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HIDALGO COUNTY URGES PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS AS STORM APPROACHES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edinburg, Texas – All eyes are on the tropics as Tropical Storm Ingrid approaches the Mexican coast, with forecasts indicating it is not expected to be a direct hit to the Rio Grande Valley. The U. S. National Weather Service in Brownsville is tracking the storm as it continues to develop, and while many variables make it difficult to issue a confident forecast, South Texas is expecting considerable amounts of rainfall and moderate winds this weekend and through next week. Hidalgo County leaders and emergency management team have been taking the necessary precautions, meeting with county precinct offices and local city emergency managers to remain ready and alert to act in the event of an emergency. County officials are urging the public to begin preparations for the potential of heavy rains this upcoming weekend. As TS Ingrid continues to develop, Hidalgo County Emergency Management Coordinator Oscar Montoya stresses the importance of personal preparedness.

"Even though the storm is not predicted to directly hit our area, it is important to always be prepared," Montoya said. "We invite citizens to be a part of the emergency management operations team by making their preparations at home."

Montoya suggested several tips for residents to take in anticipation of a possible storm. First, inspect outside your home for long or dead limbs from trees, since falling limbs can damage shingles on your roof or your home during heavy winds or rain. Make sure to repair and replace broken or damaged fences, to avoid debris from damaging homes. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts. For residents living within city limits, dispose of any large piece of debris out on the curb in plenty of time for city workers to collect it. For residents living in the county, they can bring their debris to their county precinct brush site for free disposal.

One of the main threats to our area includes localized urban flooding during prolonged periods of heavy rain that causes flooding are clogged storm drains. Throw away trash and debris in its proper location. Montoya says plastic bags, trash and limbs can block up drains and prevent water from flowing freely. In addition, Montoya stressed that residents remain patient after the storm, as accumulated water will take time to recede. To report flooded areas of concern, residents are encouraged to contact their city offices or county precincts.

Remain updated and informed on Tropical Storm Ingrid's development by visiting the Hidalgo County website at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us and following our social media feeds on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hidalgocounty and Twitter at www.twitter.com/hidalgocounty.

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