

INSURANCE COUNCIL OF TEXAS

service, information, and representation for the property and casualty insurance industry

Contact

For Immediate Release

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Texas Could Use a Breather for 2010 Hurricane Season

Despite the fact that no hurricanes struck the U.S. last year, Texas coastal homeowners and businesses are still recovering from the 2008 hurricane season that saw Hurricanes Ike and Dolly blast portions of the Texas coast. Both storms caused \$12.5 billion in insured losses.

Hurricane Ike (9/13/08) was by far the most destructive hurricane to ever hit Texas. Ike's 100 mile per hour winds and 20 foot storm surge wiped away thousands of homes in and around Galveston and caused major flooding from Freeport into Louisiana. Texans filed approximately 800,000 insurance claims from the storm damage.

Hurricane Dolly (7/23/08) slowly came ashore at South Padre Island while pummeling the resort city with hurricane force winds and heavy rains. Dolly finally moved further inland in the Rio Grande Valley causing wind damage and flooding.

Additionally, the most active hurricane season on record occurred in 2005 with 15 hurricanes forming. 2005 will go down in history with the nation's costliest hurricane in Hurricane Katrina (8/29/05). Most Texans along the upper coast will not only remember all of Katrina's refugees, but Hurricane Rita (9/24/05) as well. Hurricane Rita's 120 mile per hour winds toppled hardwood trees across roads, power lines and homes throughout east Texas.

Despite forecasts of above normal activity, no hurricanes struck the United States in 2006. In 2007 only Hurricane Humberto made landfall in the U.S. striking Texas at High Island with minimum hurricane force winds and causing an estimated \$30 million in damage.

This year, hurricane forecasters are calling for another above average year when the hurricane season gets underway June 1. The Insurance Council of Texas advises all coastal homeowners to make sure they are adequately covered with a homeowner and windstorm policy as well as a flood insurance policy. Windstorm policies are not sold when a named storm is located in the Gulf of Mexico. Flood policies take 30 days to take effect.

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.

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For a list of all named Texas hurricanes, go to
<http://www.insurancecouncil.org/facts/texashurricanes.pdf>