

# HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## Alex Rd. 2

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 13/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

14/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

**SUBJECT: HURRICANE "ALEX" ROUND 2 – RIVER & ASSOCIATED FLOODING**

### 1. CURRENT SITUATIONS: Regional and Local Impacts

#### A. 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. 12/JUL/2010. It came on the heels of a voluntary self-evacuation issued on 09/JUL/2010.

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. It was maintained overnight by HCSO. TxDOT moved the ingress/egress point this afternoon to the intersection of Hwy 83 and FM 886. Signage was posted.

La Joya High School remained open as a shelter.

Staged resources and HCHS mobile command post demobilized at this location.

#### B. HCID1/IBWC LEVEE EVENT (PENITAS)

A serious situation at the Edinburg Pump Station at Penitas, located along the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission levee, caused Penitas Mayor Marcos Ochoa to issue a voluntary evacuation of this western Hidalgo County community this morning.

Rising water has caused some erosion of the levee where it abuts the pump house. To effect emergency repairs and prevent further erosion, engineers recommend placing riprap (large rock) on the river side of the eroded segment. Hidalgo County is making arrangements to undertake emergency repairs in coordination with the USIBWC.

McAllen construction held a pre-existing contract with USIBWC for levee repairs that were scheduled to start in the area in about 20 days. McAllen Construction worked on the emergency repairs, alongside various county/city entities.

As of 2200 hrs, the levee east of the pump station had been reinforced with rip rap and workers had moved to the western side of the levee against the pump station. The operation took 120 loads totaling 14,000 cubic yards of fill.

#### C. UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT (MISSION)

United Irrigation District's pump was in jeopardy of flooding, which would cause flow into various irrigation ditches supplying the Mission area to be interrupted.

Under the command of Mission City Manager Julio Cerda, dump trucks from various agencies were mobilized to place a berm of fill dirt and sand bags around the pump. Dump trucks began to demobilize from the Penitas site and were re-routed to United Irrigation District, loading up with fill dirt and dumping near the intersection of Bentsen Palm and Military Hwy.

Lights were set up in the area and construction of the dirt berm continued throughout the night.

*\*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.*

### **Additional Situational Awareness:**

*U.S. IBWC has advised that releases from Falcon Dam will increase again*

*From the IBWC official statement: "Due to rapidly rising reservoir levels that could exceed record storage that occurred in 1958, 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 at noon on July 14. Releases into the Rio Grande will increase to 60,000 cubic feet per second (1700 cubic meters per second) up from the current release of 39,700 cubic feet per second (1125 cubic meters per second). Residents in the Rio Grande Basin, especially those downstream from the dam in Starr County, should continue to monitor National Weather Service warnings and forecasts for updated information and river forecasts concerning flood conditions; they should also heed any guidance from local emergency management officials.*

The water elevation at Falcon Reservoir rose 3 feet in 24 hours to 304 feet on July 13 and continues to climb rapidly. The highest level ever recorded at the reservoir was 308 feet on October 19, 1958. Even with the increased releases out of the dam, a new record could be set. The rapid rise in the reservoir is due to floodwaters entering from the Rio Grande and Salado River, a Mexican tributary, that were heavily affected by precipitation from Hurricane Alex and a subsequent tropical depression.

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 in the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project that extends from Peñitas to the Gulf of Mexico. Residents will see a significant increase in flows in the U.S. interior floodway in the next 1-2 days due to diversion of water at Anzalduas Dam. The U.S. Section of the Commission expects floodwaters to rise approximately 3-5 feet along the interior floodway levees, which average 12-14 feet in height. Diversion of waters into Mexico's interior floodway at Retamal Dam, located near Donna, TX-Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, will also continue. Because of these upstream diversions, the Commission will continue to control floodwaters in the Rio Grande downstream from Retamal Dam to approximately the same levels seen for the past few days.

The U.S. interior floodway includes channels known as the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado through portions of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties."

### **TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK**

No tropical cyclones expected within the next 48 hours.

### **CURRENT LOCAL WEATHER OUTLOOK / FORECAST**

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FLUS44 KBRO 132230  
HWOBRO

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK...RESENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX  
529 PM CDT TUE JUL 13 2010

TXZ248>257-142230-

ZAPATA-JIM HOGG-BROOKS-KENEDY-STARR-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-  
INLAND CAMERON-COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-  
529 PM CDT TUE JUL 13 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...TODAY AND TONIGHT.

HEAT INDEX VALUES WILL REACH BETWEEN 105 AND 110 DEGREES ACROSS  
THE COASTAL SECTIONS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS TODAY WITH HEAT INDEX  
VALUES OF 100 TO 105 DEGREES ACROSS THE REST OF THE AREA.

THERE IS A HIGH RISK OF RIP CURRENTS ALONG AREA BEACHES OF THE  
LOWER TEXAS COAST TODAY AND TONIGHT INCLUDING SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
AND BOCA CHICA BEACH.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...WEDNESDAY THROUGH MONDAY.

HEAT INDEX VALUES BETWEEN 105 AND 110 DEGREES WILL BE POSSIBLE  
ACROSS THE COASTAL SECTIONS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS WEDNESDAY.

AN ELEVATED RISK OF RIP CURRENTS WILL CONTINUE FOR THE AREA  
BEACHES OF THE LOWER TEXAS COAST WEDNESDAY.

### **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.

### **Resources/Assets:**

Dump trucks ONLY (for Penitas and United Irrigation District events) —  
Drainage District No. 1 – 4

Pct. 1 – 2

Pct. 3 – 8

Edinburg – 3

Pharr – 3

Private Companies (Tito's 2; Serna 6; Sun Belt 5)

McAllen – 9

Pct. 4 – 3

### **Other Equipment**

Pct. 3 – 1 front-end loader, 2 backhoes, 3 vacuum trucks, 1 maintainer

Various equipment from McAllen construction

Penitas PD – 1 unit, 1 command unit, 2 people

Edinburg VFD – 1 command unit, 1 person

Mission PD – 1 Incident Commander, 1 command unit, 2 people

Border Patrol—3 units, 2 light towers, 3 people

Palmview—1 unit, 2 people

HCSO—2 units, 2 people

DPS – RLO  
HCHHS – 1 unit, 3 people

**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

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. Monitor situation in Los Ebanos for possible water rescues of those individuals that chose not to evacuate.
4. Continue sandbagging United pump.
5. Monitoring Penitas structure.
6. Additional Road Closures.
7. Drainage District 1 has ongoing pumping operation that are expected to continue.
8. *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.*

**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](mailto: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
- v) Army Corps of Engineers
- w) Irrigation Districts 6,16, 1, & United

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

County	City/Area	Injured	Dead	Missing
Hidalgo		0	0	0

5. **DAMAGES (Cumulative)** *DSO is complete and was submitted to RLO/DDC on 10JUL2010 via email. Additional damages from this continuation of Hurricane Alex to be added to DSO.*

6. **EVACUATIONS:** Mandatory Evacuation of Los Ebanos, TX, voluntary evac for La Joya and Penitas (issued by mayor)

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<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Sts in McAllen, So 281 in Pharr, and Business 83 in Harlingen.*

For Immediate Release, July 13, 2010

Road Conditions

3:40 pm

**Hidalgo County**

**FM 1427**

FM 1427 from US 83 to Old Military Highway in Penitas is closed due to flooding.

**FM 886**

FM 886 from US 83 leading to the Community of Los Ebanos in south west Hidalgo County is closed due to the Rio Grande River rising.

**SH 107**

SH 107 from FM 491 North of Mercedes to FM 1425 near the Hidalgo/Cameron County Line is closed until further notice- due to flooding

**FM 491**

FM 491 from Mile 9 to Mile 10 in Mercedes - closed due to flooding.

**FM 1015**

FM 1015 from Mile 5 Road to Gonzalez Road in Weslaco/Progreso area- closed due to flooding.

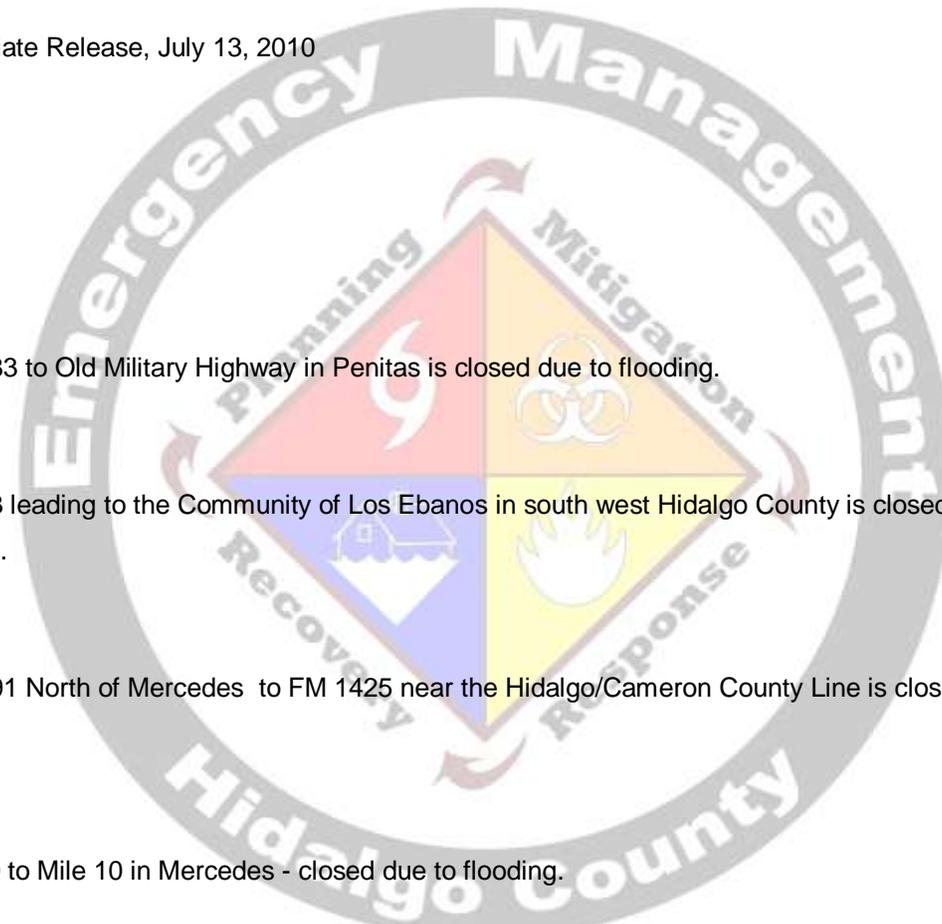
**FM 493**

FM 493 from US 281 (Military Highway) to Mile 12 1/2 North south of Donna - closed due to flooding.

**FM 907**

FM 907 from FM 3072 to Hall Acres south of Alamo - closed due to flooding.

**FM 2557 (Steward Rd)**



FM 2557 from Juan Balli to Hall Acres south of Pharr- closed due to flooding.

**FM 2061 (Jackson Road)**

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

***Cameron County***

**FM 506**

FM 506 from FM 2556 to FM 2629 in Cameron County is closed due to flooding.

**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.

For road conditions, visit the TxDOT website at [www.txdot.gov](http://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:**

As of 23:00 12/JUL/10, IC Tony Pena transferred command to IC CJ Moreno for a six day period.

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 14/JUL/2010 @ 00:30 hours