

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

HURRICANE ALEX-RIO GRAND RIVER FLOODING

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 14/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

15/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 maintained by HCSO. HCOEM, HCSO and Constables conducting periodic safety and river checks. Residents are allowed to come and go to gather belongings; however, a press release was issued @ 1430 hrs reminding people that a mandatory evacuation is still in effect and that river levels are expected to rise due to increased releases from Falcon Dam.

B. HCID1/IBWC LEVEE EVENT (PENITAS)

An eroding piece of IBWC levee was reinforced next to the Edinburg Pump Station at Penitas with rip rap on 13/JUL/10 using local resources. Work was completed in the early morning hours of 14/JUL/10. The emergency repair widened the levee from 8 feet to about 20 to 25 feet. The operation took 120 loads totaling 14,000 cubic yards of fill.

Local emergency management officials expressed concerns about how the repair will be able to withstand increased water levels and about the structural integrity of the pump house. The repairs may place increased pressure on the pump house, built in 1925.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineer inspector Gary Chow inspected the levee and feels comfortable with the reinforcements; however recommended additional erosion control actions. A 213 Resource request was submitted to the state for slope protection and rip rap cover (see 213 requests below). A USACE structural assessment team was also ordered via 213 to do an inspection/structural assessment at the pump station. After a phone call with TDEM Chief Nim Kidd, an additional 213 request for a structural assessment team via Tx Task Force One was sent to the SOC for approval. Chief Kidd verbalized that this company could mobilize within 6 hours.

Penitas is under a voluntary evacuation order; however FM 1427 has reopened.

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's municipal water supply to be interrupted.

40+ 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 at approximately 2000 hrs, 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.

Construction of the berm was completed at 0830 hours on 14/JUL/2010.

D. REPORT ON DONNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Made contact with Jerry Garza at 2:30pm at 101 North 493 on the river .

Inspected both pump houses for seepage and damage.

Pictures are provided as an attachment.

Recommended

1. Request pump from city of Donna
2. Remove pump engines or motors if supervisors feel necessary

Met with Mayor Simmons, Manager Oscar Cuellar, George Garrett, and explained details again to all

Provided numbers to C.J. Moreno and Pilar Rodriguez, and my business card for other questions

-Report provided by Edinburg VFW Chief Shawn Snider

Additional Situational Awareness:

Increased releases from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas began at noon today. Releases into the Rio Grande increased to 60,000 cubic feet per second (1700 cubic meters per second).

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.

Flows from Marte Gomez Dam continue to remain consistent at about 800 cms.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK

Tropical Development

No tropical cyclones expected within the next 48 hours.

Warnings and Watches

Flood Warning in effect for Starr County

Flood Advisory in effect for Hidalgo County

FLOOD ADVISORY

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX

1249 PM CDT WED JUL 14 2010

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HIDALGO-

1249 PM CDT WED JUL 14 2010

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BROWNSVILLE HAS EXTENDED THE

* ARROYO AND SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY FOR FLOODING OF POOR DRAINAGE AREAS IN...

SOUTHWESTERN HIDALGO COUNTY IN DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

THIS INCLUDES THE CITY OF CUEVITAS...LOS EBANOS...HAVANA...LA JOYA...AND PENITAS.

* UNTIL 200 AM CDT THURSDAY

* THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF HIDALGO COUNTY NEAR THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FLOODING DUE TO VERY HIGH WATER LEVELS IN THE RIVER. THESE HIGH RIVER LEVELS AND FLOODING OF AREAS NEAR THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER WILL LIKELY CONTINUE OR WORSEN OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AS THE RELEASES FROM FALCON RESERVOIR CONTINUE. CITY OFFICIALS HAVE ISSUED A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FOR THE TOWN OF PENITAS WHILE A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE TOWN OF LOS EBANOS DUE TO CONTINUED RIVER FLOODING. IN ADDITION...RESIDENTS OF THE CHIMNEY PARK RV RESORT NEAR MADERO OR ABOUT 3 AND 1/2 MILES SOUTH OF MISSION...SHOULD BE VIGILANT OF THE RIVER RISING AND SEEK HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

ALL PERSONS WITH INTERESTS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE RIVER IN SOUTHWESTERN HIDALGO COUNTY SHOULD CONTINUE MONITOR THE LATEST FORECASTS...AND BE PREPARED TO TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY. RIVER STAGE FORECASTS ARE BASED ON OBSERVED AND PREDICTED RAINFALL AS WELL AS RELEASES FROM RESERVOIRS. IF ACTUAL RAINFALL VARIES FROM FORECAST VALUES AND RELEASES CONTINUE TO INCREASE FROM THE RESERVOIRS...THE FORECAST RIVER STAGES WILL VARY ACCORDINGLY.

Weather forecast:

TXZ250-251-253>257-151100-

BROOKS-KENEDY-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-INLAND CAMERON-
COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-
125 PM CDT WED JUL 14 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...REST OF TODAY AND TONIGHT.

HEAT: SEASONAL TEMPERATURES COMBINED WITH ABOVE AVERAGE HUMIDITY WILL BRING APPARENT TEMPERATURES TO BETWEEN 105 AND 108 THIS AFTERNOON. RESIDENTS AND OUTDOOR WORKERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE HEAT SAFETY...INCLUDING TAKING FREQUENT BREAKS IN SHADED AREAS...DRINKING PLENTY OF WATER...WEARING LIGHT WEIGHT LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING...AND RESERVING STRENUOUS EXERCISE FOR THE LATE EVENING OR EARLY MORNING HOURS.

RIP CURRENTS: CONTINUED HIGH WAVES OFFSHORE WILL MAINTAIN A MODERATE TO HIGH RISK FOR LONGSHORE CURRENTS ALONG SOUTH PADRE ISLAND...ALONG WITH SOME RISK OF RIP CURRENTS NEAR THE ISLA BLANCA JETTIES TODAY. INEXPERIENCED SWIMMERS SHOULD REMAIN IN SHALLOW WATER.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...THURSDAY THROUGH TUESDAY.

HEAT: AFTERNOON APPARENT TEMPERATURES WILL CONTINUE AT 105 TO 108 THURSDAY AFTERNOON...REMAINING AROUND 105 EACH AFTERNOON THROUGH THE WEEKEND.

THUNDERSTORMS: ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE SATURDAY THROUGH MONDAY...MAINLY DURING THE LATE MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON HOURS. OCCASIONAL LIGHTNING...A BRIEF DOWNPOUR...AND A WIND GUST TO 25 MPH ARE POSSIBLE.

3. Shelters: The one Hidalgo County shelter at La Joya HS put on standby. Will re-open based on need.

4. 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.

213 Requests for 14/JUL/10

- 2 Boat Squads Tx Task Force One – ongoing flooding issues in Hidalgo County – DDC approved
- Various pumps to assist with pumping for flooded areas in Hidalgo County from Anzalduas Dam west to the county line—DDC approved
- 1 USACE structural assessment team
- Install approximately 5000 sq. feet of geo-mat slope protection and rip-rap cover at Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 1 pump station at Penitas to protect repair work – DDC approved
- Tx Task Force One structural assessment team – DDC approved

5. **PROJECTED ACTIONS FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD:**

- Continuous surveillance and monitoring of communities on watch list.
- Maintain security checkpoint north of Los Ebanos.
- Monitoring of various pumping structures.
- Assessment of emergency repair at Penitas.
- Additional Road Closures.
- Various pumping activities in flooded areas of county.

6. **ADDITIONAL RISKS**

- a. Tampering with floodgates: IBWC reports several incidents. Hidalgo County Judge's Office/legal counsel/IBWC working on public information statement regarding tampering with flood gates. Coordinating with HCSO for enforcement and prosecution.
- b. Driving around barricades: An Alamo man was arrested at about 0530 14/JUL/10 after prompting a water rescue going around traffic barricades.

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

7. **COUNTY AGENCIES CURRENT ACTIVITY:**

AREAS AFFECTED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

All Precincts

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

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

County	City/Are	Injured	Dead	Missing
	a			
Hidalgo		0	0	0

9. DAMAGES (Cumulative) *DSO is complete and was submitted to RLO/DDC on 10JUL2010 via email. Preliminary Damage Assessment team in Hidalgo County on Friday/Saturday to determine eligibility for Public Assistance and Saturday for Individual Assistance.*

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

11. 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, 23rd & 10th Sts in McAllen, So 281 in Pharr, and Business 83 in Harlingen.*

Road Conditions

5:15 pm

Willacy County

FM 1420

FM 1420 from FM 1018 to FM 508 in Willacy County is closed due to flooding.

Hidalgo County

FM 1427 NEW

FM 1427 from US 83 to Old Military Highway in Penitas is open to traffic.

FM 1425 NEW

FM 1425 from FM 2629 to SH 107 in NE Hidalgo County 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.

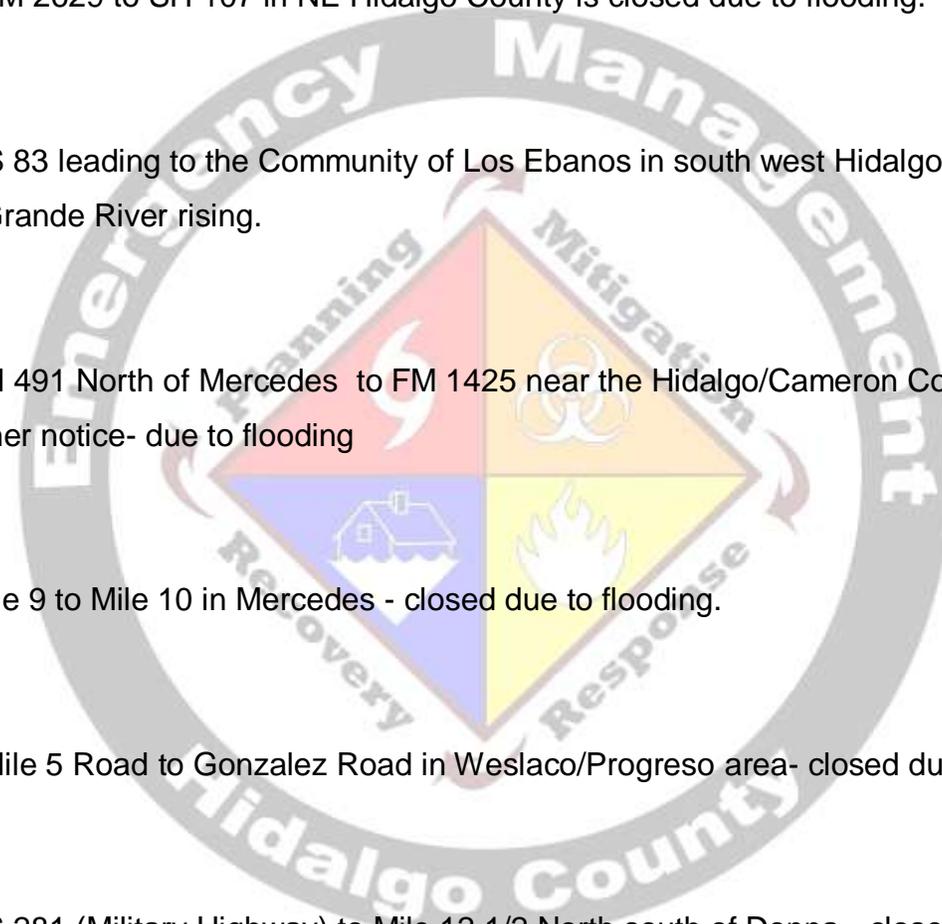
FM 907

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 or call TxDOT's automated phone system at 1-800-452-9292.

Don't move, tamper with or drive around barriers blocking a low-water crossing. Penalties range from \$200 to \$1,000 &/or 2 yrs in jail. The barriers are there for the safety of the traveling public.

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.

State 10:30
16:30

Special 14:00 – call with Congressional representatives from County Judge's Office
16:00 – call with Congressional representatives and US IBWC Commissioner Edward Drusina

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director

PREPARED BY: Cari Lambrecht, Hidalgo County PIO for Carlos Moreno – Hurricane Alex
Hidalgo County IC

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 14/JUL/2010 @ 22:30 hours

