

Evacuation Details and Emergency Updates

POSTED: 12:25 pm MDT August 1, 2006
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Friday, 9:38am

We've had showers in Las Cruces for the past hour or two but those are now clearing out. The El Paso area is clear at the moment.

In Mexico, work is underway to relieve pressure on the dams. It's hoped that this will reduce the danger of a sudden break that leads to widespread flooding.

Friday, 7:48am

Juli Lozano with the City of El Paso is stressing that it is **not** safe for evacuees to return to their neighborhoods. She tells KFOX that the Convention Center housed 951 people overnight. There are an estimated 2,000 people who live in the evacuation zone.

Friday, 7:30am

KFOX Morning news Reporter Arleene Barrios just showed us in a live report from the US side of the Rio Grande that the Anapra area is a muddy mess. From our live cameras we can see that there is still traffic on the roads, and it's actually quite busy in the area, despite the danger of the Mexican dams being breached.

Friday, 7:01am

KFOX Morning News Reporter Daniel Novick is the only local reporter at the Convention Center, where many evacuees are leaving and returning home. They told him that the Convention Center was cold and cots were uncomfortable and since it didn't rain overnight they feel the danger has passed. But as we've seen in the past hour, storms are developing across the region.

Friday, 6:43am

The National Weather Service has just extended our **Flash Flood Watch** until late tonight. Off the top of our heads, we've been under a Flash Flood Watch now for about a week - it has been continually extended.

Friday, 6:18am

And we have development right now over the Organ Mountains. It's too soon to tell if these cells will hit Las Cruces.

Friday, 6:14am

We've just had development of a storm right over the Franklins - tracking toward Canutillo. Another is now headed in the direction of Hueco Tanks and scheduled to hit there at 6:49am. Brad Montgomery will have more on this in a moment on KFOX-TV.

Friday, 6:05am

Storms are firing up on radar, so far though we're very fortunate. All are over rural areas and tracking to miss both El Paso and Las Cruces. The brunt of these particular cells will be felt in Otero County along US 54 and US 70.

Friday, 3:20am

We're still here. Thankfully there just hasn't been much to report over the past few hours. Some showers are developing in Western Hudspeith County (to the East of Montana Vista) and a few have been crossing US 54 between Oro Grande and Alamogordo. These areas of rain are growing somewhat and are worth watching, but we're not getting concerned about them just yet.

Friday, 12:50am

Related To Story



KFOX Severe Weather Team Coverage August 2006

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- [American Red Cross Evacuation Procedures](#)
- [How To Report Property Damage](#)
- [Salvation Army In Need Of Donations](#)

SLIDESHOWS

- [Citizen Slideshow: View Or Add Your Severe Weather Photos](#)
- [Slideshow: Unbelievable Storm Images!](#)
- [Slideshow: Dramatic Rescue Scenes!](#)
- [Slideshow: Evacuation Images \(August 3\)](#)
- [Slideshow: Wednesday Flooding Images \(August 2\)](#)
- [Slideshow: KFOX Reporters on the Scene](#)
- [Slideshow: Thursday's Rain \(August 3\)](#)
- [Slideshow: Collapsing Rock Wall At Apartment Complex](#)
- [Slideshow: Evacuation Images](#)

MESSAGE BOARDS

A few showers moved through Downtown and the Westside in the past couple of hours. Fortunately they moved through quickly. Radar is virtually clear at the moment.

Thursday, 10:20pm

About 400 evacuees are now at the Convention Center. Up to 2,000 people live in the evacuation zone. Pets are not allowed at the Convention Center.

El Paso Mayor John Cook tells us that if - and it's only an if at this point - if the dam at Anapra, Mexico breaks, the first wave would reach El Paso in three minutes. That's a big reason for the precautionary mandatory evacuation.

Weather Update: KFOX Early Warning Storm Track Doppler is clear with the exception of some light showern north of Organ, NM. Sandra's Five Day Forecast calls for 50% chance of rain tomorrow, 40% on Saturday, 30% on Sunday, 40% on Monday and 30% on Tuesday. That's certainly not very encouraging. We'll keep you updated and hope that changes at some point.

8:58pm

The National Weather Service has just confirmed that our Flash Flood Watch will remain in effect at least through tomorrow morning.

Thursday, 8:40pm

KFOX Early Warning Storm Track Doppler is mostly clear right now, with the exception of a Thunderstorm along US 70 between White Sands and Alamogordo.

KFOX FutureCast shows that our best possibility of more rain right now starts tomorrow morning around 11am. Of course that doesn't eliminate the chance of more rain for us overnight. Unfortunately the chances for rain continue to be high through the weekend.

Thursday, 7:23pm

The evacuation center is the Convention Center. 1,500 to 2,000 residents are affected. Police and National Guard soldiers are going door-to-door in the neighborhood. Both the Paso Del Norte bridge and the Stanton Street bridges have been closed by Customs and Border Protection. If you do not live in the area stay out of the area so that you do not delay the evacuations.

Thursday, 6:57pm

Mandatory evacuations have now been ordered for Downtown and South El Paso. From Executive Center following Paisano to Kansas, Father Rahm to St. Vrain, Including neighborhood of Chihuahita and parts of the Segundo barrio. This is due to the potential breach of a storm water dam in Juarez. More updates shortly.

Thursday, 3:38pm

Updated Street Closures from El Paso Police.
Central: Rivera @ Gateway West (CLOSED) Pera @ Gateway West (CLOSED) Alameda from Hammett to Washington (One lane open eastbound) Evergreen to Pera (CLOSED) U.S. 54 North to Gateway North Off Ramp (CLOSED) Paisano @ Gateway North On Ramp(CLOSED)

Northeast: Trans Mountain on Northeast side (CLOSED) Fairbanks between Gateway North to Kenworthy and Dyer (Drivable debris on roadway) 10300 Bon Aire (Debris on roadway being cleaned - drivable) 4600 Sun Valley (Debris on roadway being cleaned - drivable) 10300 Gateway North @ Butterfield (Debris on roadway being cleaned - drivable) 2700 block of Pierce @ 4800 Louisiana (drivable but a lot of water on roadway)

Mission Valley: 8260 block of Alameda (Only one eastbound lane open)

-  **Forum:** Talk about it in our Severe Weather Forum!
-  **Read more:** Viewer Reports and Updates (August 1, 2006)

VIDEOS

-  **Uncut Video:** Woman swept away in flood water
-  **Uncut Video:** Water Rescue
-  **Uncut Video:** Footage Of The Flooding
-  **Video Only:** Garbage Truck In Sink Hole
-  **Video Only:** Car Stuck In Mud
-  **Arleene Barrios reports:** Caved In Roof, Lost Family Photos In Upper Valley Home
-  **Arlene Barrios reports:** Water Gushing As Geyser On Doniphan Drive
-  **Janice Carpio reports:** Pickup truck falls into arroyo in West El Paso
-  **Ben Swann reports:** Parts Of Shadow Mountain Street Washes Away, West El Paso
-  **Ben Swann reports:** Car Falls Into Street; Huge Debris At Shadow Mountain And Caprock Street on Westside
-  **Ben Swann reports:** Car Floats Into Home From Westside Apartment Complex
-  **Video:** Ben Swann reports from West El Paso

WEATHER INFORMATION

-  **Check Local Severe Weather Alerts**
-  **View Latest Radar:** KFOX Early Warning Storm Track Doppler
-  **Report Severe Weather/Damage:**
 - KFOX HOTLINE - (915) 845-KFOX I
 - LAS CRUCES BUREAU (505) 524-1414
-  **Get Your KFOX Early Warning Neighborhood Forecast**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

-  **Airport Tracker:**
 - El Paso FlightView

Pebble Hills: 10100 block of Lockerbie (CLOSED) Wedgewood @ Album (Water on Roadway) 3000 block of Orkneu (CLOSED)

Westside: Trans Mountain on Westside(CLOSED) 200 block of Shadow Mountain @ Pebble Beach (CLOSED)

Thursday, 1:03pm

We have a new storm cell that's formed over Organ and is moving in the direction of Las Cruces. It should bring showers to the Las Cruces area in the next half hour. Meanwhile radar over the El Paso area is clear at the moment.

Thursday, 11am

You will be seeing a new look from us over the next day or two. While the flood waters are out of our studio and newsroom for now, we are going to have to evacuate those areas for repair and reconstruction. We're still on the jog 24 hours a day and this won't affect our ability to cover the news, we'll just be doing it from a different floor of our station and the background will definitely be different that what you're used to seeing.

Thursday, 9:32am

Mayor John Cook has told KFOX that the city of El Paso expects current damages from our storms to reach \$100 Million.

Thursday, 8:26am

The rain is starting to clear in Las Cruces, but to the North - Radium Springs is getting some moderate rain at the moment. The general direction of this storm is to the West.

Thursday, 7:49am

That **Flash Flood Watch** that seems to have been with us for days, has now been extended again, through Friday Morning. We have a continuing chance of scattered thunderstorms with locally heavy rainfall.

Thursday, 7:45am

Las Cruces is now getting some heavy rain. The heaviest rain is in area around Las Cruces Country Club and Mayfield High School, as well as South of Mesilla.

Thursday, 7:39am

Rick Glancey with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office has just told us on KFOX-TV that the tractor trailer hit two other vehicles which then hit a third vehicle which struck one of the workers who was trying to clear the flooding. It's not clear yet if the driver lost his breaks or not. The victim's identity has not been confirmed. There are also reports of live electrical wires down at the scene. This is the accident at Talbot and Doniphan.

Thursday, 7:37am

That accident is just now being cleared at I-10 and Sunland Park.

Thursday, 7:29am

KFOX Morning News reporter Daniel Novick is on the scene of that accident at Talbot and Doniphan. Witnesses have told him that the driver of a tractor trailer appeared to have lost his breaks on Talbot, struck at least two other vehicles and then hit a person who was attempting to clear floodwaters along Doniphan.

Elsewhere, the accident on I-10 and Sunland Park has not yet been cleared. The west-bound lanes on Mesa at Sunland Park are once again a mess -- full of rocks and debris. This same area flooded substantially on Tuesday, and once again some of the flood water entered our studios at KFOX, but the flooding from this was light.

Thursday, 7:05am

A lot of updates, here we go...

We have a reported accident with a death on Doniphan. It appears to be a pedestrian accident. A KFOX crew is on the way to the scene. If weather-related, this would be the first death in our nearly one week of storms.

Storms are now forming East of Las Cruces. Heavy rain is falling around Organ and US 70. This system is moving into Las Cruces. Las Cruces has not had much rain in the past few days, but it may be our turn there now.

I-10 is once again open downtown. The high speed lanes are closed around Piedras after this morning's flooding.


Trans Mountain road is open.

Thursday, 5:34am

- [Airline Phone Numbers](#)
- [Regional Flight Delays](#)
- [Flight Timetables](#)

-  [KFOX Sky Cams](#)
[El Paso | Las Cruces](#)
-  [Road Conditions](#)
[Texas | New Mexico](#)

OTHER INFORMATION

 [NEWS RELEASE: Raymond Adauto, Executive Vice President, El Paso Association of Builders](#)

Rainfall totals since midnight on the KFOX Local Weather Nets

New Deal Furniture - 1.45 inches Household Furniture - 1.41 inches West El Paso - 1.40 inches Hyundai of El Paso - 0.96 inches Painted Dunes - 0.71 inches Fred Loya - 0.70 inches

Thursday, 5:16am

Road Conditions from the El Paso Sheriff's Office

Doniphan at Talbot remains flooded Doniphan at FM 259 remains impassable. Montana from O'Leary to Desert Meadows West bound lane closed due to rising water in the past 10 minutes. Intersection of Montana at Las Casitas is being closed right now due to rising water. An arroyo has just given way at O'Leary and Felix (5:03 a.m.) Deputies responding.

Thursday, 5:10am

For those of you who are asking, we've just done another check on the Rio Grande. For now the river is stable and it is not expected to flood from this morning's rain. However the rain is continuing at this moment and we'd ask you not to let down your guard. But again, for the moment, the river is not expected to flood.

Thursday, 4:51am

El Paso Electric reports that they are working on restoring power to those who are without. They advise KFOX that their crews are waiting for lightning to pass before they can get to work.

Thursday, 4:02am

The heavy thunderstorms have passed to the south, but rain continues to fall all across El Paso. From Fabens all the way up to Vado to White Sands.

By the way, if you're on the internet waiting for the beginning of The KFOX Morning News, it's already underway. We've been on the air with Special Reports since before 2am, and have been in extended coverage since 3am.

 [Also, check out our Severe Weather Forum and tell us about this morning's rain in your area.](#)

Thursday - 3:43am - I-10 and Piedras is now shut down due to flooding.

Thursday - 3:16am - Be careful when you head out this morning. Roads that were clear last night on your drive home may have new hazards. Many rocks have washed into the roadway again and there is new street flooding.

Thursday - 2:30am - The storm is now hitting all areas of El Paso and the surrounding cities, causing flooding in many trouble spots.

Thursday - 1:47am Another water emergency is called out at Zaragosa and Vista Del Sol

Thursday - 1:41am Rescue crews pull a driver out of a vehicle at Gateway and Airway in East El Paso

Thursday - 1:20am Intense flooding is caught on our TXDOT traffic cameras at Montana near the Airport.

Thursday - 1:15am Rain is falling in Chaparral, NM and Northeast El Paso

Wednesday, 6:26pm

Here's the latest on road conditions from TX DOT. CLOSURES The westbound Artcraft turnaround at Doniphan (SH 20) FM 1110 (San Elizario) from FM 258 (Socorro) to Chicken Ranch Rd. Doniphan (SH 20) from Artcraft (SH 178) to Talbot Doniphan (SH 20) between Vinton and Canutillo (FM 259) Weight Station - northbound at Travel and Information Center (I-10) Desert North and Desert South from Trans Mountain (Loop 375) to Anthony (FM 1905) Canutillo (FM 259) - flooded Paisano Dr. (US 62) @ Executive Blvd. The right northbound lane on Purple Heart Highway (Loop 375) on the overpass at mile marker 32

OPENED Trans Mountain (Loop 375) Right lane on Border Highway-Cesar Chavez (Loop 375) eastbound @ Ascarate Doniphan (SH 20) from Artcraft (SH 178) to Anthony (FM 1905) – OPEN TO RESIDENTS ONLY Artcraft Rd. (SH 178) Eastbound right lane on Montana Ave. (US 62/180) from Zaragoza Rd. (FM 659) to Desert Meadows I-10 at Piedras (one left lane CLOSED in each direction) – FRONTAGE ROADS OPEN

Wednesday, 5:53pm

The El Paso metropolitan area has escaped most of rain that's popped up this afternoon. There were some brief showers in West El Paso but those are tapering off. There is concern now in Hudspeth County where Severe Weather has moved through. This, in combination with the rising Rio Grande coming downstream from El Paso could lead to some flooding along the river.

KFOX Chief Meteorologist Sandra Diaz says the rain we might get over the next few hours may be in brief heavy downpours in scattered areas - rather than the heavy persistent rain of Tuesday. Still, we need to be aware of any additional rain. Depending upon where it falls it could lead to additional flooding. We remain under a Flash Flood Watch until at least Midnight.

Wednesday, 10:59am

According to KFOX FutureCast, the chance of rain will return as early as 1pm today. This time the east side will likely be first to see the rain. We don't believe it will be as heavy as Tuesday, however the ground is already over-saturated and any further rain could cause more trouble.

Wednesday, 8:15am

The National Guard is deploying 45 more soldiers to Vinton to help in the flooding. 26 Guardsmen were sent to Socorro yesterday.

Wednesday, 7:09am

KFOX's Brad Montgomery is sounding the warning that the rain may return this afternoon. The Flash Flood Watch continues. KFOX will continue with coverage here on kfoxtv.com and on KFOX-TV.

Wednesday, 1:03am -

We're still here with you and we'll be with you until the danger has passed. The KFOX Newsroom is fully-staffed and we'll break into programming with any significant new developments.

The latest from a weather standpoint - A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Rio Grande. Flood stage is 8.6 feet, and the highest the river rose was over flood stage at 9.3 feet at 4pm. It has been receding since then and is once again below flood stage. We're watching this situation very closely.

A **Flash Flood Watch** remains in effect until Wednesday night. This is not only for El Paso, but Las Cruces, Deming, and Alamogordo as well.

Tuesday, 10:16pm

Our Flash Flood Watch is going to be extended past 1:15am Wednesday, when it was due to expire. The National Weather Service has not yet determined for how long the Watch will be extended.

Tuesday, 10:14pm

The Rio Grande is receding as we have this break in the weather. Those who live along the river still need to be ready to leave on a moment's notice.

Tuesday, 9:10pm

School is cancelled for Wednesday in the Gadsden Independent School District. Teachers and Administrators are to report for work however.

Tuesday, 8:02pm

Socorro Police are asking anyone who lives within 1/4 mile of the Rio Grande to voluntarily evacuate their homes. If you need help evacuating, call 858-6985.

From El Paso's Emergency Management Center.

The following shelters are open. You may need your own sleeping equipment and food and drink. - Convention Center - Bel Aire High School - Ranchford Middle School - Moorehead Middle School - Jefferson High School - Canutillo Elementary School - El Paso High School - Tigua Community Center - Ernesto Serna School in Socorro

I-10 traffic into El Paso is being diverted. I-10 East into El Paso is being diverted via loop 375 to railroad drive to US 54 to Alamogordo I-10 West into El Paso is being diverted at las cruces, the opposite direction through alamogordo to us 54 and then loop 375.

Sun Metro - Bus routes are limited to the 10 main arterial routes. - Westside - Routes 15 and 17 - Northeast side - Routes 32, 35, 43 - East side - Routes 50, 53 and 58 - Mission Valley - Route 61 - Lakeside - Route 66.

While attempting to respond to as many emergencies as possible, Rick Glancey, public affairs director with the El Paso County Sheriff's Department, said officials must prioritize how they handle the rash of emergency calls.

If a resident needs a medical assistance or an emergency response, please call 546-2280.

The department released the following information:

Priorities of Responding To Emergencies

- 1st: Medical emergencies
- 2nd: Victims of flooding
- 3rd: Any accidents

Road Closures

- Doniphan from Artcraft to Vinton: Both east and westbound lanes closed

- North Desert: Closed
- Westway Community: All areas closed

Tuesday 1:42pm

Approximately 65 people have been moved to the West Valley volunteer Fire Station in Vinton. The facility has a capacity of 150. Rescue efforts continue.

Sheriff's officials said when they get to near capacity, arrangements have been made to move these people to schools in the Canutillo Independent School District.

We appreciate the assistance of all residents who obey traffic laws and road closures.

EPSO is almost caught up with all of the calls for service which were generated around 10 a.m.

5:20pm

We continue to be under a Flash Flood Warning until at least 6:45 tonight.

4:15pm

Rainfall totals since midnight on our KFOX Weathernets - West El Paso/KFOX 6.84 inches, Painted Dunes 3.71 inches, Hyundai of El Paso 2.32 inches, New Deal Furniture 2.07, Household Furniture 1.91, Fred Loya 1.40. And climbing.

Tuesday 1:18pm

Rescue efforts continue in the Upper Valley.

More than 10 people have been rescued along Doniphan. Rescue efforts consist of people on roof tops, stuck on top of cars, or wading through neck deep water.

A is down at 1300 Camelia, and there is a possible gas leak.

North Kiley Road is washed out. More than 30 people in the area have been assisted in moving to higher ground.

Ledbetter is also washed out.

Tuesday 9:20am

While dangerous situations develop all around the El Paso area, the West Side and Upper Valley have been hit especially hard since the early-morning hours.

Rain has pounded the area since 3 a.m., and heavy lightning in West El Paso has been consistent.

Numerous streets are flooded throughout the region, including the intersection of Mesa and Sunland Park Drive.

Doniphan Street is blocked off due to heavy flooding from Redd all the way to Frontera, and a massive sinkhole has developed near McNutt in Santa Teresa.

Northeast El Paso is flooded on Dyer, and Texas Department of Transportation crews continue to respond all across the city.

Up-to-the-minute public alerts can be found at elpasotexas.gov.

Tuesday 8:30am

Transmountain Road is now CLOSED due to low visibility, heavy rainstorms, and reports of a boulder on one of the eastbound lanes.

Tuesday 8:15am

Doniphan near Redd Road experiences heavy flooding, creating a dangerous spot for drivers. Much of Northeast El Paso is also under a lot of water, as well as Sunland Park. One Sunland Park woman called KFOX reporting a sinkhole being created on McNutt Road near Santa Teresa Middle School.

Tuesday 7:47am

Steady rain showers continue to be in the forecast. According to KFOX Early Warning Storm Track Doppler, the area of West El Paso around Franklin High School has received more than three inches of rain in the past 24 hours. There have been dozens of weather related traffic accidents around the city, and parts of Doniphan have been closed due to flooding.

Tuesday 4:45am

Traffic in West El Paso was tied up for more than an hour at I-10 West and Sunland Park when a tractor-trailer and several vehicles were involved in a crash. It happened on slick roads, and the driver of one of the cars was

cited for failure to slow down due to the weather.

For road conditions in Texas: 800-452-9292

For road conditions in New Mexico:800-432-4269

[Check for Traffic Accidents](#)

Keep checking with kfoxtv.com, or tune to KFOX TV whenever there's Severe Weather. If you have a digital television receiver you can monitor KFOX Early Warning Storm Track Doppler 24 hours a day on channel 14-2, the KFOX Severe Weather Channel.

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