

# HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS HURRICANE ALEX-RIO GRAND RIVER FLOODING

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 17/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs                      18/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

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

## 1. CURRENT SITUATIONS: Regional and Local Impacts

### \*\*NEW

#### A. WESLACO

- At 2100 hours on 16/JUL/10, report of flooded roadway on S. FM 88 in Weslaco.
- IBWC and local Weslaco EMC assessing and monitoring situation

#### B. LA VILLA

- At 0900 hours on 17/JUL/10, report of flooding at certain parts of La Villa levees.
- Request for pumps to help drain
- At 1100 hours on 17/JUL/10, assessment team sent out to determine situation
- 2 – 8 in. pumps and 4 – 12 in. pumps were sent to La Villa (State Resources) and are stationed at Mile 12 and FM 491 in La Villa and will remain there until demobilized.

#### C. WILLACY COUNTY

- At 0900 hours on 17/JUL/10, Willacy County Judge requested resources (pumps) from McAllen DDC that were staged for Hidalgo County due to flooding at levees in Santa Monica
- Assessment teams were ready to deploy
- Request was cancelled; TCEQ assessment team is handling the situation

### \*\*UPDATES

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

- Construction on the temporary "horseshoe-shaped berm" to serve as a secondary flood control structure around the pump house was completed at 0100 hours on 17/JUL/10.
- Penitas continues to be under a voluntary evacuation order.

#### B. LOS EBANOS

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

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

- Construction to raise the berm around the United Irrigation District's pump as well as the height along the canal was completed at 0130 hours on 17/JUL/10.

#### D. GRANJENO

- On 14/JUL/10 it was determined that 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.

#### E. SOUTH of PHARR

- Voluntary evacuation remains in effect for the fifteen to twenty residences within the main floodway south of Military highway and "I" Road.

#### Additional Situational Awareness:

Releases from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas began 14/JUL/2010 at noon and discharges are forecast to remain constant at 60,000 cubic feet per second, with no changes in release for the next 24 hours, as per Luis Hernandez, IBWC at 1030 hours on 17/JUL/10. Falcon Dam is currently at 309.3 feet above mean sea level and is expected to peak at 309.7 tomorrow, 18/JUL/10.

## 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK

### Tropical Development

No tropical cyclones expected within the next 48 hours.

### Warnings and Watches

FLOOD ADVISORY  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX  
522 PM CDT SAT JUL 17 2010

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BROWNSVILLE HAS ISSUED A

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

THIS ALSO INCLUDES PORTIONS OF THE CITIES OF LA  
VILLA...MERCEDES...PROGRESO...WESLACO...MAINLY FOR LOW WATER  
BRIDGES...ROADS...AND STRUCTURES INSIDE THE MAIN FLOODWAY AND  
THE NORTH FLOODWAY OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY FLOODWAY SYSTEM.

IN ADDITION...THE PORTION OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER BETWEEN  
ANZALDUAS DAM NEAR GRANJENO TO RETAMAL DAM NEAR PROGRESSO LAKES.  
THIS INCLUDES THE SANTA ANA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE...ABOUT 7  
MILES EAST OF THE CITY OF HIDALGO.

\* UNTIL 430 AM CDT SUNDAY

\* THE EXTREME SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH PORTIONS OF HIDALGO COUNTY NEAR

THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER...AS WELL AS LOCATIONS WITHIN AND NEAR THE MAIN FLOODWAY AND THE NORTH FLOODWAY OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOODWAY SYSTEM...WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FLOODING DUE TO VERY HIGH WATER LEVELS ON THE RIVER. THE HIGH WATER LEVEL WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO INCREASE THROUGH THE WEEKEND AS THE RELEASES FROM FALCON RESERVOIR...LOCATED UPSTREAM THE RIO GRANDE RIVER NEAR THE STARR AND ZAPATA COUNTY LINE...CONTINUE. A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE TOWN OF LOS EBANOS. RESIDENTS CONTINUE 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 MAIN FLOODWAY AND NORTH FLOODWAY OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOODWAY SYSTEM. THE MAIN FLOODWAY BEGINS NEAR THE ANZALDUAS DIVERSION DAM JUST WEST OF THE CITY OF HIDALGO...CURVES EAST AND CROSSES HIGHWAY 281 NEAR PHARR...THEN MOVES GENERALLY EAST TOWARD PROGRESO BEFORE CURVING NORTH BETWEEN MERCEDES AND WESLACO INTO THE NORTH FLOODWAY. THE NORTH FLOODWAY CONTINUES NORTH TO INDIAN HILLS AND LA VILLA. AS OF THURSDAY...WATER HAD RISEN TO HALFWAY UP THE LEVEE OF THE FLOODWAYS IN SOME PLACES...INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED 6 TO 8 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL NEAR THE BRIDGE ON FM 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.

IN ADDITION...MAJOR FLOODING CONTINUES INSIDE THE LEVEES DOWNSTREAM OF ANZALDUAS DAM...ABOUT 2 MILES WEST OF GRANJENO...ON THE RIO GRANDE RIVER TO JUST ABOVE THE RETAMAL DAM...ABOUT 5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PROGRESSO LAKES. ALL IRRIGATION PUMPS...LIVESTOCK...AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM INSIDE THE LEVEES IF NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

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

## **Weather forecast:**

### **AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION**

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX  
121 PM CDT **SAT** JUL 17 2010

.SHORT TERM /TONIGHT THROUGH 7 AM MONDAY/...LIGHT TO MODERATE SOUTHEAST TO EAST WINDS WILL CONTINUE ACROSS DEEP SOUTH TEXAS THROUGH EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH A WEAK PRESSURE **GRADIENT** ACROSS DEEP SOUTH TEXAS. A WEAK LOW PRESSURE **TROUGH** WILL MOVE INTO THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO TONIGHT AND CONTINUE TO WEAKEN AS IT MOVES WESTWARD. THE LOW PRESSURE **TROUGH** WILL INCREASE THE **MOISTURE** ACROSS

THE COASTAL COUNTIES OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS ON SUNDAY. THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE FOR SHOWERS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS MOVING ACROSS PRIMARILY THE COASTAL AND CENTRAL COUNTIES SUNDAY AFTERNOON ALONG THE SEA BREEZE BOUNDARY. TEMPERATURES WILL REMAIN SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

**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)

Sandbag Strike Teams

- City of McAllen – 2 trucks @ 600 super sandbags each
- City of Edinburg Public Works
- Staging Area (Mission) – 2 teams
- Precinct 3 – 1 team

Pumps (Total 18 from State)

- 10 – 6 inch pumps
- 2 – 8 inch pumps (2 deployed to La Villa)
- 0 – 12 inch pumps (4 deployed to La Villa)

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

**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  
2 CH47 (Chinooks) arrived 1200 at Weslaco Airport for sandbag drops

**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
- Maintain security checkpoint north of Los Ebanos
- Monitoring of various pumping structures
- Monitoring of use of deployed pumping resources (La Villa)
- Monitoring levee reinforcement for possible deployment of super sandbags
- 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](mailto: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      |          |         |      |         |

**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:**

The following evacuations remain in effect:

- Mandatory Evacuation of Los Ebanos, TX
- Voluntary evacuations 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Sts in McAllen, So 281 in Pharr, and Business 83 in Harlingen.*

Road Conditions (from TXDOT website 17/JUL/10)

**Hidalgo County**

**SH0107**

**Eastbound and Westbound**

**FM 491 to FM 1425**

**Description:** The roadway is closed due to flooding. Water over road due to flooding, motorist expect delays and will have to detour and find an alternate route (Delay / Detour)

**FM1015**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**Mile 5 to Gonzalez St**

**Description:** The roadway is closed due to flooding. Water on pavement on FM 1015 from Baker St to Gonzalez St in the Progreso Area Motorist should expect delays and use alternate route (Delay / Detour)

**FM0886**

**2010-07-13 1:44 PM to 2010-07-19 6:00 PM**

**US 83 South on FM886 to Military Rd. (Railroad Tracks) on FM 886**

**Description:** Use alternate route. River Water Rising at Military Road on FM 886 headed to Los Ebanos, Texas From right after Sam Fordyce Elementary School to Old Military Rd at railroad tracks Alternative route Westbound on US 83 turn left on Guadalupe Flores St, then turn left or right on Military RD

Alternative route Eastbound on US 83 turn right on Guadalupe Flores ST and turn left or right on Military Rd (Delay / Detour)

**FM2061**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**Description: Water over roadway. Travel discouraged. Motorists should expect delays. North and South bound lanes are closed on FM 2061 Jackson Rd due flooding Motorist should not travel on FM 2061 Motorists should expect delays and detours (Delay / Detour)**

**FM0493**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**US 83 Military Hwy to Mile 12 1/2 North**

**Description: The roadway is closed due to flooding. The roadway is closed due to high water. FM 493 is closed due to flooding (Delay / Detour)**

**FM0907**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**FM 3072 to Hall Acres Rd**

**Description: The roadway is closed due to flooding. The roadway is closed due to high water. FM 907 Alamo Rd is closed due to flooding (Delay / Detour)**

**FM2557**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**Juan Balli to Hall Acres**

**Description: Motorists should expect delays. Steward Road is closed from Juan Balli to Hall Acres north and south bound lanes Motorist should expect delays and should use alternate routes (Delay / Detour)**

**FM1425**

**Northbound and Southbound**

**FM 2629 to SH0107**

**Description: The roadway is closed due to flooding. Road 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:**

State            10:30  
                     16:30 as needed

**13. OTHER:**

- County Emergency Operations Center was open from 0700 hours and closed at 1900 hours on 17/JUL/2010.

- Hidalgo County's 24-hour Public Emergency Hotline continues to field calls from the public on flooding issues, road closures, and evacuations.

Rene A. Ramirez, Hidalgo 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 17/JUL/2010 @ 20:30 hours

