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## **ICT Teams with HailWatch to Offer Storm Profiles**

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) has teamed with HailWatch to provide a detailed look at geographic locations that may have been impacted by severe hail caused by violent thunderstorms. ICT news releases on storms designated as weather catastrophes will feature maps showing where hail as well as damaging winds and tornadoes has occurred. This detailed look at areas affected by violent weather will be beneficial to insurance companies, insurance agents and adjusters as well as home and auto repair personnel in their rush to aid victims of the storm.

ICT has been offering detailed reports on Texas weather catastrophes for nearly a decade for good reason. Texas has led all other states for each of the past two years in insured dollars losses from weather catastrophes.

HailWatch VP of Operations Bill Combes said he looks forward to assisting ICT in pinpointing the likely area of damage caused by violent storms in Texas. “Our StormSWATH analysis reports are derived from an in-depth analysis of radar data, supplemented with actual reports received from the field to provide a broad view of an area affected by severe weather.”

One of the costliest storms to ever hit central Texas occurred on March 25, 2009, when a violent line of thunderstorms carrying up to baseball size hail took a 120 mile path from the hill country through north Austin and southern Round Rock. The storm caused insured losses in excess of \$160 million.

The [attached map](#) of the storm damage provided by HailWatch shows a large area of the north side of Austin through Cedar Park affected by large hail.

ICT spokesman Mark Hanna said HailWatch will be able to provide the detailed maps of affected areas within 24 hours. “We look forward to working with HailWatch to inform Texans as quickly as possible of the extent of damage that any catastrophic storm may have caused.”

Texas continues to hold the record for the costliest hailstorm on record. On May 5, 1995, a violent line of thunderstorms moved eastward from Abilene through Dallas packing tornadoes, large hail and heavy rainfall. Fort Worth received the brunt of the \$1.1 billion storm which struck a large portion of the city with grapefruit size hail. At least 100 people were reported injured at Fort Worth’s Mayfest celebration.

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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