

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Hurricane Alex – Situation Report 8

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 04JUL/2010 07:00

05/JUL/2010 07:00 hours

SUBJECT: HURRICANE "ALEX"

1. CURRENT SITUATION: Post-Landfall Recovery

County EOC is demobilized All city EOC, MACC & DDC have also demobilized. EMC's, RLO, DDC are still available via County EMC. Please route all 213 requests via County EMC.

24/7 Dewatering Operations are underway in Pct, 1& Pct 4 at various different locations where localized flooding occurred, utilizing mechanical pumps. Water is being directed into the IBWC floodway. Vacuum trucks are also being used to dewater some of the neighborhoods where there is no-where to pump the water to. Dewatering operations are being supported by the RGV Regional Public Works Response Team, Drainage District 1, and IBWC are now operating pumps alongside of pumps that are in place. On Sunday morning, City of McAllen will be mobilizing an additional 16" mechanical pump to the levee. It is expected to be operational by noontime or shortly thereafter.

Pct 3 has resolved their flooding issues. Pct 2 ceased pumping operations, demobilized their personnel and will re-evaluate their situation on Tuesday. Additional pumps from Pct 2 and 3 were mobilized to support the ongoing operations at the levee.

There are currently no shelter operations underway. Any persons seeking shelter support are being directed to the Salvation Army Shelter in McAllen located at 23rd and Pecan (FM495).

The Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) is being prepared and the cities DSO's will be rolled into the County's DSO as per State procedures.

POTENTIAL EVENT(s):

Remnants of Hurricane Alex and associated weather patterns continue to deliver rains in and around the mountainous areas near Monterey and Northern Nuevo Leon and into the Laredo area. A river flood watch has been issued by NWS for the Laredo area. (see below). Minor flooding may occur in low lying areas adjacent to the Rio Grande River in the next two (2) days. IBWC is monitoring the situation and coordinating the rainfall run-off with Mexican counterparts and are reporting their findings to the SOC. **This situation will be monitored for the next few days**, for potential impact to Hidalgo County. Drainage District 1 is asking that any additional pumps that are not being used or are in storage should be deployed to assist with dewatering operations in order to speed up the process, should this event have an adverse affect to Hidalgo County. A local conference call took place on Saturday at 13:00 involving the County Judges and local elected officials to discuss potential effects. Local DDC and SOC leadership are also monitoring this potential situation.

Tropical Update: Caribbean, Again

Another formidable tropical wave is developing in the western Caribbean. Upper winds and sea conditions are favorable for development in the near term, and the most recent [data from the National Hurricane Center](#) has raised the possibility of development between now and early Tuesday from **Low** to **Medium** this afternoon. Beyond that time frame, a few computer models suggest the system will organize further and gain strength next week as it moves into the southwest or southern Gulf, in the general direction of Texas. There isn't great consistency on this system's future at the moment; confidence in any single outcome is **low**. . Regardless of whether the system forms or not, however, there are indications that another large plume of moisture will move toward the western Gulf, potentially affecting Texas (and northern Mexico) with additional heavy rains by late in the week (see next section on the Rio Grande). We will continue to monitor the evolution of this system very closely early this week. No holiday for us, so we can keep everyone informed.

Rio Grande Update

Along the lower Rio Grande, planned water releases from Marte Gomez are expected to begin later today. At this time, the releases are not expected to be large enough to create even minor flood conditions downstream at Rio Grande City (RGDT2). However, the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) is still preparing for flows great enough to require some diversion into the US/Mexico floodways near McAllen and Brownsville. These diversions would likely begin during the early to middle part of this coming week. Any of these flows into the floodways should remain well below the capacities of the floodways; however, we are forecasting the stage at [San Benito](#) to reach into Action level sometime late Wednesday or early Thursday, in response to the release.

Keep in Mind: There is some potential for the Caribbean system to make another landfall in northeast Mexico and move inland, dumping another round of significant rainfall in areas that were hit only a week earlier from Alex. While final details regarding how much additional releases would impact communities in the Lower and Middle RGV, a worse case scenario of 5 to 10 inches of rainfall in the Valley combined with 15+ inches along Sierra Madre (where flows head toward northeast Mexico) could result in more significant river flood issues a week or sooner from now. The next couple of days would be a good time to get out the Rio Grande flood "playbook" to be ready in case such a scenario develops .

Acting MIC

With Ms. Rydell's departure, Dr. Jeral Estupinan, our Science Officer, is the Acting MIC through the month of July. Dr. Estupinan has been involved in a number of great initiatives in the Valley, particularly with the Spanish-language only community, and is more than able to keep our operations humming along. You can expect to hear from Jeral more frequently, especially when we begin local coordination calls should another tropical storm or hurricane threaten this week. I am also available (as always), initially by e-mail (see next section) but ultimately by phone, e-mail, etc. if things get more worrisome.

My status

I am currently in Mobile, Alabama, assisting with forecast duties related to the Deepwater Oil Spill. I have full access to all the data I have back in Brownsville, including e-mail, phone, etc. I am scheduled to be here through Friday morning; however, should a cyclone threaten the Valley/Deep South Texas, I'll be on the earliest plane home. In short, if/when we go under a Hurricane **Watch**, I'll be back as soon as possible.

Hoping for the best outcomes,

Barry

NOTE: No advisory's have been issued for Starr or Hidalgo or Starr County Yet.

Daily Conference calls with the State of Texas have been discontinued. All State assets have been demobilized and have returned to their home base.

Region 3a DDC/RLO continue to monitor situation and will provide support as needed. They are being provided updates.

Region 3a DDC/RLO has directed Highway Patrol Troopers to deal with people parking and fishing along the bridges that are causing potential traffic & pedestrian issues. TxParks & Wildlife has been notified about possible violations and asked to assist in deterring fishing parties within the levee system, in case of a rapid rise in waters. Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office was also notified of the situation.

PROJECTED ACTIONS FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Dewatering operations are underway and will continue overnight and through the weekend. Unified Command is in place for the operation consisting of Raul Sesin, PE – County Planning, Pilar Rodriguez, PE – City of McAllen, and CJ Moreno – County ROW. Reports from the field indicate that flood conditions are improving and water is receding accordingly.

Vacuum Trucks under the supervision of Ash-Britt and BDR are also being used in the dewatering operations.

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

Rainfall and water runoff from remnants of Hurricane Alex situation will be monitored.

Low-lying areas are being monitored for potential rise in river-waters

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:

1. AREAS AFFECTED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

Precincts 1,2, and 4. (Pct 3 has successfully resolved their flooded areas.)

3. RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

- a) **Office of Emergency Management** – Continuing to monitor current flood-fight activities and resource tracking. Preparing daily IAPs.
- b) **Planning Department** – Overseeing dewatering operations.
- c) **Right of Way** – Staff Member supervising dewatering operations.
- d) **Pct 1 Commissioners** – Staffing dewatering and pumping operations
- e) **Pct 2 Commissioners** – Staffing dewatering and pumping operations.
- f) **Pct 4 Commissioners** – Staffing dewatering and pumping operations.
- g) **RGV Regional Public Works Response Team** – Overseeing dewatering operations, providing assets in the form of pumps, and personnel. *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.

- h) **Drainage District 1** - Staffing dewatering and pumping operations.
- i) **IBWC** - Staffing dewatering and pumping operations.
- j) **County Judge's Office** – Preparing Disaster Summary Outline.
- k) **Budget & Management** – Monitoring response costs, assisting with DSO preparations.
- l) **Purchasing** – Continuing to support operations.
- m) **Health and Human Services** – Preparing for mosquito vector control operations.

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

County	City/Area	Injured	Dead	Missing
Hidalgo		0	0	0

5. DAMAGES (Cumulative) DSO is currently being prepared and will be attached as soon as available.

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

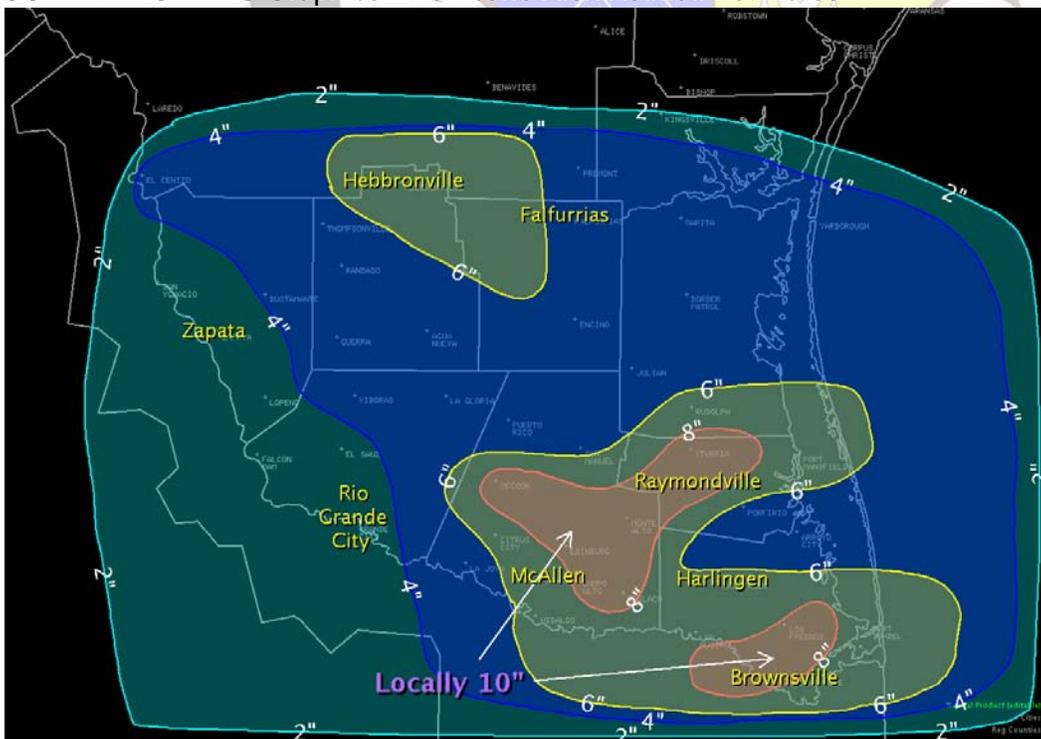
6. EVACUATIONS: none

7. HIGHWAY CONDITIONS: Flooded roadways are open for normal traffic, there are still paved and unpaved roadways in flood prone areas that have water over them but are passable .

HIGHWAY	CURRENT CONDITIONS	TIME	REPORTED BY

8. Forecasts

COMMENTS: NWS Graphics - Hurricane Alex Rainfall Estimates



Date	Location	Many	Type	Owned by	by
7/3/2010	PCT 4		6"		
7/3/2010	La Villa - FM 491 7 Mile17 N on roadway SB lane	2	pumps	McAllen	McAllen
7/3/2010	La Villa - FM 491 7 Mile17 N on roadway SB lane	1	gator 6"	DrainDist1	McAllen
7/3/2010	La Villa - IBWC Station S. of 107 on Levee	1	pump	PCT 4	PCT 4
7/3/2010	Seminary Road N. of Edinburg Lake	1	6"pump 6"	PCT 4	PCT 4
7/3/2010	Between Holmes & Skinner Road on ???	4	pump 6"	PCT 4	PCT 4
7/3/2010	2812 & Seminary Road - 100 yards South of the "T"	2	pump 6"	Edinburg	Edinburg
7/3/2010	2812 & 493 (Starting 07-04-10)	2	pump 6"	PCT 4	PCT 4
7/3/2010	Owassa East of Tower Rd PCT 1	1 0	pump 6"	Pct 3	PCT 4
7/3/2010	Mile 13N & 6W - (to the West)	2	pumps 6"	Pct1	Pct1
7/3/2010	Mile 13N & 6W - (to the West)	1	pump 6"	Weslaco	Weslaco
7/3/2010	Mile 14N & 6W	1	pump 6"	Donna	Donna
7/3/2010	"Mercedes Lateral" FM 491 & Mile 12- 1/2 North on Levee	3	pumps 12"	McAllen	McAllen
7/3/2010	"Mercedes Lateral" FM 491 & Mile 12- 1/2 North on Levee	1	pump 6"	McAllen	McAllen
7/3/2010	"Mercedes Lateral" FM 491 & Mile 12- 1/2 North on Levee	1	pump	DrainDist1	DD1
7/3/2010	"Mercedes Lateral" FM 491 & Mile 12- 1/2 North on Levee	1	6" gator 16"	IBWC	IBWCC
7/3/2010	to be mobilized on 07-04-10 mid morning.	1	pump	McAllen	McAllen
	TOTAL >>	22			
Additional Operations					
	City of San Juan (McAllen Loan)	1	6" pump	San Juan	San Juan
	City of Alamo (McAllen Loan)	1	pump	Alamo	Alamo
	TOTAL >>	2			

Additionally City of McAllen is providing operational support in the form of various assets: Fuel Truck, Mechanics Dozers, Graders, Radio Communications and other assets as needed.

City of Edinburg provided Vector truck to support one operation.

Ash-Brit (Co Debris Mngmnt Contract - has mobilized Mo-Vac Trucks to support operation also.

City of Alamo & Mission are supporting Mo-Vac ops

by allowing MoVac to unload at their Sanitary Sewer locations

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director

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

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 03/JUL/2010 @ 11:30 hours

