shows Lee Waves Downstream of the Sierra. Subsidence in These Waves (Yellow and Dark Blue Areas) are Commonly Associated with Extreme Wind Gusts.
Last Radar Image

0.5 Degree Base Velocity
Reno/Virginia Peak (KRGX)
Complete Dome Failure and Radar Dish Damage

25 December 2008
Approx. 1015 UTC
Photos Taken by NWS Reno Electronics Team, on December 26th After Complete Dome Failure
95 mph Peak Gust Occurred Which Likely Destroyed the Rest of the Radome and Damaged the Radar Dish.
When Without Radar...

NWS Meteorologists Make Use of an Extensive Set of Alternative Data:

- Surrounding NWS Office’s Radar (e.g. Sacramento, Vegas, Elko, Medford, Hanford)
- Satellite and Lightning Data
- Surface Observations
- Spotters and Cooperative Observers
- Webcams