

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

HURRICANE ALEX-RIO GRAND RIVER FLOODING

DATE AND TIME COVERED: 19/JUL/2010 20:00 hrs

21/JUL/2010 00:00 hrs

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

1. CURRENT SITUATIONS: Regional and Local Impacts

****NEW**

A. LOS EBANOS

Mandatory evacuation order for Los Ebanos, a township of about 300 families surrounded on three sides by water and unprotected by any levee structures, was lifted at 1700 hrs on 20/JUL/10. A voluntary evacuation order is still in effect currently. Law enforcement was notified, road blockade removed, and people are being advised that they can return; however, they are urged to maintain situational awareness. **This flooding event is not over.** IBWC, some emergency management officials and media are reporting that the event has "peaked," however, Hidalgo County Emergency Management officials have chosen to refer to the event as having hit a plateau. Constant releases from Falcon Dam are expected to continue at 60,000 cfs until at least Friday, meaning residents may continue to see ups and downs in water levels. Water is expected to remain in the floodway for two weeks or more. Tips about reinstating utilities and public health risks were provided through the media for those residents that choose to return home. American Red Cross opened La Joya High School as a shelter for the western side of Hidalgo County.

B. HAVANA

- Havana sandbag operations continued 20/JUL/2010. The project, led by the regional Public Works Strike Team, shifted from air operations to ground operations to fortify the levee bank under the railroad ballasts.
- On 20/JUL/2010, 34 "super" sandbags weighing in at 3,000 pounds each were placed using heavy machinery, along with 600 regular sized sandbags. This is in addition to the 38 super sandbags placed by the CH-47 Chinook helicopter on 19/JUL/2010.
- Four sandbag strike teams have been formed and supported this operation—(2) City of McAllen, (1) City of Edinburg and (1) Precinct 3. Another strike team will be established morning of 21/JUL/2010 in Precinct One. These strike teams are pre-positioning sandbag assets in areas where they may need to be deployed.
- A mandatory evacuation for approximately 5 homes directly south of the railroad tracks in Havana still stands. A voluntary evacuation was issued for Havana. La Joya Fire Department officials and American Red Cross continue to notify residents and conduct assessments in the area.

C. PUMPING OPERATIONS

- Pumping operations continue in areas along the river and interior floodway across Hidalgo County.

D. 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.
- Reinforced levee at pump structure and berm around pumphouse are performing as expected.

E. UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT (MISSION)

- Construction to raise the earthen berm around the United Irrigation District’s pump site as well as the height along the canal was completed at 0130 hours on 17/JUL/10.
- On 20/JUL/10, earthen berm around pump is holding any water from entering the premises.

F. 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.

G. City of Weslaco/Donna - have started making preparations for pumping sanitary sewer affluent over the levees and into the downstream flow. This activity has been coordinated with the proper TCEQ official.

H. City of Alamo – has been pumping sanitary sewer affluent over the levees and into downstream flow since Saturday. This activity has been coordinated with the proper TCEQ official.

Additional Situational Awareness:

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, continues to reduce the release of floodwaters from Amistad Dam, located at Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila. Releases will be reduced at 7:00 p.m. CDT on July 21 from 13,000 cubic feet per second (370 cubic meters per second) to 8500 cubic feet per second (240 cubic meters per second). Releases from Amistad Dam peaked July 6-10 at a rate of 35,000 cubic feet per second (1000 cubic meters per second), the greatest releases from the dam since 1974.

Inflows to the dam have dropped considerably and the reservoir elevation is declining. The reduced releases will positively impact downstream communities that have been affected by Rio Grande flooding and will reduce the inflow to Falcon Reservoir.

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
 200 PM EDT TUE JUL 20 2010

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

SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ASSOCIATED WITH A VIGOROUS TROPICAL WAVE EXTEND FROM THE NORTHERN LEEWARD ISLANDS WESTWARD TO HISPANIOLA. ALTHOUGH THE SYSTEM DOES NOT YET HAVE A CLOSED CIRCULATION... SATELLITE IMAGERY SUGGESTS THAT A SURFACE LOW PRESSURE AREA IS BECOMING BETTER DEFINED JUST NORTH OF THE EASTERN TIP OF HISPANIOLA. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAVORABLE FOR ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS THE SYSTEM MOVES WEST-NORTHWESTWARD AT ABOUT 10 MPH DURING THE NEXT DAY OR SO. THERE IS A HIGH CHANCE...60 PERCENT...OF THIS SYSTEM BECOMING A TROPICAL DEPRESSION OR STORM DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS. REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENT... LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL AND GUSTY WINDS WILL LIKELY AFFECT 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

Issued by The National Weather Service
 Brownsville, TX
 4:20 pm CDT, Tue., Jul. 20, 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 PROGRESSO LAKES. THIS INCLUDES THE SANTA ANA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE... ABOUT 7 MILES EAST OF THE CITY OF HIDALGO.

* UNTIL 500 AM CDT WEDNESDAY

Special Weather Statement

Issued by The National Weather Service
Brownsville, TX
3:06 pm CDT, Tue., Jul. 20, 2010

... SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO INCREASE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY...

UNSETTLED WEATHER CAN BE EXPECTED TO AFFECT MUCH OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS AND THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS OF DRY WEATHER ACROSS DEEP SOUTH TEXAS... SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ARE FORECAST TO INCREASE AS EARLY AS SUNRISE WEDNESDAY AND CONTINUE PERIODICALLY THROUGH THURSDAY AND POSSIBLY LINGER INTO FRIDAY.

THE SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL FIRST DEVELOP OVER THE COASTAL SECTIONS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS DAILY AS EARLY AS LATE TONIGHT AS THE COMBINATION OF A TROPICAL UPPER LEVEL LOW PRESSURE AREA AND A TROPICAL WAVE APPROACHES THE TEXAS AND NORTHEAST MEXICAN COAST. SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO INCREASE IN AREAL COVERAGE AND SPREAD WEST DURING THE DAY WEDNESDAY AS TROPICAL MOISTURE INCREASES AND DAYTIME HEATING COMBINE WITH LIFT FROM THE UPPER LEVEL LOW. RESIDENTS CAN EXPECT AREAS OF 1 TO 2 INCHES OF RAINFALL WITH ISOLATED AMOUNTS UP TO 4 INCHES THROUGH WEDNESDAY EVENING AS THE ACTIVITY PASSES OVERHEAD AND NEARBY THEIR LOCATION. ANOTHER TROPICAL WAVE FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF THESE FIRST TWO SYSTEMS BRINGING WITH IT ANOTHER ROUND OF POSSIBLY HEAVY RAIN THURSDAY. ANOTHER 1 TO 2 INCHES OF RAINFALL IS POSSIBLE IN ANY GIVEN AREA WITH TOTAL AMOUNTS REACHING 2 TO 4 INCHES... LOCALLY UP TO 6 INCHES OVER THE NEXT 2 DAYS.

A FLASH FLOOD WATCH IS NOT ANTICIPATED AT THIS TIME BUT COULD BE ISSUED IF THE FUTURE RAINFALL BECOMES MORE CONCENTRATED OR ORGANIZED. RESIDENTS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS SHOULD ANTICIPATE SLOWER MOVING AND HEAVIER SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS THAT WILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO QUICKLY PRODUCE 2 TO 3 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION. THIS LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL WILL EASILY CAUSE FLOODING OF LOW LYING AREAS AND AREAS WITH POOR DRAINAGE... ESPECIALLY WITHIN AND NEAR THE FLOODWAY SYSTEM SINCE MANY DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION GATES REMAIN CLOSED DUE TO THE CONTINUED FLOODING ON THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER AND THE DIVERSION INTO THE FLOODWAY.

RESIDENTS OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ARE ADVISED TO MONITOR LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS...

Weather Forecast:

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
411 AM CDT TUE JUL 20 2010

TXZ248>257-211100-
ZAPATA-JIM HOGG-BROOKS-KENEDY-STARR-HIDALGO-INLAND WILLACY-
INLAND CAMERON-COASTAL WILLACY-COASTAL CAMERON-
411 AM CDT TUE JUL 20 2010

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR DEEP SOUTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...TODAY AND TONIGHT.

ISOLATED 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...WEDNESDAY THROUGH MONDAY.

SCATTERED TO NUMEROUS SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED DURING THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON HOURS OF WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL IS POSSIBLE...AND 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. A MODERATE RISK OF RIP CURRENTS IS POSSIBLE AT THE BEACHES OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND AND BOCA CHICA THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

3. Shelters:

PSJA North High School, which opened at 1800 on 19/JUL/10, for residents seeking shelter from flooded areas was put on standby at 1930 20/JUL/10, according to the American Red Cross, because of a zero population.

La Joya High School, 604 N. Coyote Dr., opened as a shelter at 1500 hrs on 20/JUL/10.

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) (demob'd 20/JUL and returned to home base. Remains available if needed.)
- Communications Trailer (HCHHS) - (demob'd 20/JUL and returned to home base. Remains available if needed.)
- 6 buses (Hidalgo County Head Start)
- 3 boats (Texas Task Force 1) - (demob'd 20/JUL and returned to home base. One boat was left behind with the Mission FD Rescue team to support any missions/tasks. (Mission boat was damaged during rescue missions over the weekend).

Sandbag Strike Teams

- City of McAllen – 2 trucks @ 600 super sandbags each
- City of Edinburg Public Works
- Precinct 3 – 1 team
- Precinct 1 – 1 team formed, sand and supplies will be available on 20/JUL/2010

Pumps

- La Villa-13 Total Pumps
 - FM 491 between Mile 12 ½ and 13th →4 pumps

- FM 491 between Mile 14 ½ and 15→4 pumps
- FM 491 Mile 17th →3 pumps
- SH 107→ 2 pumps
- La Joya
 - Between Garza Rd. and Military Rd. → 1 pump
- Weslaco
 - FM 1015 and Mile 5→ 2 pumps

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

Texas Task Force One boat crews are demobilized as of 21/JUL/2010 and as of 06:45 were on the way to their home base.

Public Works Task Force – coordinating/supervising elements remain in the area and will continue to support missions as identified. They were instrumental in the sandbagging operation in Havana over the last two days.

Texas Forest Service – air support coordinating element remains in place. Will be conducting daily flyover flooding assessments with support of Texas DPS Air-Wing and reporting directly to DDC/EMC.

Medical Team

Weslaco FD – on standby – personnel & equipment available for regional deployment.
 County Health & Human Services – personnel available for regional deployment.

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.
TEEX – support, evaluations and response elements in the area and readily available.

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 by various state agencies.
- Monitoring of various pumping operations across Hidalgo County
- Monitoring for possible deployment of super sandbags
- Public information dissemination regarding public health risks of floodwaters.

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

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 – McAllen Region 3a
- s) Texas Task Force One
- t) TCEQ – Harlingen
- u) IBWC
- v) Army Corps of Engineers
- w) Irrigation Districts 6,16, 1, & United
- x) Texas DPS – Air Wing
- y) Texas Forest Service
- z) TEEX

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 five homes south of Military Road in Havana.
- Voluntary evacuations for Los Ebanos, Havana, and river-adjacent areas of 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 20/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 1900 hours on 20/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 : Cari Lambrecht

Approved by Tony Pena, Hidalgo County EMC/Hurricane Alex IC

Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management 21/JUL/2010 @ 07:30 hours

