

**INSTITUTE FOR
Business &
Home Safety**

New Information Available to Help Prepare for Hurricanes

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Tampa – New information is now available to help homeowners add protection against hurricanes before the 2006 season gets underway just a month from today.

The Institute for Business & Home Safety, a national nonprofit initiative of the insurance industry, says post-hurricane damage investigations over the last two seasons led its engineers to develop property protection recommendations that in some cases concern areas not previously considered vulnerable, such as soffits.

The following publications now available from IBHS detail practical steps to help strengthen structures, secure manufactured homes and protect windows and doors:

[“S” Marks the Spot](#) is the organization’s new hurricane protection guide focusing on five areas of the home, each starting with the letter “S,” where

IBHS engineers noted frequent weaknesses emerged under high wind conditions. The guide offers tips on protecting homes by paying special attention to soffits, shingles, shutters, seals and surroundings.

[“Keep Wind and Water Out”](#) outlines various shutter materials and explains how to install them so windows and doors are well protected. In 2004, where Hurricane Charley’s local gust wind speeds exceeded 120 miles per hour, IBHS found fully one-third of buildings with unprotected openings suffered at least one broken window. Wind entering a home looks for a way out, often leading to the failure of other windows, doors or roof sheathing. On older homes that are not tied together well, it can lead to the loss of the whole roof.

The [“Manufactured Home Inspection Checklist”](#) has been updated based on the unique issues facing these homes and makes recommendations on how to address each element, such as tie-downs and add-on structures like carports and porches, that makes them vulnerable to high wind. **Manufactured**

homes are units built off site and installed or assembled on site, including those that are propped on a pier foundation and anchored to the ground with steel straps.

“If there is a silver lining in these storms, it’s the opportunity to do real-world research on high winds and the forces they exert,” said Dr. Timothy Reinhold, IBHS vice president of engineering. “With what we learn, we can influence the development and revision of how we build in or add protection.”

The Institute for Business & Home Safety works to reduce the social and economic effects of natural disasters and other property losses by conducting research and advocating improved construction, maintenance and preparation practices.

