

# HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## Tropical Weather Outlook – Situation Report 5

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 30/JUN/2010 07:00 hours

30/JUN/2010 16:00 hours

SUBJECT: HURRICANE “ALEX”

### 1. CURRENT SITUATION: HURRICANE LANDFALL

EOC is fully staffed & operational and operating 24/7 until further notice 07:00 – 19:00.

Hidalgo County OEM is monitoring Hurricane “Alex”, which is currently making landfall in the North-east coastal area of Mexico and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Hidalgo County is currently feeling the effects of the outer bands in the form of rain bands and wind gusts. The center (eye) is still 107 miles south-south-east of Brownsville and continuing its westward movement at 13 mph, with 90 mph winds into NE Mexico.

16:00 NWS Brownsville Conference call summary: (For Hidalgo County)

Current Conditions will continue till midnight and overnight hours

Wind will subside as the storm passes Hidalgo County by morning.

General rain will continue over the Rio Grande Basin (Tx&Mx), through late Friday.

Hurricane Alex is approximately 100 miles southeast of Brownsville moving west about 13 mph. Maximum winds are 90 mph with higher gusts.

Tropical Storm force winds extend outward 175 miles in the northeast quadrant. We expect landfall tonight around midnight some 100 miles south of Brownsville...near La Carbonera. Alex will make landfall near Category 2 strength.

Based on this forecast...

- The eye of the storm will pass 100 miles south of the Rio Grande.
- Rain will be near continuous through late afternoon/evening.
- Tropical storm force winds are likely through early morning for Cameron...Southern Willacy...and far eastern Hidalgo Counties. Gusts 50 -55 mph possible overnight.
- We do not expect to see tropical storm force winds west of McAllen or north of the northern Willacy County line westward.
- We do not expect to see hurricane force winds in the valley with this forecast.
- Rainfall totals will be 6-12 inches across the valley with some amounts approaching 20 inches.
- Rainfall amounts in northern Tamaulipas will be close to these amounts as well.
- Zapata and Starr Counties will see rainfall tonight and early Thursday. Totals will be 4 to 7 inches with some isolated higher amounts.
- We do not expect high winds in Zapata and Starr counties except as isolated gusts in the strongest thunderstorms.
- Open ocean seas are 20 feet and higher across the coastal waters from Brownsville to Baffin Bay. Seas will begin to subside after midnight tonight.
- Breaking waves on the beaches will reach 8 to 12 feet tonight...higher near breakwaters and jetties...subsiding after midnight.
- Water run-up is reaching into the dunes and retaining walls on South Padre Island. Water is reaching some parts of Padre Island Blvd and will increase as high tide approaches at 9 pm.
- Storm Surge of up to 3 to 5 feet above ground level is possible along the immediate coast at South Padre Island and along lower coastal Cameron County.
- Total water at the ship channel with tide, 5 to 7 feet.

- Several tornadoes have been confirmed. Tornadoes are possible through the evening and overnight tonight.
- Winds will taper off on the island and coastal Cameron and Willacy Counties by noon Thursday. Any further southward movement of the track will bring an earlier end to storm conditions. Rain will likely continue...heavy at times but not as much as today.
- Wind will taper off in McAllen and areas westward by morning as well as the storm diminishes rapidly after landfall. Again...rain likely...heavy at times.
- Rain will continue over the Rio Grande basin...especially the rivers and streams feeding into the Rio Conchos and Rio Grande above Falcon Lake...through the day Thursday and into Friday.

Next call at 10 pm. Same call-in details.

If you have any questions at all at any time, call or email, or ping us on NWSChat.

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Forecast indicate that while this will probably not be a big “wind-storm” to Hidalgo County, it will definitely be a heavy rain event with widespread ponding type flooding affecting those flood-prone areas that normally flood.

13 Shelters have been opened across the County with an overall occupancy of 365 s of 14:00 hours and up from 115 at 12:00 noon. The majority of the shelters are “state-supported and run (Tx Military Forces, and BCFS contract), and a few of them are being operated with local resources.

### **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.

The MACC and DDC have co-located at the McAllen EOC and will be fully functional for daytime operations today. They are operating under 24/7 type operations.

No evacuation order has been issued for Hidalgo County nor is one expected at this time.

Sand-Bag Issuance – issuance ceased today at 12:00 noon due to weather.

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

Residents living in mobile homes, and or substandard wooden structures are asked to make preparations for high wind conditions, or move to shelters.

Local shelter operations are underway and locations have been announced through local news media outlets.

Media personnel are asked to contact County PIO Cari Lambrecht to coordinate interviews and obtain information as of Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.

See Attached NHC Graphics...

**ADDITIONAL WX STATEMENT**

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director

PREPARED BY: A.A. “Tony” Peña, Jr. – Hidalgo County EMC

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 30/JUL/2010 17:08