

# HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

## HURRICANE ALEX-RIO GRAND RIVER FLOODING

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

19/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

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

### 1. CURRENT SITUATIONS: Regional and Local Impacts

#### **\*\*NEW**

##### **A. HAVANA**

- At approximately 1600 hours on 19/JUL/10, reports of rising water near S. Military Road (south of the railroad tracks) in Havana was reported to the Hidalgo County EOC.
- IC team assessed the area; it was determined that water had reached the railroad tracks and was eroding the banks under the railroad ballasts.
- A mandatory evacuation was ordered for approximately 5 homes directly south of the railroad tracks; law enforcement officials went door-to-door to notify those residences affected.
- IC mobilized 1 CH-47 for super sandbag drops to stop the flow.
- At 1800 hours, 1 CH-47 arrived at the landing zone in Havana.
- As a precautionary measure, La Joya Fire Department officials began notifying residents in Havana of a voluntary evacuation.
- At 1930 hours, 29 bags had been placed at the area; at cease of operations on 19/JUL/10, a total of 38 super sandbags had been dropped.

#### **\*\*REVISED**

##### **B. PUMPING OPERATIONS**

- Pumping operations continue in areas along the river and interior floodway across Hidalgo County:
  - La Villa-13 Total Pumps
    - FM 491 between Mile 12 ½ and 13<sup>th</sup> →4 pumps
    - FM 491 between Mile 14 ½ and 15→4 pumps
    - FM 491 Mile 17<sup>th</sup> →3 pumps
    - SH 107→ 2 pumps
  - La Joya
    - Between Garza Rd. and Military Rd. → 1 pump
  - Weslaco
    - FM 1015 and Mile 5→ 2 pumps

##### **C. 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.
- On 19/JUL/10, reinforced levee at pump structure and berm around pumphouse are performing as expected.

### C. 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.

### D. 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.
- On 19/JUL/10, berm around pump was performing as expected.

### 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:

The Anzalduas Reservoir saw its peak today, with elevation levels remaining flat or slowly diminishing over the next 48 hours. As of 0700 am Monday, the National Weather Service River Forecasting Center showed an observed level of 111.16 feet at Anzalduas, a decrease from the highest observation elevation of 111.29 feet yesterday. Interior floodway levees should see the peaked levels arrive over the next day and a half.

Falcon Dam discharges are expected to continue at a rate of 60,000 cubic feet per second over the next five days.

## 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK

### Tropical Development

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK  
NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL  
800 PM EDT MON JUL 19 2010

FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC...CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO...

A TROPICAL WAVE LOCATED NEAR PUERTO RICO CONTINUES TO PRODUCE DISORGANIZED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. SURFACE PRESSURES ARE NOT FALLING SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE AREA...AND UPPER-LEVEL WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ONLY MARGINALLY FAVORABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AS THE DISTURBANCE MOVES WEST-NORTHWESTWARD AT 10 TO 15 MPH. THERE IS A LOW CHANCE...20 PERCENT...OF THIS SYSTEM BECOMING A TROPICAL CYCLONE DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS...ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS COULD BECOME MORE FAVORABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AFTER THAT TIME. REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENT...GUSTY WINDS AND LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL COULD AFFECT THE NORTHERN LEEWARD ISLANDS...THE VIRGIN ISLANDS...PUERTO RICO...THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC...HAITI...EASTERN CUBA...THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS...AND THE SOUTHEASTERN BAHAMAS DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

ELSEWHERE...TROPICAL CYCLONE FORMATION IS NOT EXPECTED DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS.

### Warnings and Watches

05 PM CDT MON JUL 19 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 500 AM CDT TUESDAY

### **Weather Forecast:**

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX  
414 AM CDT MON JUL 19 2010

ZAPATA-JIM HOGG-BROOKS-KENEDY-STARR-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-  
INLAND CAMERON-COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-  
414 AM CDT MON JUL 19 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...TODAY AND TONIGHT.

SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL DEVELOP DURING THE  
MORNING AND AFTERNOON HOURS OF TODAY. ANY OF THE SLOWER MOVING  
AND HEAVIER SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO  
PRODUCE NUISANCE FLOODING OF ROADS AND IN LOW LYING AND POORLY  
DRAINING AREAS.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY.

SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL CONTINUE WITHIN DEEP  
SOUTH TEXAS IN THE EXTENDED PERIOD.

### **3. Shelters:**

At 1800 on 19/JUL/10, an American Red Cross shelter was opened at PSJA North High School (500 E. Nolana, Pharr, Texas) for residents seeking shelter from flooded areas.

### **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)
- 3 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

At 1200 pm on 19/JUL/19, 3 boat squads were demobilized.

### 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
- At 1200 pm on 19/JUL/10, 2 Blackhawk helicopters were demobilized.
- 2 CH47 (Chinooks) stationed at Weslaco Airport
  - 1 mobilized to Havana at 1800 hours, 19/JUL/10

**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 and rising elevations of the interior floodway.
- Maintain security checkpoint north of Los Ebanos
- Monitoring of various pumping operations across Hidalgo County
- Monitoring for possible deployment of super sandbags

## **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)***

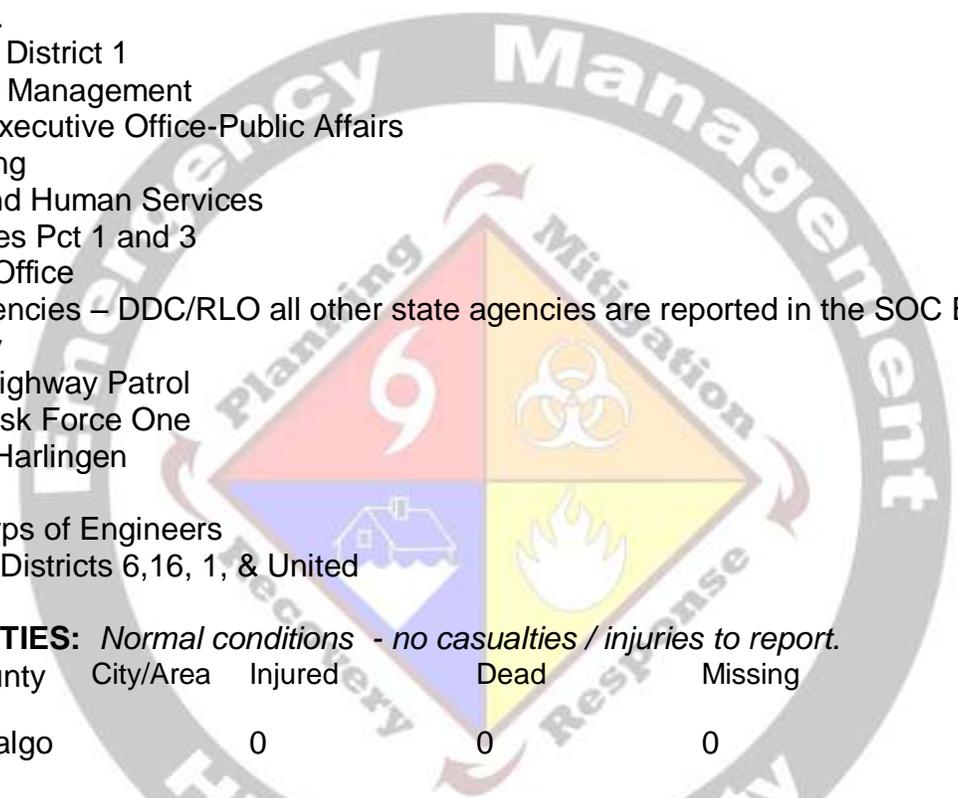
## **7. COUNTY AGENCIES CURRENT ACTIVITY:**

**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/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, 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 19/JUL/10)

**Hidalgo County**

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Flood  
**Roadway:** FM2061  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-09 2:11 PM to 2010-07-30 6:00 PM  
**Limits:** FM 3072 (Dicker Rd) to Hall Acres

**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)

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM0493  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-09 10:43 PM to 2010-07-30 6:00 PM  
**Limits:** 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)

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM0907  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-09 10:37 PM to 2010-07-30 6:00 PM  
**Limits:** 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)

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM2557  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-09 5:44 PM to 2010-07-30 6:00 PM  
**Limits:** 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)

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM1425  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-13 3:10 PM to 2010-07-28 5:00 PM  
**Limits:** FM 2629 to SH0107

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

Road closed due to flooding

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM0491  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-19 9:15 AM to 2010-07-29 0:00 AM  
**Limits:** Mile 9 to Mile 10

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

Road Closed due to water over road (Delay / Detour)

**District:** Pharr  
**County:** Hidalgo  
**Condition:** Closed  
**Roadway:** FM0491  
**Direction:** Northbound and Southbound  
**Time:** 2010-07-19 9:18 AM to 2010-07-29 12:00 PM  
**Limits:** Bu. 83 to US 281

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

Road closed due to flooding Motorist should expect delays use alternate route (Delay / Detour)

## 12. CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION:

State            10:30  
                     16:30 as needed

## 13. OTHER:

- County Emergency Operations Center was open from 0800 hours and closed at 2100 hours on 19/JUL/2010.
- Hidalgo County's 24-hour Public Emergency Hotline continues to field calls from the public on flooding issues, road closures, and evacuations and shelters.

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 19/JUL/2010 @ 2230 hours

