



Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Rene A. Ramirez
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Oscar L. Garza, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Executive Office Public Affairs Division

Valde Guerra
Executive Officer

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Hidalgo County Prepared for Tropical Storm Hermine

Hidalgo County Officials Urge Residents to Prepare, Remain Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, September 6, 2010 @ 2:30 pm

Edinburg, Texas – Tropical Storm Hermine organized quickly in the Gulf of Mexico over the Labor Day weekend and is expected to make landfall along the South Texas Gulf Coast early Tuesday. Primary threats from Hermine for all areas will be inland flooding caused by isolated pockets of heavy rainfall, particularly for low lying areas, areas with poor drainage, and areas with soils that remain saturated from heavy rainfall. Residents are urged to prepare accordingly and practice caution.

"We have been monitoring this storm since early this weekend and are prepared for this event. The County stands ready to address any issues that may arise with Hermine's landfall," said Hidalgo County Judge Rene A. Ramirez. "Residents are urged to make preparations now and to remain alert to this rapidly-developing weather situation," said Ramirez.

"We have made swift arrangements to ensure residents have up-to-date information necessary to withstand this storm, and we ask residents to make their own preparations," added Emergency Management Coordinator Tony Peña. "Stay tuned to local media outlets for important information as it arises, including road conditions, school closures, shelter openings, and power outages," Peña continued.

The following proactive actions are underway:

SANDBAGS – Residents with leftover sandbags from Hurricane Alex should prepare their homes with them for the anticipated rainfall. Alternately, potting soil bags can be used. Sandbag distribution locations as of 3:00 pm Monday include:

- Precinct 1
Sunrise Hill at FM 1015 & Mile 11&1/2 West, Mercedes (3:00 pm)
- Precinct 2
North San Juan CRC at 509 E. Earling, San Juan (4:00 pm)
- Precinct 4
Doolittle Warehouse at 1102 N. Doolittle Road, Edinburg (4:00 pm)
Courthouse Square at 100 N. Closner, Edinburg (4:00 pm)

Additional locations will be announced as they are made available.

SHELTERS –The County has prepositioned shelters that can quickly be activated if the need arises, and will alert local media and residents in affected areas of any shelter openings.



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PUMPING OPERATIONS – County officials are anticipating the need to pump floodwaters and are coordinating efforts to dispatch personnel and equipment when necessary.

Hidalgo County activated its Emergency Operations Center and will continue to monitor the situation and update with any new information. Hidalgo County offices will remain open for business on Tuesday. Residents are urged to stay tuned to local media and the County website for more information on Tropical Storm Hermine.

