

FAQ: HURRICANES

Why is ICT and the insurance industry talking about Hurricane Preparedness?

Hurricanes claim hundreds of lives and billions of dollars in property damage every year. ICT and the insurance industry want Texas coastal residents to be prepared with an evacuation plan and the right insurance protection for whatever storm strikes the state.

Why is Hurricane Harvey so important to Texas?

Hurricane Harvey showed the severity of what damage a hurricane can do. Harvey made landfall with Category 4 winds causing more than \$4 billion in insured windstorm losses. Harvey also produced catastrophic flooding in more than 50 Texas counties with rainfall in excess of 60 inches setting a new national record. Texans need to know that any hurricane is a potentially deadly storm and every resident should be prepared for the worst.

Doesn't my homeowners policy cover me for flood damage?

A homeowner's policy does not cover damage from flooding. A flood insurance policy is a separate policy that can be sold by any insurance agent. Most flood insurance policies are sold through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which falls under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

What DOES my homeowners policy cover?

Most homeowner policies cover liability, burglary, theft and fire. For most Texas windstorm protection is a part of your homeowner policy, but along the Texas coast, windstorm insurance may be a separate policy.

What does flood insurance cover?

Flood insurance coverage provides coverage for the dwelling or structure of your home and the personal property inside your home.

Do I need to be in a flood plain to qualify for flood insurance?

No. Your mortgage company may also not require you to have flood insurance, but if you feel there's a possibility of flooding in your area, consider purchasing this coverage. Remember about 60% of homes that flooded during Hurricane Harvey were not located in a designated flood zone.

Where can I buy flood insurance?

Any insurance agent can provide you a flood insurance policy. Once purchased, a flood insurance policy takes 30 days to take effect.

Where can I buy windstorm insurance?

Any insurance agent can sell you windstorm insurance. If unable to purchase windstorm insurance along the Texas coast through your insurance carrier, you can turn to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) for windstorm insurance.

Can't I wait to buy flood or windstorm insurance when a storm is coming?

Once a named storm is in the Gulf of Mexico, you can no longer purchase windstorm insurance. It takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect. Preparing today can minimize your financial loss tomorrow.

Why is insurance so expensive?

Texas has the most violent weather in the country. Major metropolitan areas of the state fall within the Hail belt and Tornado Alley. Our Lone Star state has hurricanes, tornadoes, hailstorms, ice storms, windstorms, earthquakes and dust storms. These weather catastrophes result in billions of dollars in insured losses each year in Texas.

For insurance tips and information, visit insurancecouncil.org

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