

## PAVING THE WAY TO RECOVERY SOUTH OF BORDER

When the fall 2006 hurricane season seemed to come and go with little damage to the United States, many Americans breathed a sigh of relief. Meanwhile, south of the border, hurricane-related heavy rain and flooding pounded areas of Mexico, washing out many roads and properties.

The city of Juarez, which lies just across the border from El Paso, Texas, was hit particularly hard. Rainfall in the city caused by remnants of Hurricane John flooded more than 20 neighborhoods in the city, displaced 5,000 families, downed power lines and caused scores of traffic accidents. In the aftermath, the Mexican government allocated emergency relief funds to rebuild Juarez.

Vance Brothers became involved in the effort to restore the city's washed out roads. Through a business relationship with Georgia-based UltraPave, Vance Brothers was asked to handle the application of a new product on the market, REAS (Rubberized Emulsion Aggregate Slurry).

REAS – a durable slurry product applied to pavements to protect the asphalt of streets and highways – essentially gives old tires new life. It incorporates finely ground rubber from discarded tires with asphalt, polymers and other additives. The product offers environmental benefits and is noted for its distinct, black appearance.

Mike O'Leary, UltraPave's marketing manager for the western United States and coordinator of the Juarez project, says getting Vance Brothers involved was an easy choice.

"I've worked with and around Vance Brothers for 20-25 years," O'Leary says. "Their surface treatment expertise is second to none."

The project itself was a huge undertaking. Juarez happens to be one of the major ports of entry and transportation centers of north central Mexico. The city's population is estimated at 1.3 million people.

Together with El Paso, the cities form a metropolitan area of more than 2 million.

The REAS project covered all the major roads and arteries in Juarez, an estimated 3 million square yards, according to O'Leary. Vance Brothers began work in the spring of 2007 and finished this fall.

"Vance's commitment and quick turnaround times helped us get everything coordinated to pull this off," O'Leary says.

The project represented a bit of history for Vance Brothers, marking the company's first-ever project south of the border.

Most importantly, Juarez residents will benefit from superior pavement protection, increased safety and exceptional durability for years to come.



Rubberized Emulsion Aggregate Slurry (REAS) was applied to miles of hurricane-ravaged pavement in Juarez, Mexico.