

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

HURRICANE ALEX-RIO GRAND RIVER FLOODING

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 16/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

17/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

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

1. CURRENT SITUATIONS: Regional and Local Impacts

A. HCID1/IBWC LEVEE EVENT (PENITAS)

- The reinforced emergency levee repairs to the section of federally-owned IBWC levee next to the Edinburg Pump Station at Penitas were completed on 14/JUL/10.
- Due to concerns about the levee repairs and pump house holding up to the rising levels of the river, work commenced at 0000 hours on 16/JUL/10 to construct a temporary "horseshoe-shaped berm" between the pump structure and the surge well (located 30 feet north of the structure) to serve as a secondary flood control structure in case the first were to fail under increased pressure. Crews from McAllen Construction worked on construction of the berm nonstop throughout the day, and work is ongoing.
- The integrity of this structure must be kept to maintain supply of water to various municipal treatment plants.
- Penitas continues to be under a voluntary evacuation order; however FM 1427 has reopened.

B. LOS EBANOS

- 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. Mandatory evacuation remains in effect for Los Ebanos. Ingress/egress security post continues to be maintained by HSCO and Constable Precinct 3.
- Ground inspection and aerial inspection show that water level has remained constant.

C. UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT (MISSION)

- United Irrigation District's pump was in jeopardy of flooding on 13/JUL/10, which would cause flow into various irrigation ditches supplying the Mission area's municipal water supply to be interrupted.
- Late in the evening on 13/JUL/10, 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.
- Construction of the berm was completed at 0830 hours on 14/JUL/2010.
- On 15/JUL/10, additional releases from Falcon spurred crews to increase height by an additional four feet. Road height along the canal will also be raised.
- On 16/JUL/10, operations continue to raise the height of the berm and along the canal.
- The structural integrity of United site is imperative to maintain drinking water supplies.

D. DONNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

- Inspected by Edinburg VFD Chief Shawn Snider @ 1430 hrs on 14/JUL/2010 for seepage and damage.
- Recommended request pump from City of Donna and removal of pump engines or motors if supervisors feel necessary.
- Met with Donna, Weslaco and Pct. 1 leadership.
- Additional inspection of structure by Texas Task Force One on 15/JUL/2010.

E. GRANJENO

- Many calls placed to Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office at approximately 2230 hrs on 14/JUL/2010 regarding a "leak" in the IBWC levee south of Granjeno.
- Deputies and emergency management officials responded and met with residents. Hydraulic engineers with Dannenbaum and IBWC also inspected the structure.
- It was determined that "seepage" was occurring, not a "leak." The water table is being squeezed upward and what is being seen in groundwater.
- Residents advised to remain vigilant and maintain situational awareness.
- No pumps deployed at this time, because the change in pressure could destabilize the ground.
- Emergency management officials and hydraulic engineers will continue to monitor the area.

F. SOUTH of PHARR

- Voluntary Evacuation was issued at 1400 hrs. on 15/JUL/10 due to increasing river waters and remains in effect, impacting about 15 to 20 homes.
- Chief Guzman, Pharr FD, assisted with these voluntary evacuations.
- Voluntary evacuation remains in effect.

G. WESLACO/MERCEDES/LA VILLA/EDCOUCH/ELSA

- Interior floodway continues to fill but still has capacity. Water is moving into eastern Hidalgo County and through Willacy.
- There was a situation in the levees in Weslaco on 16/JUL/10. The IBWC was coordinating with the City of Weslaco EMC and is monitoring the situation.
- There has been some seepage and ponding in areas.
- Pump request submitted to state for additional pumps to remove standing water.

Additional Situational Awareness:

A. At 2130 hours on 16/JUL/10, a call was made to the IC for a swift water rescue at the Hidalgo Port of Entry.

- The Texas Task Force 1 Swift Water Rescue team was called on to deploy with the City of Mission.
- The call was subsequently cancelled.

B. Increased releases from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas began 14/JUL/2010 at noon. Falcon Dam has not yet peaked yet, as per Carlos Garcia with IBWC. IBWC reports that levels have broken past records. At approximately 2:00 a.m. CDT on 15/JUL/2010, the reservoir elevation surpassed 308.1 feet above mean sea

level (93.910 meters), the record established on October 19, 1958 just five years after the dam was constructed. The reservoir is still rising as floodwaters continue to enter from the Rio Grande and Salado River, a Mexican tributary.

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.

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

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BROWNSVILLE HAS EXTENDED THE

* HYDROLOGIC ADVISORY FOR...
SOUTHERN HIDALGO COUNTY IN DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.
THIS INCLUDES THE CITIES OF...LOS EBANOS...HIDALGO...CUEVITAS...
HAVANA...LA JOYA...PENITAS.

THIS ALSO INCLUDES LOW WATER BRIDGES...ROADS...AND STRUCTURES
WITHIN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY FLOODWAY SYSTEM INCLUDING
PORTIONS OF LA VILLA...MERCEDES...PROGRESO...AND WESLACO.

* UNTIL 545 AM CDT SATURDAY

* THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF HIDALGO COUNTY NEAR THE LOWER RIO
GRANDE...AS WELL AS LOCATIONS WITHIN AND NEAR THE LOWER RIO
GRANDE FLOODWAY SYSTEM...WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FLOODING
DUE TO VERY HIGH WATER IN THE RIVER. THE HIGH WATER LEVEL WILL
LIKELY INCREASE THROUGH THE WEEKEND AS THE RELEASES FROM FALCON
RESERVOIR...LOCATED UP THE VALLEY NEAR THE STARR AND ZAPATA
COUNTY LINE...CONTINUE. A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER REMAIN
IN EFFECT FOR THE TOWN OF LOS EBANOS. RESIDENTS ARE BEGINNING
TO EVACUATE CUEVITAS AS WATER ENTERS THE TOWN. A VOLUNTARY
EVACUATION CONTINUES FOR THE CITY OF PENITAS. THE CHIMNEY
PARK RV RESORT NEAR MADERO...OR ABOUT 3 AND ONE HALF MILES

SOUTH OF MISSION...CONTINUES TO FLOOD AND ANY REMAINING RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO SEEK HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY.

FLOOD WATERS CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOODWAY SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM BEGINS NEAR THE ANZALDUAS DIVERSION DAM JUST WEST OF THE CITY OF HIDALGO...CURVES EAST AND CROSSES NORTH SOUTH HIGHWAY 281 NEAR PHARR...THEN MOVES GENERALLY EAST TOWARD PROGRESO BEFORE CURVING NORTH BETWEEN MERCEDES AND WESLACO...CONTINUING NORTH TO INDIAN HILLS AND LA VILLA. AS OF WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY...WATER HAD RISEN TO HALFWAY UP THE LEVEE IN SOME PLACES...INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED 6 TO 8 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL NEAR THE BRIDGE ON FARM TO MARKET ROAD 1015.

FIFTEEN TO TWENTY RESIDENCES WITHIN THE MAIN FLOODWAY SOUTH OF MILITARY HIGHWAY AND "I" ROAD WERE UNDER VOLUNTARY EVACUATION. ANOTHER FIVE HOMES WITHIN THE MAIN FLOODWAY WERE IMPACTED SOUTH OF WESLACO...AND MOST ROADS LEADING TO THE PROGRESO INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE REMAIN CLOSED. LEVEE STRUCTURAL REPAIRS WERE UNDERWAY AT THE EDINBURG PUMP STATION IN PENITAS...AND A BERM WAS COMPLETED AT A PUMP NEAR MISSION.

ADDITIONAL FLOWS DOWN RIVER FROM UPSTREAM DAMS WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE WATER LEVELS. STAY TUNED FOR CONTINUING UPDATES ON WATER LEVELS AND POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS FLOOD ISSUES THROUGH THE WEEKEND.

Weather forecast:

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
501 AM CDT THU JUL 15 2010

TXZ248>257-152130-
ZAPATA-JIM HOGG-BROOKS-KENEDY-STARR-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-
INLAND CAMERON-COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-
501 AM CDT THU JUL 15 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

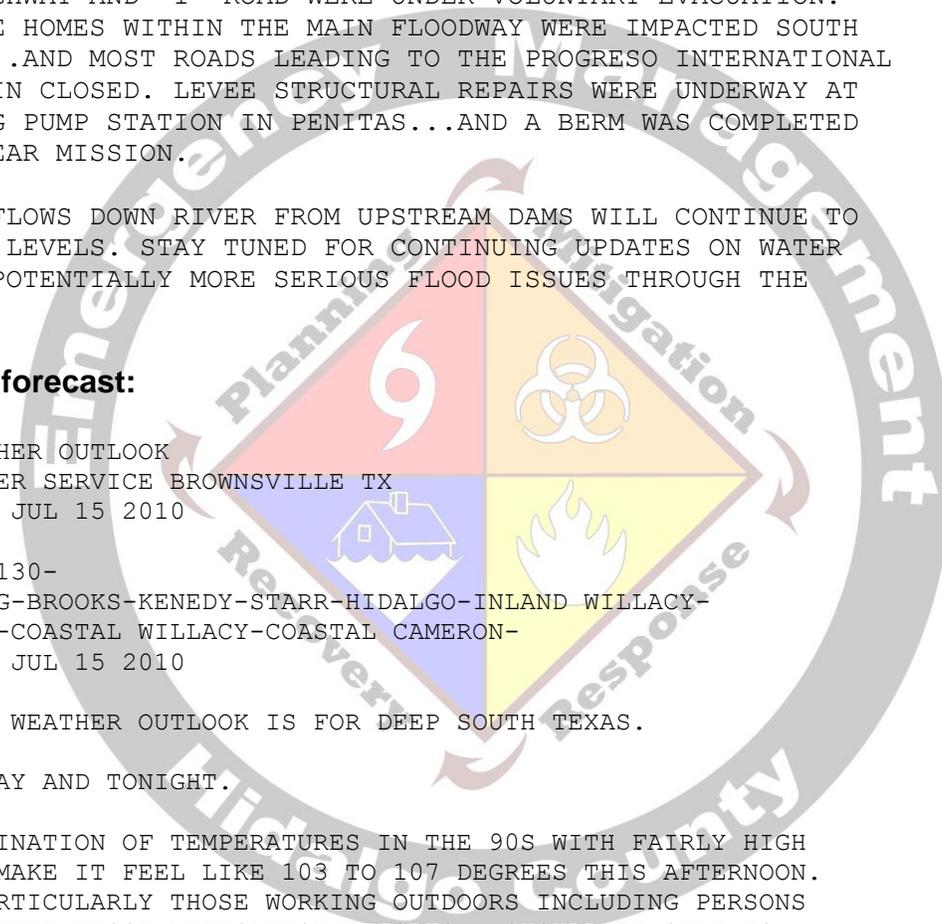
.DAY ONE...TODAY AND TONIGHT.

HEAT: THE COMBINATION OF TEMPERATURES IN THE 90S WITH FAIRLY HIGH HUMIDITY WILL MAKE IT FEEL LIKE 103 TO 107 DEGREES THIS AFTERNOON. RESIDENTS...PARTICULARLY THOSE WORKING OUTDOORS INCLUDING PERSONS HELPING WITH RIVER FLOOD MITIGATION EFFORTS...SHOULD BE SURE TO TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS...DRINK PLENTY OF WATER...AND WEAR LIGHT WEIGHT LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...FRIDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

HEAT: THE COMBINATION OF TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY WILL MAKE IT FEEL LIKE 100 TO 105 EACH AFTERNOON THROUGH THE WEEKEND. RESIDENTS AND WORKERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRACTICE HEAT SAFETY FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

THUNDERSTORMS: ISOLATED LATE MORNING AND AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY SATURDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY. OCCASIONAL LIGHTNING...A BRIEF DOWNPOUR...AND WIND GUSTS TO 25 MPH ARE POSSIBLE WITH ANY STORMS.



3. Shelters: NONE OPEN IN HIDALGO COUNTY. STANDBY LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

4. Resources/Assets:

Located at staging area in Mission:

- 3 brush trucks (Mission Fire 1, Edinburg Fire 2)
- 2 Evacuation Units (Edinburg CISD)
- Hygiene Trailer (Hidalgo County Health and Human Services)
- Communications Trailer (HCHHS)
- 6 buses (Hidalgo County Head Start)
- 7 boats (Texas Task Force 1)
- 2 trucks each with 600 super sandbags

Water Rescue / Swift Water Rescue – Mission FD and Weslaco FD; via DDC-TPW, USBP (CBP), TxTF1 boat crews arrived

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; 2 Blackhawk helicopters at Weslaco Airport

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.

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.
- Ongoing construction of horseshoe berm at Penitas.
- Ongoing reinforcement and raising of berm at United.
- Various pumping activities in flooded areas of county

6. ADDITIONAL RISKS

- A. Tampering with floodgates:** IBWC reports several incidents. Have coordinated with HCSO for enforcement of state laws. Hidalgo County Public Affairs released a statement to the media:

State law provides that any interference with public duties regarding operations to divert water on an international stream is a Class B misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000, 180 days in jail, or both. Local law enforcement officials have been asked to closely monitor the situation and to prosecute any violators. Federal law also provides that any person who unlawfully opens, breaks or destroys any gate or fence enclosing lands of the United States reserved for public use, shall be subject to a fine, imprisonment of up to one year, or both. Therefore, those who unlawfully open or tamper with the gates or fences utilized within the IBWC flood control project may be subject to federal 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:

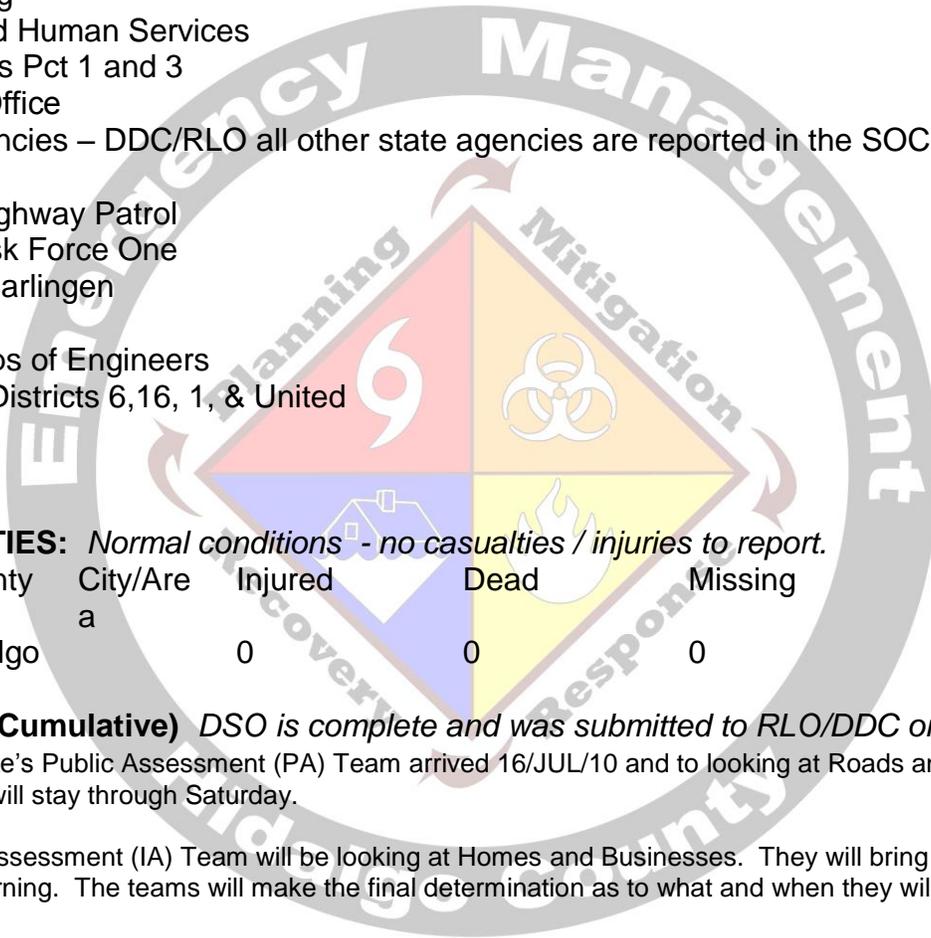
AREAS AFFECTED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

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. The State's Public Assessment (PA) Team arrived 16/JUL/10 and to looking at Roads and County/City Property. They will stay through Saturday.*

The Individual Assessment (IA) Team will be looking at Homes and Businesses. They will bring two teams and arrive on Saturday morning. The teams will make the final determination as to what and when they will visit.

10. EVACUATIONS: Mandatory Evacuation of Los Ebanos, TX, voluntary evacs for La Joya, Penitas, and South of Pharr (south of Military Hwy on Doffing Road – 15 to 20 residences)

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

2:00 pm

Hidalgo County

FM 1425

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)

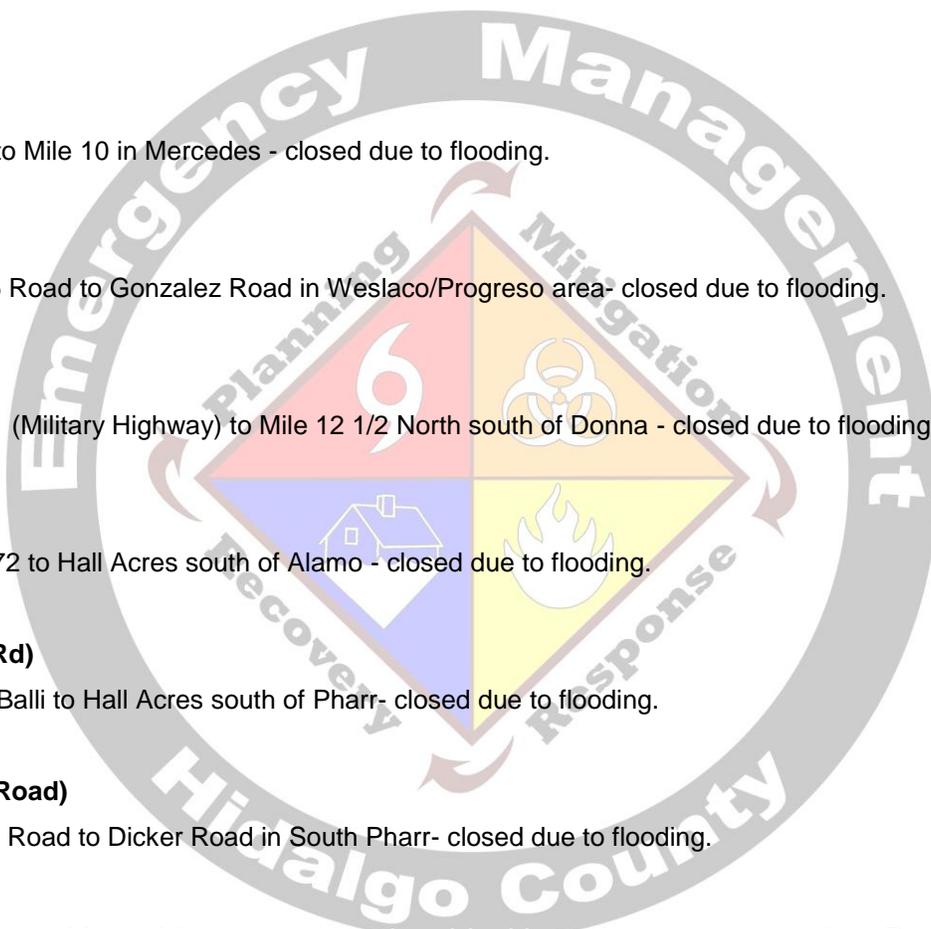
FM 2061 from Ridge Road to Dicker Road in South Pharr- closed due to flooding.

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.

12. 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

13. OTHER:

- County Emergency Operations Center opened at 1400 hours 15/JUL/2010.
- Hidalgo County's 24-hour Public Emergency Hotline was activated at 2000 hours on 15/JUL/10 to field calls from the public on flooding issues, road closures, and evacuations.
- At 1100 hours on 16/JUL/10, Hidalgo County held a press conference to update the public on Rio Grande Flooding. The following agencies were represented:
 - Hidalgo County
 - Congressman Ruben Hinojosa
 - Drainage District #1
 - TxDot
 - Local municipal leaders

Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge / EM Director

PREPARED BY: Karina Cardoza, Hidalgo County Public Affairs Director for Carlos Moreno – Hurricane Alex Hidalgo County IC

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 16/JUL/2010 @ 20:30 hours

