

Contact

For Immediate Release

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Tropical Storm Alex Aims for South Texas

Computer models keep slowly pushing Tropical Storm Alex toward Texas as it moves into the Gulf of Mexico. The National Weather Service expects Alex to increase in strength and become a hurricane by Tuesday with possible landfall as early as Thursday.

“Alex could become one of the earliest hurricanes in the season to hit Texas,” said Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Insurance Council of Texas. “Ever since they began naming hurricanes in 1954, only two hurricanes have struck Texas before July 1.” Hurricane Audrey struck the Sabine Pass with 100 mile per hour winds on June 27, 1957, and Hurricane Bonnie struck Sea Rim State Park with 87 mile per hour wind gusts back on June 26, 1986.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley was struck by Hurricane Dolly just two years ago resulting in \$500 million in insured losses. Hurricane Dolly caused most of its damage to South Padre Island before coming ashore causing additional wind and flood damage on July 23, 2008.

Tropical Storm Alex comes at a bad time for the National Flood Insurance Program. Congress has still not provided funding to the program that provides flood insurance to nearly 700,000 Texans. The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association will halt its sale of windstorm policies along the Texas coast when and if Alex becomes a hurricane.

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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