

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Tropical Weather Outlook – Situation Report 4a

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 29/JUN/2010 07:00 hours

29/JUN/2010 19:00 hours

SUBJECT: TROPICAL STORM “ALEX” OUTLOOK

1. CURRENT SITUATION: “COASTAL HURRICANE WARNING ISSUED”

Hidalgo County OEM is currently monitoring Tropical Storm “Alex”, which made landfall at the Yucatan Peninsula over the weekend and has emerged from the Bay of Campeche and as a weak tropical depression, and was upgraded to a “Tropical Storm” overnight. **It is expected to transform into a Category 1 hurricane shortly after lunchtime today.** It is *currently 459 miles SE of Brownsville* and is *now travelling NNW at 7 mph with sustained winds of 70 mph.* It is expected to continue strengthening as it travels in the Gulf of Mexico away from the Yucatan Peninsula and *develop into a Category 2 Hurricane by 01:00 on Wednesday, as it approaches the coast, and just prior to landfall.* As of Monday, computer models are suggesting that the landfall point has moved North and will now make landfall as a Category 2 Hurricane somewhere between La Cruz, (Mx.) and Baffin Bay Texas, about 50-75 miles South of Brownsville. Either way, the RGV region is now in the 24 hour strike zone and will be affected by wind, rain, and/or tornadic activity (dependent on landfall location), although NWS Brownsville forecast reports chances for Tornadic Activity is low. We will see effects of the storm Wednesday afternoon into early Thursday morning when landfall is forecast. All forecast models are coming into agreement about landfall location.

TROPICAL STORM ALEX ADVISORY NUMBER 15 NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL012010
400 AM CDT TUE JUN 29 2010 ...ALEX SLOWLY STRENGTHENING AS IT MOVES OVER THE SOUTHWESTERN GULF
OF MEXICO... SUMMARY OF 400 AM CDT...0900 UTC...INFORMATION

LOCATION...21.7N 91.9W
ABOUT 405 MI...650 KM ESE OF LA PESCA MEXICO
ABOUT 460 MI...735 KM SE OF BROWNSVILLE TEXAS
MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...70 MPH...110 KM/HR
PRESENT MOVEMENT...NNW OR 340 DEGREES AT 8 MPH...13 KM/HR
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...984 MB...29.06 INCHES

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

CHANGES WITH THIS ADVISORY...

NONE.

SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT...

A HURRICANE WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR...

- * THE COAST OF TEXAS SOUTH OF BAFFIN BAY TO THE MOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE
- * THE COAST OF MEXICO FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE TO LA CRUZ

A TROPICAL STORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR...

- * THE COAST OF TEXAS FROM BAFFIN BAY TO PORT OCONNOR

A HURRICANE WARNING MEANS THAT HURRICANE CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE WARNING AREA. A WARNING IS TYPICALLY ISSUED 36 HOURS BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED FIRST OCCURRENCE OF TROPICAL-STORM-FORCE WINDS...CONDITIONS THAT MAKE OUTSIDE PREPARATIONS DIFFICULT OR DANGEROUS. PREPARATIONS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY SHOULD BE RUSHED TO COMPLETION.

A TROPICAL STORM WARNING MEANS THAT TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE WARNING AREA WITHIN 36 HOURS.

FOR STORM INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR AREA IN THE UNITED STATES...INCLUDING POSSIBLE INLAND WATCHES AND WARNINGS...PLEASE MONITOR PRODUCTS ISSUED BY YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

FORECAST OFFICE. FOR STORM INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR AREA OUTSIDE UNITED STATES...PLEASE MONITOR PRODUCTS ISSUED BY YOUR NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE.

DISCUSSION AND 48-HOUR OUTLOOK

AT 400 AM CDT...0900 UTC...THE CENTER OF TROPICAL STORM ALEX WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 21.7 NORTH...LONGITUDE 91.9 WEST. ALEX IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTH-NORTHWEST NEAR 8 MPH...13 KM/HR. A TURN TOWARD THE NORTHWEST IS EXPECTED LATER TODAY...FOLLOWED BY A GRADUAL TURN TOWARD THE WEST-NORTHWEST ON WEDNESDAY.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE NEAR 70 MPH...110 KM/HR...WITH HIGHER GUSTS. ADDITIONAL STRENGTHENING IS FORECAST DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS...AND ALEX IS LIKELY TO BECOME A HURRICANE LATER TODAY.

TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS EXTEND OUTWARD UP TO 105 MILES... 165 KM...MAINLY NORTHEAST THROUGH SOUTHEAST OF THE CENTER. ESTIMATED MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE IS 984 MB...29.06 INCHES.

HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND

RAINFALL...ALEX IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL RAINFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 5 TO 10 INCHES OVER PORTIONS OF NORTHEASTERN MEXICO AND SOUTHERN TEXAS DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ADDITIONAL RAINFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 2 TO 4 INCHES ARE POSSIBLE OVER PORTIONS OF SOUTHERN MEXICO THROUGH TODAY. THESE RAINS COULD CAUSE LIFE-THREATENING FLASH FLOODS AND MUD SLIDES...ESPECIALLY IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

WIND...TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO APPROACH THE COAST WITHIN THE HURRICANE AND TROPICAL STORM WARNING AREAS ON WEDNESDAY...MAKING OUTSIDE PREPARATIONS DIFFICULT OR DANGEROUS.

STORM SURGE...A DANGEROUS STORM SURGE WILL RAISE WATER LEVELS BY AS MUCH AS 3 TO 5 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL ALONG THE IMMEDIATE COAST NEAR AND TO THE NORTH OF WHERE THE CENTER MAKES LANDFALL. THE SURGE COULD PENETRATE AS FAR INLAND AS SEVERAL MILES FROM THE SHORE WITH DEPTH GENERALLY DECREASING AS THE WATER MOVES INLAND. NEAR THE COAST...THE SURGE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE AND DESTRUCTIVE WAVES.

NEXT ADVISORY

NEXT INTERMEDIATE ADVISORY...700 AM CDT.
NEXT COMPLETE ADVISORY...1000 AM CDT.

\$\$
FORECASTER STEWART

WTNT41 KNHC 290855
TROPICAL STORM ALEX DISCUSSION NUMBER 15
NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL012010
400 AM CDT TUE JUN 29 2010

A 0525Z AIR FORCE RESERVE RECON FLIGHT FOUND TWO PEAK 925 MB FLIGHT-LEVEL WINDS OF 73 KT LOCATED ABOUT 20 AND 45 NMI NORTHEAST OF THE CENTER. RELIABLE SFMR SURFACE WINDS ALONG THAT LEG WERE AROUND 57 KT...AND THE CENTRAL PRESSURE WAS 985 MB. SINCE THAT RECON FLIGHT...DEEP CONVECTION IN THE EASTERN SEMICIRCLE OF THE SMALL DEVELOPING EYE HAS ALSO INCREASED. SATELLITE INTENSITY ESTIMATES AT 06Z WERE T4.0/65 KT FROM TAFB AND T3.5/55 KT FROM SAB. BASED ON A BLEND OF THESE DATA...THE INITIAL INTENSITY IS SET AT 60 KT FOR THIS ADVISORY.

THE INITIAL MOTION ESTIMATE IS 340/07 BASED ON RECON AND MICROWAVE SATELLITE FIX POSITIONS OVER THE PAST 8 HOURS. THE LATEST MODEL GUIDANCE SUITE...INCLUDING THE CONSENSUS MODELS...HAS SHIFTED SOUTHWARD. HOWEVER...ALEX HAS SHOWN NO SIGNS OF MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT WESTWARD PROGRESS LIKE THE ECMWF...NOGAPS...GFS...AND GFDL MODELS HAVE BEEN AND ARE STILL FORECASTING TO OCCUR. THE MODELS ARE CONSISTENT...HOWEVER...ON BUILDING A SUBTROPICAL RIDGE TO THE NORTH AND EAST OF ALEX OVER THE NEXT 3 DAYS...WHICH IS EXPECTED TO GRADUALLY STEER THE CYCLONE ON A WEST-NORTHWESTWARD OR WESTWARD TRACK WITH TIME. HOWEVER...WATER VAPOR IMAGERY INDICATES THE UPPER-LEVEL OUTFLOW PATTERN IS STRONGLY ELONGATED IN A NORTH-SOUTH ORIENTATION. THIS IS A GOOD SHORT-TERM MOTION INDICATOR ...WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALEX SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT NORTH-NORTHWESTWARD MOTION FOR ANOTHER 6-12 HOURS BEFORE TURNING TOWARD THE NORTHWEST. THIS MOTION VECTOR WOULD KEEP ALEX ALONG OR JUST OUTSIDE THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE GUIDANCE ENVELOPE. SINCE THERE IS NO OBVIOUS PHYSICAL JUSTIFICATION TO SHIFT THE TRACK SOUTHWARD AT THIS TIME...THE OFFICIAL FORECAST IS JUST AN UPDATE OF THE PREVIOUS TRACK AND IS WELL TO THE RIGHT OF THE MODEL CONSENSUS.

MICROWAVE DATA FROM 0114Z SSMIS AND 0243Z AMSU OVERPASSES INDICATED A SMALL MID-LEVEL EYE FEATURE VERY NEAR THE LOW-LEVEL RECON CENTER POSITION. THIS INDICATES THAT ALEX HAS A NEARLY VERTICALLY ALIGNED INNER CORE CIRCULATION...WHICH WOULD FAVOR STEADY INTENSIFICATION GIVEN THE VERY CONDUCTIVE UPPER-LEVEL AND OCEANIC ENVIRONMENTS THAT THE CYCLONE IS FORECAST TO INTERACT WITH RIGHT UP UNTIL LANDFALL IN ABOUT 48 HOURS. THE OFFICIAL INTENSITY FORECAST IS SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS ADVISORY AND IS A BLEND OF THE SHIPS AND LGEM MODELS.

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INITIAL	29/0900Z	21.7N	91.9W	60 KT
12HR VT	29/1800Z	22.8N	92.7W	65 KT
24HR VT	30/0600Z	24.0N	94.2W	75 KT
36HR VT	30/1800Z	24.8N	95.9W	80 KT
48HR VT	01/0600Z	25.3N	97.4W	85 KT...NEAR NE MEXICAN COAST
72HR VT	02/0600Z	26.0N	100.0W	35 KT...INLAND
96HR VT	03/0600Z	27.5N	102.5W	20 KT...DISSIPATING INLAND
120HR VT	04/0600Z	...DISSIPATED INLAND		

\$\$

FORECASTER STEWART

PROJECTED ACTIONS FOR TODAY:

Several contingency planning/coordination conference calls are scheduled today with the National Weather Service – Brownsville and the State Operations Center to continue readiness evaluations for potential landfall at the above mentioned areas. These are operational/planning calls and not open to the media.

A joint decision was made to start pre-staging state assets into the RGV (Hidalgo County) in anticipation of potential landfall based on available computer model information. Self-sufficient state assets in the form of personnel, equipment and supplies have started arriving into the area and will continue for through today and will make themselves available for assignment via normal County/DDC channels. SOC/Local coordination calls will continue during the week.

County Department Head meeting was held at the EOC at 14:00 hours.

The County EOC will start operations on Tuesday at 08:00 and will be fully operational for 12 hours. (Dependent on storm activity in the Gulf.) A decision shall be made as to when to enter into 24/7 operations as the week progresses.

The MACC and DDC have co-located at the McAllen EOC and will be fully functional for daytime operations today.

No evacuation order has been issued for Hidalgo County.

Sand-Bag Issuance – a coordinated effort to release sand-bags by cities and county precincts will continue and media outlets will be notified. Release started at 14:00 hours on Monday.

Residents living in low-lying areas and/or those areas that normally flood are being asked to make preparations for flood conditions by mid-week.

Residents living in mobile homes, and or substandard wooden structures are asked to make preparations for high wind conditions by mid-week.

Local shelter preparations are underway and locations will be announced through local news media outlets in a timely manner.

Media personnel are asked to contact County PIO Cari Lambrecht to coordinate interviews and obtain information as of Monday, June 28th, 2010.

The JIC is operational and all news releases/public information will be coordinated via this mechanism.

City & County Elected/Appointed officials met on Monday at the McAllen EOC at 18:00 hours for coordination purposes. The media was subsequently briefed after the meeting.

County Agencies Current Activity:

All County agencies, departments, and offices are asked to continue preparations for a potential tropical storm event on or about Wednesday or Thursday.

All county agencies, departments, and offices are asked to report readiness status to Emergency Management at the following email address: HCOEM@hidalgocountyjudge.com

- 2. **AREAS AFFECTED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:** None
- 3. **RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS:**
 - a) **County Judge's Office** – monitoring situation, participating in coordination conference calls.
 - b) **Office of Emergency Management** – monitoring situation, preparing sit-reps, preparing incident action plan. Partial EOC staffing is expected by Monday afternoon.
 - c) **Health and Human Services** – preparing EOC for occupancy / activation.
- 4. **CASUALTIES:** *Normal conditions - no casualties / injuries to report.*

County	City/Area	Injured	Dead	Missing
Hidalgo		0	0	0
- 5. **DAMAGES (Cumulative)** *Normal conditions – no damages to report.*

	<u>date</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Homes	0	0
Other Structures	0	0
- 6. **EVACUATIONS:** none
- 7. **HIGHWAY CONDITIONS:** *ALL HIGHWAYS and ROADWAYS are operating under normal conditions.*

HIGHWAY	CURRENT CONDITIONS	TIME	REPORTED BY

COMMENTS: OEM will continue to monitor the tropical weather activity and issue additional situation reports as needed.



800 PM
Outline
Outlook



Tropical Storm Alex Monday June 28, 2010 10 PM CDT Advisory 14 NWS TPC/National Hurricane Center	Current Information: ● Center Location 21.0 N 91.6 W Max Sustained Wind 65 mph Movement N at 5 mph	Forecast Positions: ● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post-Tropical Sustained Winds: D < 39 mph S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110mph
Potential Track Area: Day 1-3 Day 4-5	Watches: Hurricane Trop.Storm	Warnings: Hurricane Trop.Storm

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT:

WX

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director
PREPARED BY: A.A. "Tony" Peña, Jr. – Hidalgo County EMC
Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 29/JUL/2010 06:00

