

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

A. WESLACO

- On 16/JUL/10, report of flooded roadway on S. FM 88 in Weslaco.
- IBWC and local Weslaco EMC assessing and monitoring situation.
- As of 18/JUL/10, IBWC and Weslaco EMC officials reported the situation was resolved.

C. LA VILLA

- On 17/JUL/10, report of flooding at certain parts of La Villa levees.
- Request for pumps to help drain; 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.
- Pumps are being used to keep the interior drainage system low in the event of rain.

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.

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:

Falcon Dam peaked overnight at 309.3 feet above mean sea level and elevation levels will slowly fall as river inflows from upstream match outflows going downstream and into the

interior floodway. Peaked river flow from Falcon Dam arrived at to the interior floodway in Hidalgo County at Anzalduas at approximately 1600 hours today. The next 6-12 hours are critical to ensure the floodway system can withstand the rising waters. Falcon Dam discharges are expected to continue at a rate of 60,000 cubic feet per second over the next five days. Isolated showers throughout the area could exacerbate the situation.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK

Tropical Development

No tropical cyclones expected within the next 48 hours.

Warnings and Watches

FLOOD ADVISORY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
4:19 am CDT, Sun., Jul. 18, 2010

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BROWNSVILLE HAS EXTENDED THE

* 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 PROGRESO LAKES. THIS INCLUDES THE SANTA ANA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE... ABOUT 7 MILES EAST OF THE CITY OF HIDALGO.

* UNTIL 430 PM 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.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

RISING WATERS IN THE MAIN AND NORTH FLOODWAY ARE ALSO FLOWING QUICKLY AS WELL. LOW WATER BRIDGES IN SEVERAL AREAS ARE NOW IMPASSIBLE... AND OTHERS WILL BECOME IMPASSIBLE THROUGH THE REST OF THE WEEKEND. KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS AWAY FROM HIGH WATER! THEY MAY BECOME CAUGHT IN THE TURBULENT FLOW... AND COULD DROWN.

DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE THROUGH AREAS WHERE WATER COVERS THE ROAD... AND ESPECIALLY AROUND BARRICADES. DRIVING AROUND FLOOD BARRICADES IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR IN THE STATE OF TEXAS... SUBJECT TO FINE OR POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT.

DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC. TURN AROUND... DON'T DROWN!

Weather Forecast:

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
929 AM CDT SUN JUL 18 2010

.SHORT TERM /TODAY THROUGH 7 PM MONDAY/...CURRENT FORECAST ON TRACK THIS MORNING...BORNE OUT BY STEADY INCREASE IN COVERAGE TO SCATTERED (30-50 PERCENT) ACROSS THE NEARSHORE WATERS AND BEGINNING TO MAKE INROADS AT THE COAST AT 9 AM AS DAYTIME HEATING UNDERWAY. THE 12Z SOUNDING IS READY TO GO...WITH PRECIPITABLE WATER UP AT 2.07 AND THE ONLY "CAP" THE DIURNAL CAP FROM RADIATIONAL COOLING WHICH IS JUST ABOUT GONE. AS PREVIOUS DISCUSSION SO ELOQUENTLY DISCUSSED...THE MID LEVEL TROUGH ARRIVING FROM THE EAST OFFERS THE LARGE SCALE TRIGGER THAT WAS NOT HERE ON SATURDAY.

ABOUT THE ONLY QUESTION REMAINING IS HOW MUCH COVERAGE WILL DEVELOP OVER LAND...WHERE...AND FOR HOW LONG. LOW LEVEL SOUTHEAST FLOW IS LIGHT...10 KNOTS OR LESS. CURRENT COVERAGE CHANCES ARE 30/40 PERCENT EAST (MOVING EAST TO WEST DIURNALLY ACROSS THE LOWER AND MID VALLEY) AND 20 PERCENT WEST...AND WILL HAVE TO WATCH LATE MORNING DEVELOPMENT FOR BOUNDARIES AND COVERAGE TO MAKE RAPID FIRE CHANGES IF NECESSARY AS WE MOVE TOWARD AFTERNOON. SHOULD COVERAGE INCREASE

AND DEBRIS CLOUDINESS RESULT WILL HAVE TO ADJUST TEMPERATURES/DEWPOINT/APPEARANT TEMPERATURES AS WELL. FOR THE TIME BEING WILL WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS EVOLVE AND MAKE CHANGES ON THE FLY IF/WHEN THEY HAPPEN.

REGARDING POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE CURRENT RIVER FLOOD/RGV FLOODWAY EVENT: WE`LL CLOSELY MONITOR FOR LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL IN POPULATED LOCATIONS NEAR THE FLOODWAYS. URBAN FLOOD ADVISORIES/GRAPHICS/OTHER METHODS MAY BE USED TO COMMUNICATE THE LOCAL THREAT AT A SLIGHTLY LOWER THRESHOLD THAN WHAT WOULD TYPICALLY BE USED IF STRESSORS WERE NOT A FACTOR ON THE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS THAT FEED THE FLOODWAYS.

&&

.LONG TERM /7 PM MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY/...THE MIDDLE OF THIS WEEK A HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM WILL BE LOCATED ACROSS THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. A HIGH PRESSURE RIDGE WILL EXTEND ACROSS THE NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO INTO DEEP SOUTH TEXAS. THE RIDGE WILL PRODUCE LIGHT TO MODERATE SOUTHEAST TO EAST WINDS ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY THE MIDDLE OF THIS WEEK THROUGH THE END OF THIS WEEK. THE SOUTHEASTERLY FLOW AROUND THE HIGH PRESSURE RIDGE EXTENDING ACROSS THE GULF OF MEXICO WILL ADVECT MOISTURE INTO DEEP SOUTH TEXAS. THE ADVECTION OF THE MOISTURE ACROSS THE CWA WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE SHOWER ACTIVITY ACROSS DEEP SOUTH TEXAS. THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE FOR SHOWERS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS MOVING ACROSS PORTIONS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS PRIMARILY DURING THE AFTERNOONS ALONG THE SEA BREEZE BOUNDARY THE MIDDLE OF THIS WEEK THROUGH THE END OF THIS WEEK. THE SHOWER ACTIVITY WILL PRIMARILY OCCUR ACROSS THE COASTAL AND CENTRAL COUNTIES OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS. THE TEMPERATURES WILL CONTINUE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN NORMAL TO NEAR NORMAL THROUGHOUT THE FORECAST PERIOD.

&

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)

- Updates on locations of deployed resources will be updated on next situation report

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

This morning, the Mission Swift-water Rescue Team and Texas Swift-water Rescue Team rescued three Mexican nationals from the Rio Grande River in the Las Lomitas area near Anzalduas Dam.

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.

213 Requests for 16/JUL/10-17/JUL/10 WERE ALL APPROVED BY SOC

16/JUL/2010

- Heavy lift sandbag operation for emergency levee/dike construction
- Rigging slings rated to TxMF specifications to perform heavy lift helicopter operations
- Heavy lift helicopters and coordination team to airlift up to 1,500(6,000#) sandbags

17/JUL/2010

- 2500 ft of 3/8” wire rope
- 100 wire rope clips
- 1 wire rope cutter

213 Requests for 18/JUL/10

- Request for 2 Duece ½ to report to La Joya Fire Department to assist in evacuating citizens
- Mission Fire Department inflatable rescue boat was damaged in multiple places during a search and rescue on 7/18/2010. The boat is being repaired for current operation, but will need to be replaced for inservice use by the department. Requesting a replacement inflatable rescue boat comparable to the department specifications.

5. PROJECTED ACTIONS FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

- Continuous surveillance and monitoring of communities and rising elevations of the interior floodway.
- 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

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/Area	Injured	Dead	Missing
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:

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, 23rd & 10th 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)

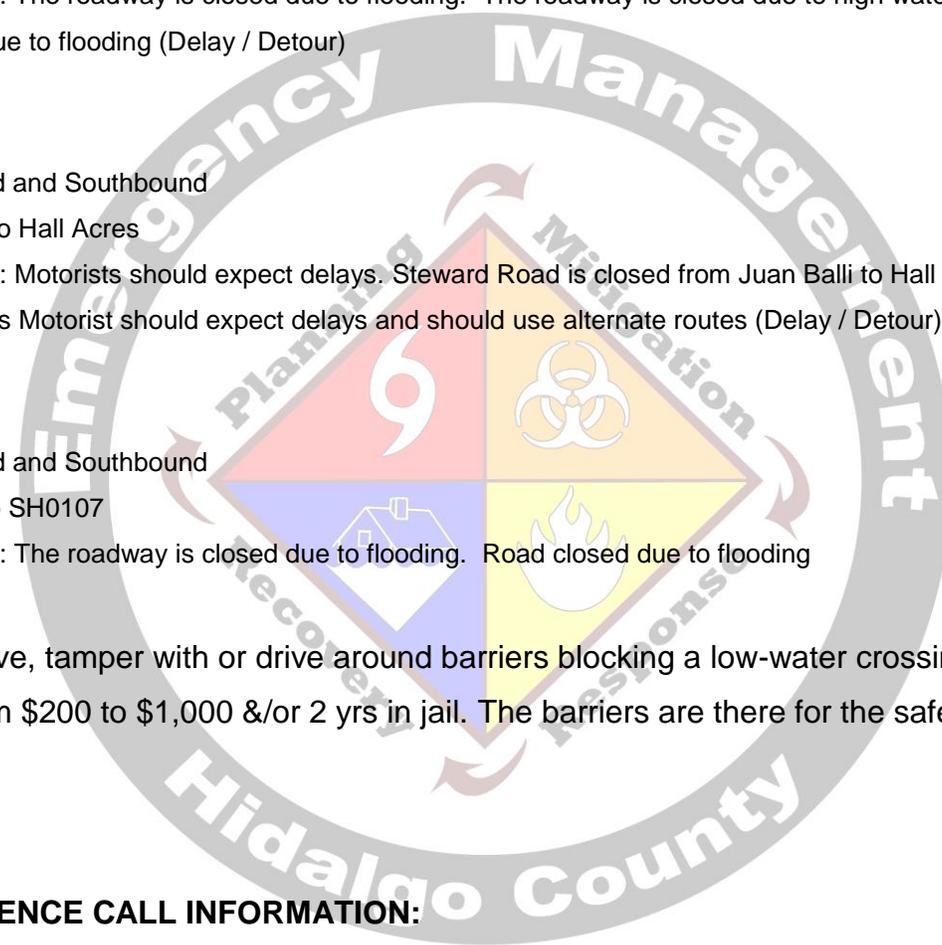
FM1425

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 18/JUL/2010 @ 1900 hours

