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## **Hurricane Ike Documentary to Premier on KLRU-TV**

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) and KLRU-TV have teamed together to produce an hour-long documentary on Hurricane Ike, one of this country's most destructive storms. The program airs on KLRU-TV, Austin, at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 23.

The documentary entitled, *09.13.08, Hurricane Ike*, begins with the storm's formation and ends with its victims saying they will recover and rebuild. The program features more than two dozen city, county and state officials as well as home and business owners, engineers and meteorologists who examined the destruction and question what it will take to recover. To see a preview of the program, go to [www.insurancecouncil.org](http://www.insurancecouncil.org) and click on **09.13.08, Hurricane Ike**.

Hurricane Ike struck Galveston in the early hours of Saturday, September 13, 2008. The storm had winds gusting to 110 miles per hour, but it produced a storm surge that sent 15 to 20 foot waves over areas in Galveston and Chambers Counties. The result was total devastation for thousands of home and business owners.

Warren Adams, now referred to the owner of the only home left standing in Gilchrist on the Bolivar Peninsula, said when looking at the destruction, "If I hadn't known that it was a hurricane out there, I would have thought that I come back to an area where someone had just dropped a huge bomb," said Adams.

More than three thousand homes and business surrounding Adams' house were wiped away by the storm. All that is left are wooden and concrete pylons pointing into the air.

The program's producer, Mark Hanna with the Insurance Council of Texas, says the documentary will attempt to show the magnitude of the storm and how a city and its coastal communities have tried to recover. "You can't show all of the devastation and you can't reveal all of the misery that these people have gone through and still face," said Hanna. "But, we have tried to document what did happen and have homeowners and community leaders describe what it will take to recover and prepare for the future."

Homeowners who lost everything are faced with rebuilding more elevated and stronger homes and at the same time being wary of an eroding beach that could result in property take-overs by the state. Combined with a struggling economy, the loss of thousands of jobs and the uncertainty of additional storms, Galveston is faced with a challenging future.

Hurricane Ike caused an estimated \$10 to \$15 billion in insured losses and 20 people lost their lives, many of them on Bolivar Peninsula. In 2008, the Texas coastline was also hit by Tropical Storm Edouard and Hurricane Dolly, that caused an estimated \$500 million damage to South Padre Island and south Texas.

*09.13.08, Hurricane Ike* will also air on other PBS stations throughout the state in April and May. The 2009 hurricane season begins June 1.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of approximately 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas. For more information turn to ICT's Web site at [www.insurancecouncil.org](http://www.insurancecouncil.org).

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