



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

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

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 1, 2015

Hurricane preparedness fairs begin June 3: Dare to Prepare in Hidalgo County

EDINBURG – For the 6th consecutive year, hurricane preparedness fairs will be held at Hidalgo County Community Resource Centers throughout the month of June.

Dare to Prepare hurricane preparedness fairs provide information, presentations and resources to assist residents in planning for emergencies. The fairs – which are provided in partnership with the Texas A&M Colonias Program, local agencies and businesses – are free and open to the public.

The first Dare to Prepare fair will be held Wednesday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Alton Community Resource Center at 349 W. Dawes Ave. in Alton. The fairs are held at the start of hurricane season each year to stress the importance of being prepared for any emergency. Disaster plans should include ways to reach family; important documents; medication; an evacuation plan; and food, water and supplies to last at least three days.

"Families should assemble emergency kits well before an emergency," said Hidalgo County Emergency Management Coordinator Ricardo Saldaña. "In the event of a hurricane or other disaster, you may need to evacuate at a moment's notice so your kit should be readily accessible to grab and go."

According to Saldaña, flooding and its aftereffects are of special concern this year. He cautions residents to take advantage of the dry weather predicted this week to clear their properties of debris and take other precautions.

"Inspect the area around your home and make your property clear of brush, debris and residue that might clog up storm drains which can lead to flooding in your area during extreme weather," said Saldaña.

Visit www.co.hidalgo.tx.us for a list of all the upcoming fairs.

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Note to Editors/News Directors/Reporters: Part of the county's preparedness includes providing a hotline for residents to use in case of a major event and to better assist residents impacted by recent storms and flooding. The hotline number is expected to be announced during Tuesday's Commissioners Court meeting at the Edinburg City Council Chambers. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the Drainage District #1 board meeting. A list of all Dare to Prepare fairs and their locations is attached.

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.