

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Hurricane Alex – Situation Report 11

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 10JUL/2010 07:00

12/JUL/2010 07:00 hours

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

1. CURRENT SITUATION: Situational Awareness – Regional / Local

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.

We continue to monitor water being carried by the Rio Grande River as it comes down stream. The water is a result of heavy rains associated with Hurricane Alex and subsequently TD96L a tropical disturbance. Both of these tropical events made land fall just near Brownsville, Texas and affected the entire Rio Grande Valley region, NE Mexico and mountainous regions near Monterey N.L. Mexico. Hurricane Alex local rainfall amounts were larger in Hidalgo County than in our coastal neighboring counties. Hurricane Alex rainfall events also affected areas all the way to Del Rio, Texas. Eagle Pass was highly affected. As a result of continuous heavy rains over several days, dams in Mexico and Texas collected large amounts of water. The situation has been compounded further by mountainous based rain - run off into rivers and streams in Mexico that feed into the Rio Grande River south of the impacted area. Some of those streams and rivers feed downstream directly into the Rio Grande River in areas South of both Amistad (Del Rio) and Falcon (Zapata Co) dams. Laredo in Webb County experienced extreme riverine flooding. Starr county is also experiencing localized flooding, from Roma into Rio Grande City, and La Grulla. In Hidalgo County, the townsite of Cuevitas and Los Ebanos are seeing the effects of the flooding. Los Ebanos is surrounded by the Rio Grande river on three sides and only has one ingress/egress entrance (FM 855). This area is currently under 24/7 surveillance due to continual rising waters from the South and West compounded by bank erosion problems on the East side at a river bend where it is estimated that at least 100+ yards of embankment have fallen into the rushing waters. There are five occupied homes that would be directly affected should the erosion continue.

IBWC and their Mexican counterpart CONAGUA have caused all upstream dam controlled water releases to occur and those releases were initiated in anticipation of and subsequent to, the tropical rainfall events to maintain structural integrity of the dams. The controlled releases are orchestrated between all reservoirs and the amounts released take into account the estimated uncontrolled (natural flow) rainfall run-offs. No more water than can be safely contained within the regions river and interior floodways is released, with an added safety margin. We are seeing those releases within the interior floodways already and as of this documents preparations the “head” of the water should near or just past the Mercedes area. It will continue to flow through Hidalgo County and into Willacy County and into the Gulf.

The flooding is of a slow moving, slow rising, creeping type, where water is finding it's space as it has overflowed out of the river banks. Depths range from several inches to the actual depth of the river. All of which are dangerous. The closer to the river, the faster and more dangerous the current is, and the actual internal river current can be described as raging and the rushing water noise is audible and discernable from the normal noise the river makes.

The actual river contains and is carrying lot of natural debris consisting of trees, branches, reeds, and other man-made objects. Any recreational use of the river, swimming, boating or fishing , will place those persons who choose to do so, in grave danger and may create situations that would require swift water rescue by first responders. It is strongly advised that no one engage in this type of activity. We have had two situations already in the area of Chimney Park and near Anzaldua park, last night and today. The former required a boat crew to rescue an out of control boat with 5 mexican nationals in it, 4 of which were turned over to Border Patrol agents at the scene. The latter involved 2 males that crossed in inner tubes, although they were not located or apprehended on the US side.

As the water flows through the inner IBWC floodway, roads and highways that traverse the floodway and normally carry vehicular traffic are going under water and access is being blocked accordingly. TxDOT has been barricading the State Highways in an effort to keep vehicles from going through, but people are still going around them and attempting to cross. SH 1015 that normally carries a large volume of traffic, (South of Weslaco) has troopers and other law enforcement personnel at the barricades to prevent "drive-arounds". Those roadways that are County maintained and those that are privately owned will need barricades also. Those residents and persons that normally use these roadways will have to find alternate routes.

It should be noted that in those areas where water is flowing through the floodways, it is of the type and depth that has a high-speed current and anyone entering those waters will be in peril and will require swift water rescue. No one should attempt to enter these waters for any recreational use.

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– the situation has already been described and is being monitored 24/7. A recommendation for voluntary self-evacuation was issued by Judge Ramirez for this community. An American Red Cross supported shelter was made available starting on Friday and it remained open through Saturday, but was placed on standby status at 17:00 because no one took advantage of it. It will remain on "Stand-by" status till the threat passes. This means it is ready to go, and staff will activate and respond within an hour, and the shelter may be opened within a couple of hours or so.

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 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 - 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 today, 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:

07-11-10 at 10:04 hours - The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) received a report of the waste water treatment plant, located at 5992 FM 1430 in Rio Grande City experiencing flooding. The waste water side of the facility is releasing sewage into the Rio Grande. (RLO 6A) Region 3B *This information was additionally confirmed by Starr County EMC Gene Falcon shortly after this information was received. The plant is commonly referred to as "La Union" in Starr County.*

07-11-10 DDC Approved the release of this information today.

Because of sewage overflow from Laredo and the risk of personal injury, the following precautions are recommended by DSHS Region 11 with the key points coming from DSHS Austin and with consensus from Cameron and Hidalgo Health Departments. The precautions would apply to all counties downstream from Laredo. If the DDC approves, your PIO may send this to media outlets, or we can ask Mauro Ruiz to send if you'll let us know how you wish us to proceed. Brian R Smith, MD, MPH TXDSH Regional Health Authority.

McAllen – Report prepared for Mike Perez, City Manager by Pilar Rodriguez, PE. Assistant City Manager / Deputy EMC / RGV Regional PWRT Coordinator.

I have just completed a survey of both the IBWC Floodway and the Mission Inlet between Shary Road and Jackson Road.

The IBWC Floodway has water from the toe of the north levee to the toe of the south levee (i.e. spread out across the bottom of the channel). I estimate that the water is approximately 2-3 feet deep. The pilot channel appears to be carrying the majority of the flow in the McAllen area. All indications are that the diversion will continue for several days, if not more. All the ditches that flow into the IBWC Floodway are dry and/or at low flow levels. All the gate structures along the IBWC north levee are also closed. If we have a local rainfall event, the areas of concern will be:

1. Warehouse Kingdom – 23rd and Military Highway
2. The area bounded by Sara Avenue to the north, 23rd Street to the east, Ware Road to the west and the IBWC levee to the south.
3. Retiree Haven Subdivision – 10th Street and Military Highway

As noted earlier, the gates at the outfall structure of the Mission Inlet into the IBWC Floodway have also been closed. The pilot channel of the Mission Inlet is at low flow level, as are the ditches (10th Street outfall, 18th Street Ditch, Balboa outfall, Rado Drain, Alternate Rado Drain and the Trade Zone Lateral) that flow into the Inlet. This facility does have permanent pump structures at the outfall with the IBWC Floodway. If we have a local rainfall event and the pumps cannot keep up with the flow, the areas of concern will be:

1. The area bounded by El Rancho Road on the north, McColl Road to the west, Jackson Road to the east and the Mission Inlet levee to the south.
2. 10th Street from Expressway 83 to 2nd Street loop.
3. 23rd Street from Expressway 83 to Uvalde Avenue
4. Savannah Avenue from 25th Street to 26th Street.
5. Jordan Avenue from 23rd Street to 29th Street.
6. Eastbound and Westbound frontage roads of Expressway 83 from 23rd Street to Ware Road.
7. Ware Road from Business 83 to Expressway 83.
8. Balboa Acres/Idela Park/Los Encinos Subdivisions – Sara Avenue on the south, Ware to the west, 23rd Street to the east and the Mission Inlet levee to the north.
9. McAllen Miller International Airport
10. Palm View Golf Course

Additionally, I want to stress that all of these areas will be subject to flooding **ONLY IF** we have a significant local rainfall event. Engineering staff will be monitoring both of these drainage channels at hourly intervals to ensure that we are aware if the water levels start to rise. **Pilar Rodriguez, PE 07/11/10**



SHELTERS – There are no shelters currently open.

An American Red Cross shelter has been established in La Joya at the High School. It is on standby status which means that if needed shelter personnel will make themselves available within an hour. Support equipment is already pre-staged at location.

POTENTIAL EVENT(s): WATCH SITUATIONS:

Los Ebanos – 24/7 watch until further notice. OEM Site visit every morning by no later than 08:00 and 15:00. Have established local sources in the area that are monitoring and reporting situation daily also. CBP Border Patrol has a 24/7 presence with monitoring instructions to notify County EMC via BIC and Office of Incident Management in case of sudden rise in flood water, or bank erosion on east side becomes suddenly critical. Sheriff's Office and Pct Constables Office have frequent roving patrol in and out of the community. A lot of local on-lookers at the International Ferry site. All should stay off any area of the river that has high banks, especially in the area just east of the abandoned house. Two trigger points are established for evacuation. One is bank erosion behind abandoned house. This will require the

five houses north of this point to be evacuated. Trigger point for full evacuation is when water starts to come over banks at the sugar cane field on the West side of FM 855 and into bar ditch. This should allow a 2 to 4 hour window of opportunity to evacuate and most residents will be able to self evacuate. There are 8 residents that have been pre-identified as medical special needs that will require assistance. Water will rise slowly across the roadway on the north side of town to the railroad tracks.

Progreso Lakes – creeping water outside of the river banks should be monitored. All residents should be able to self-evacuate.

Progreso (City of) – is already inaccessible via SH1015 from the North. If river water continues to spillover and travel north it may become completely inaccessible.

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.

Resources/Assets: Regional assets available and on standby

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. Initiate evacuation if necessary, activate shelter
3. Drainage District 1 has ongoing pumping operation that are expected to continue. See comments in Pilar Rodriguez's report to Mike Perez, City Manager.
4. *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) **Office of Emergency Management**
- b) **Planning Department.**
- c) **Right of Way**
- d) **Pct 1 Commissioners**
- e) **Pct 2 Commissioners**
- f) **Pct 4 Commissioners**
- g) **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.*
- h) **Drainage District 1**
- i) **County Judge's Office** – Preparing Disaster Summary Outline.
- j) **Budget & Management** – Monitoring response costs, assisting with DSO preparations.
- k) **Purchasing** – Continuing to support operations.
- l) **Health and Human Services** – Mosquito vector control operations.
- m) **State Agencies** – DDC/RLO all other state agencies are reported in the SOC Executive Summary

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:** *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.*

TXDOT For Immediate Release, July 11, 2010 Road Conditions 10:15 am

Hidalgo County

FM 1015 NEW 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 closed due to flooding. *DETOUR:* Southbound traffic will turn west at FM 1018 and travel approximately 6 miles to FM 507 and turn south to FM 1420. Northbound traffic will turn west on FM 508 until FM 507 and turn North to FM 1420.

8. Forecasts

COMMENTS:

PWRT 213 Request

From: Tony Alotto

Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2010 5:58 PM

Subject: PWRT RESOURCE REQUEST: City of Laredo Flood Mitigation needs

Importance: High

Today the water is receding in Laredo, moving downstream towards the Lower Rio Grande Valley via the flood control dams and levee systems. The PWRT Assessors were able to work with the local Laredo Public Works folks and, based on those assessments, are routing a 213 request for equipment and personnel listed below.

If you have any of this available for deployment in the next day or so please respond back to me ASAP via email with your contact information - weekend phone number, etc.

I am expecting the 213 to route to me this evening, and assuming it does, I will start contacting you directly tonight or in the morning. Thank you for your support. Tony (Tony Alotto TDEM - State Operations Center TEEX - Public Works Response Team 512-424-2208)

- 3- High-Pressure /Vac. Sewer cleaning Truck (80 GPM @2500 psi) 600-800 1 in. hose **w/ crew**
- 4- 20' long 6 in. suction hose w/ Cam lock connectors
- 4- 50' long 6 in. discharge hose w/ cam lock connectors
- 1- 15 kw trailer mounted generator w/ lights , 1 and 3 phase (Magnum T4250)
- 1-80 kw Trailer mounted , three phase Magnum
- 3- Journey level -electricians
- 3- Mechanics

Pilar Rodriguez's response to state activation of Regional Public Works Response Team for Laredo Deployment/Mission.

Tony,

The river is expected to crest in our area sometime today. The flood control system on the US side is performing well and we have not experienced any major issues in the McAllen area. We have re-established the raw water supply to the City of La Grulla's Water Treatment Plant (Starr County) and they have good water pressure being generated from the plant. If you are still requiring assistance in Laredo tomorrow (Monday, July 12, 2010) we will be able to establish a team and send a Vactor Truck, hoses, generator and Mechanic/Electrician.

Pilar Rodriguez, PE Assistant City Manager /Deputy EMC City of McAllen

RGV- All Hazards Incident Management Team – preparing 7 day roster rotation for potential deployment in lieu of activity around the state. (Tony Pena – RGV Team Leader)

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

