

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Hurricane Alex – Situation Report 4

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 12/JUL/2010 0800 hrs

13/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

SUBJECT: HURRICANE “ALEX” ROUND 2 – RIVER & ASSOCIATED FLOODING

1. CURRENT SITUATION: LOS EBANOS EVACUATION

Mandatory Evacuation of the township of Los Ebanos in western Hidalgo County was ordered by Hidalgo County Judge Rene A. Ramirez at 4:35 p.m. today. It came on the heels of a voluntary self-evacuation issued on July 9, 2010. Many residents had already begun to pack their belongings due to continually rising floodwaters of the Rio Grande River.

Ingress/egress security post established about a half mile north of Los Ebanos at Military Rd. and FM 886 by Sullivan City Fire Department and Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office.

HCSO and Pct. 3 Constables Deputies did door to door notifications and marked the homes where residents refused to leave with yellow caution tape tied around the mailbox or fence. There were five residences with 11 people. Notifications occurred during daylight hours. The evacuation continued throughout the evening with residents making several trips to and from their homes to remove their belongings.

American Red Cross, which had been on standby to open up a shelter, mobilized and opened La Joya High School for residents with no other place to go. As of 00:00, the shelter held 7 people.

Rescue resources, including school buses and military high-profile vehicles, are staged at the Pct 3 Collection Station just north of security checkpoint along with the Health Department's mobile command trailer.

As this overall event progresses, it is not a 3 to 4 day event. It has a potential for continuing for a minimum of at least 10 to 20 days or more. I am basing this forecast on information provided, and historical events and as long as we do not experience an additional tropical event or heavy rainfall in the next 2-3 weeks.

IMPACTS: West side of County working East

Cuevitas – Water is on the southern edge and can be seen from many spots. There is one occupied residence that is surrounded by water, but the residents still have roadway access. The home itself is built on higher ground and water is remaining at a safe distance. Situation is being monitored.

Los Ebanos– described above.

Havana – water is slowly creeping from the river North to Military road. No homes are in peril yet. River water is visible from the roadway. There are five occupied homes that may be placed in danger of flooding should levels continue to rise.

La Joya – water continues to creep slowly from the river towards Military road. The creep is being monitored by La Joya VFD.

Penitas – Hidalgo County Judge Rene A. Ramirez met with Penita's mayor amid increasing concerns about flooding. Water continues to rise south of Military road, in an area prior to the where the improved levee system starts. As of Sunday mid-morning it had crept at least 3 feet closer to the roadway from the prior day. Livestock pastured in this area have been evacuated.

Abram – is protected by the improved levee system. There are no residences on the South side of the levee. Livestock has been removed.

Bentsen State Park – (TxP&W) – is closed and will remain closed to the public until further notice.

Granjeno – is fully protected by the improved levee system. There are no residences on the South side of the levee system

Rincon del Diablo – is on the river banks and the five homes there may be in peril if the river levels continue to rise. Pct 3 Constable's Office has notified the residents of potential danger. There are five homes at this site, of which only one was occupied when the notification was made. The normal road that leads to this ranch site is no longer usable due to water over roadway, but it is still accessible from the levee at an access point on S. 23rd street.

Madero – (City of Mission) the townsite itself is protected by the levee system, although there are a couple of mobile home parks and recreational areas that are on the river banks. Chimney Park has occupied travel trailers and mobile homes. The water level continues to rise but is contained within the river banks.

Anzaldua Park – was closed by Pct 3 Commissioner's Office on Friday, July 3rd, based on recommendation by Drainage District 1 Director. Gates are locked and public entry and use is prohibited. Water is rushing over the entrance in unsafe speeds. The park was checked during the flyover on July 9th, and was unoccupied.

Anzaldua POE Bridge – (POE) is open for business for both Northbound & Southbound traffic. It is accessible via Shary Road. Note: Laredo POE commercial traffic has been diverted to this POE, delays can be expected in the Northbound lane.

Anzaldua Dam - is fully operational and under the control of IBWC. Diversions to the Retamal Dam are ongoing in a coordinated manner. It is not accessible by motor vehicle via normal roadways.

Hidalgo (City of) – River water remains contained within the river banks. It is still accessible via all roadways, Military Highway. They have closed their storm drainage system in anticipation of rising river waters. A contingency plan is in place to pump water in case of rainfall.

McAllen-Reynosa POE Bridge – remains open to southbound traffic. Northbound traffic is reduced to one lane on the Reynosa side due to water on roadway.

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge – (USFW) closed to the public as of 11/JUL/10, until further notice or conditions improve. They are seeing river water from the office. Ingress/egress roadway already has water over it.

Donna POE Bridge – is still under construction and is not open for business yet.

Progreso International Bridge (POE) – is still open. There is no access via SH 1015. It was closed on Saturday at 23:00 been closed due to water on roadway in between the IBWC floodway. There is a TxDPS presence on the Northside.

Progreso (City of) is still accessible via Military Highway. It is not accessible via SH 1015.

Progreso Lakes (City of) – is still accessible via Military Highway. It may be impacted by flooding from the river

Additional Situational Awareness:

U.S. IBWC has advised that releases from Falcon Dam will increase by early morning hours of 13/JUL/2010.

From the IBWC official statement: “Due to rapidly rising reservoir levels, the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, will increase the release of floodwaters from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas on the morning of July 13.

Releases into the Rio Grande will increase to 39,700 cubic feet per second (1125 cubic meters per second). This is the same rate of release as occurred July 8-10 before releases were temporarily reduced to 15,000 cubic feet per second (425 cubic meters per second) on the evening of July 10. This water will flow downstream into the Lower Rio Grande Valley where the Commission has a system of flood control levees, diversion dams, and floodways. Releases at this rate are well within the capacity of the U.S. portion of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project that extends from Peñitas to the Gulf of Mexico. Residents in the Rio Grande Basin should continue to monitor National Weather Service warnings and forecasts for updated information and river forecasts concerning flood conditions”

RIVER OUTLOOK



TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

No tropical cyclones expected within the next 48 hours.

CURRENT LOCAL WEATHER OUTLOOK / FORECAST

000
FLUS44 KBRO 130210
HWOBRO

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
910 PM CDT MON JUL 12 2010

TXZ248>257-131030-
ZAPATA-JIM HOGG-BROOKS-KENEDY-STARR-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-
INLAND CAMERON-COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-
910 PM CDT MON JUL 12 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...TONIGHT.

THERE IS A HIGH RISK OF RIP CURRENTS ALONG AREA BEACHES TONIGHT.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY.

HEAT INDEX VALUES BETWEEN 105 AND 110 DEGREES WILL BE POSSIBLE
ACROSS ALL AREAS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK.

SUSTAINED SOUTHERLY WINDS OF 20 TO 30 MPH WITH SOME GUSTS TO 40
MPH ARE POSSIBLE TUESDAY AFTERNOON. A WIND ADVISORY MAY BE ISSUED
IF SUSTAINED WINDS EXCEED 30 MPH.

THERE WILL BE A HIGH RISK OF RIP CURRENTS ALONG AREA BEACHES TUESDAY
INTO TUESDAY NIGHT BECOMING MODERATE WEDNESDAY.

River Forecast

00
SRUS44 KBRO 121502
RVABRO
TXC047-061-215-427-131502-
HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
1002 AM CDT MON JUL 12 2010

...DEEP SOUTH TEXAS RIVER AND [RESERVOIR](#) SUMMARY...

	NORMAL POOL	TODAYS POOL	24 HR CHANGE	7 DAY CHANGE	RELEASE CFS
ANZALDUAS	104.00	108.94	0.33	4.44	26005
FALCON LAKE	301.20	301.18	2.94	12.10	15008
LAKE AMISTAD	1117.00	1126.83	-0.54	-0.22	M

	<u>FLOOD</u> STAGE	LATEST STAGE	24 <u>HR</u> CHANGE
RIO GRANDE RIVER			
BELOW FALCON <u>DAM</u>	N/A	9.29	-3.00
RIO GRANDE CITY	50	56.12	-1.51
MERCEDES	21	13.90	0.50
SAN BENITO	55	52.62	0.10
LOWER BROWNSVILLE	27	23.67	0.70
LOS OLMOS <u>CREEK</u>			
FALFURRIAS	11	2.43	-0.12
<u>ARROYO</u> COLORADO			
HARLINGEN	N/A	15.19	1.53

ALL HEIGHTS ARE IN FEET UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. FOR THE LATEST RIVER AND RESERVOIR LEVELS IN DEEP SOUTH TEXAS VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/BRO. IN THE BLUE MENU SECTION ON THE LEFT OF THE PAGE...UNDER THE "CURRENT WEATHER" SUBMENU...CLICK ON "RIVERS/LAKES" WHICH TAKES YOU TO OUR AHPS WEB PAGE.

Potential Events:

Any roadway that traverses the IBWC levee system while the water diversion is in progress. Motorists are disregarding barricades, and may need additional law enforcement presence in the near future. Swift water rescues may become necessary should a vehicle fall into the IBWC Floodway

SHELTERS – La Joya High School, 604 N. Coyote Drive, La Joya, Texas

An American Red Cross shelter has been established in La Joya at the High School. Current count: 7

Resources/Assets:

H-Alex Round 2

7/12/2010

Arrival time:

Left at:

Los Ebanos Evacuation

W Loc.



	Incident Command	Team Leader	Command Veh	Brush Trk	Duece	Engine	Bus	Personnel	LEO	Aircraft	Total
McAllen FD			1								1
<i>personnel</i>								4			4
McAllen PW			2		3						5
<i>personnel</i>								9			9
Mission			2	1							3
<i>personnel</i>								4			4
Sullivan City PD									1		1

<i>personnel</i>								1			1
Sullivan City FD				1	1	1					3
<i>personnel</i>								15			15
HC-EMC			3								3
<i>personnel</i>								5			5
HC-HHS	1										1
<i>personnel</i>								2			2
Hidalgo County Head Start		1						3			4
<i>personnel</i>								4			4
HC-Pct 3			2								2
<i>personnel</i>								4			4
HC Cnstbl (3)			1						3		4
<i>personnel</i>								4			4
HCSO			2					2	9		13
<i>personnel</i>								13			13
TX DPS HP										1	1
<i>personnel</i>										2	2
TX DPS RLO			1								1
<i>personnel</i>									1		1
USBP									4		4
<i>personnel</i>									5		5
Edinburg ISD					2					2	4
<i>personnel</i>									4		4
Totals	1	1	14	2	6	1	5	75	19	3	127

Shelter – La Joya ISD, American Red Cross.

Water Rescue / Swift Water Rescue – Mission FD and Weslaco FD; via DDC-TPW, USBP (CBP)

Medical Team

Weslaco

County Health & Human Services

COMMUNICATIONS:

Com-L: City of McAllen & Co Fire Marshal's Office

Radio Cache – City of McAllen

Sat-Link – towed Health & Human Services

ACU1000 – self contained mobile – City of Pharr, City of Weslaco

ACU1000 – towed Sheriff's Office

AIR ASSETS – DPS Air Wing via DDC, CBP Air Support via OIM/BIC

RGV Regional Public Works Response Team – dewatering, public water & sanitary sewer. City of McAllen – lead agency. – all equipment, communications, all disciplines.

City of Mission – equipment, pumps
City of Pharr - equipment, pumps, low boy.
City of Edinburg – equipment, pumps, personnel, vector truck, law enforcement
City of Donna – equipment, personnel
City of Weslaco – equipment, personnel, vector truck
City of Mercedes - equipment
County of Hidalgo – Precincts 1,2,3,4., pumps, equipment, backhoe, personnel
County of Hidalgo Planning – P.E. Support and operations
County of Hidalgo OEM – logistics, liaison, & coordination support.
County of Hidalgo HHS – logistics, medical and health support

Cameron County – has some assets which may activate via Pilar Rodriguez.

EVACUATION SUPPORT: on standby status

High Profile Vehicles

Edinburg FD – 2, an additional 5 from EISD via Edinburg FD

Mission – 1

McAllen PW – 2

Hidalgo County Headstart – 3 buses are currently staged at County EOC, an additional 8 are available.

All Fire Departments will provide additional manpower – coordinated through EMC or Co. Fire Marshal's Office.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Constable's Office Pct 1, 3, have been contacted for immediate support.

Sheriff's Office – Manpower, and high profile vehicles available.

Tx DPS (via DDC) – traffic control.

Other cities will provide mutual aid upon request.

PROJECTED ACTIONS FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

1. Continuous surveillance and monitoring of communities on watch list.
2. Maintain security checkpoint north of Los Ebanos.
3. Maintain command post and resource staging area.
4. Monitor situation in Los Ebanos for possible water rescues of those individuals that chose not to evacuate.
5. Additional Road Closures.
6. Drainage District 1 has ongoing pumping operation that are expected to continue.
7. *There are currently two (2) McAllen pumps pre-staged at the "Mercedes Lateral" in anticipation of potential flooding outside of the levee system and through the drainage ditches. They did not operate over the weekend and are being guarded by Pct 1 Constable's Office through 08:00 on Monday morning.*

All county agencies, departments, and offices are asked to report any situations that they feel could have adverse affects to Hidalgo County to Emergency Management at the following email address: HCOEM@hidalgocountyjudge.com

County Agencies Current Activity:

AREAS AFFECTED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

Precincts 3, 2, 1 and 4.

3. RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

- a) County Judge's Office
- b) Office of Emergency Management
- c) Planning Department.
- d) Right of Way
- e) Pct 1 Commissioners
- f) Pct 2 Commissioners
- g) Pct. 3 Commissioners
- h) Pct 4 Commissioners
- i) RGV Regional Public Works Response Team *NOTE: The RGV Regional PWRT is composed of public works assets from Mission, McAllen, Edinburg, Pharr, San Juan, Alamo, Weslaco, Mercedes, and Hidalgo County and some cities from Cameron County. Only Hidalgo County based entities are participating in this response. Lead agency is McAllen Public Works & Hidalgo Co. Planning and has the support of the State of Texas and is a deployable asset for the State.*
- j) Drainage District 1
- k) Budget & Management
- l) County Executive Office-Public Affairs
- m) Purchasing
- n) Health and Human Services
- o) Constables Pct 1 and 3
- p) Sheriff's Office
- q) State Agencies – DDC/RLO all other state agencies are reported in the SOC Executive Summary
- r) TxDPS Highway Patrol
- s) Texas Task Force One
- t) TCEQ – Harlingen
- u) IBWC

4. CASUALTIES: *Normal conditions - no casualties / injuries to report.*

County	City/Area	Injured	Dead	Missing
Hidalgo		0	0	0

8. DAMAGES (Cumulative) *DSO is complete and was submitted to RLO/DDC on 10JUL2010 via email.*

	<u>date</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Homes	0	0
Other Structures	0	0

6. EVACUATIONS: Mandatory Evacuation of Los Ebanos, TX

7. HIGHWAY CONDITIONS: *Any and all highways and roadways that traverse the IBWC Floodway at its base or do not have a "high-bridge" are currently impacted or will soon be impacted by high water and have been closed off with the exception of Shary Road in Mission, 23^d & 10th Sts in McAllen, So 281 in Pharr, and Business 83 in Harlingen.*

Road Conditions

12:50 pm

FM 491 NEW

FM 491 from Mile 9 to Mile 10 in Mercedes - closed due to water over road

FM 1015

FM 1015 from Mile 5 Road to Gonzalez Road in Weslaco/Progreso area- closed water over the road.

FM 493

FM 493 from US 281 (Military Highway) to Mile 12 1/2 North south of Donna - closed due to flooding. Expected to be closed until Wednesday, July 14th.

FM 907

FM 907 from FM 3072 to Hall Acres south of Alamo - closed due to flooding. Expected to be closed until Wednesday, July 14th.

FM 2557 (Steward Rd)

FM 2557 from Juan Balli to Hall Acres south of Pharr- closed due to water over road. Road closed until Monday evening, July 12th.

FM 2061 (Jackson Road)

FM 2061 from Ridge Road to Dicker Road in South Pharr- closed due to flooding.

Cameron County

FM 2556 (Jo-Ed Road)

FM 2556 from south of Business 83 to north of US 281 in Cameron County is closed due to water over the floodway bridge.

FM 800

Low water bridge on FM 800 between Business 83 and FM 3067 in Cameron County is closed to traffic.

Willacy County

FM 1420

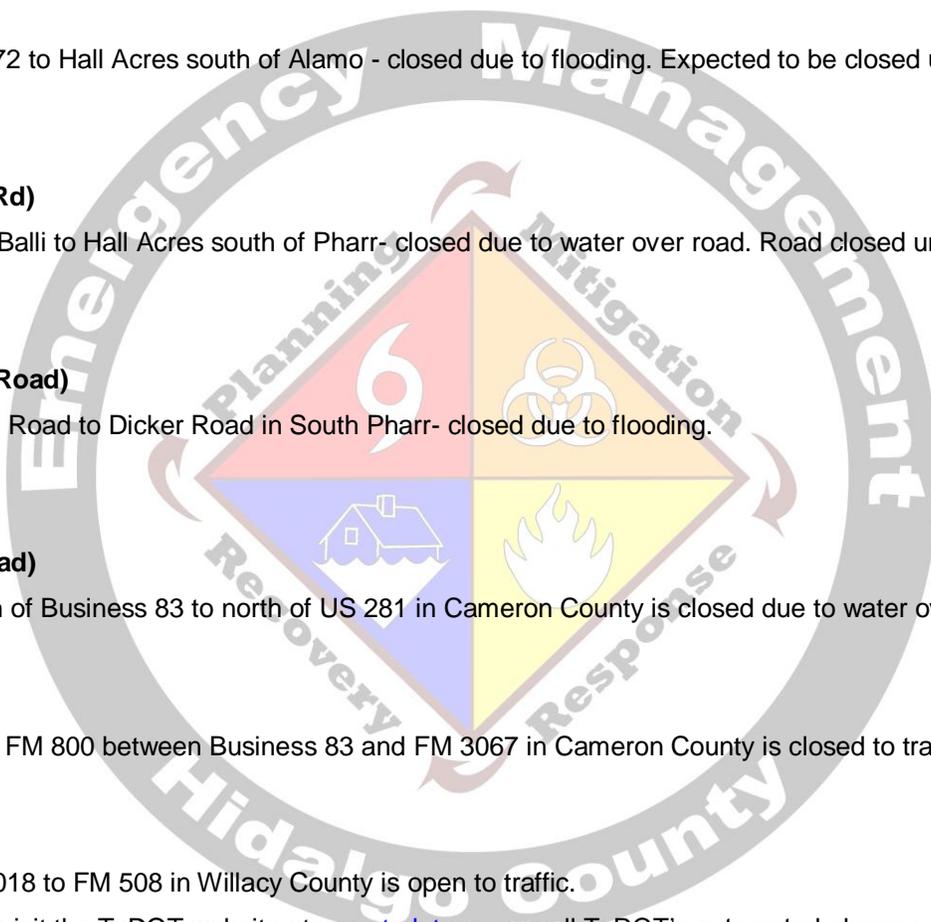
FM 1420 from FM 1018 to FM 508 in Willacy County is open to traffic.

For road conditions, visit the TxDOT website at www.txdot.gov or call TxDOT's automated phone system at 1-800-452-9292.

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION:

Daily 09:00 – operational call for local EMC's – for information sharing and status reporting
16:00 – if needed for same purpose.
Media is not allowed on this call.

Participants: All Hidalgo County based EMC's, Starr, Cameron, & Willacy Co. EMCs if available. American Red Cross, and La Joya ISD EMC for shelter support, DDC/RLO



Constables Pct3, Pct1, Pct4, Sheriff's Office, and any other agency/organization that may provide a response/support role in this ongoing incident.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Current IC is preparing for IC transition by Tuesday noon.

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director

PREPARED BY: A.A. "Tony" Peña, Jr. – Hidalgo County EMC / Hurricane Alex Hidalgo County IC

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 13/JUL/2010 @ 00:30 hours

