

## **New Hurricane Readiness Resources Available**

*Chester County's Insurance Center for Building Safety Research will research how to make homes and buildings safer in hurricanes and other disasters*

Chester County, SC - The Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), sponsor of the Insurance Center for Building Safety Research in Chester County, has released several new resources to assist home and business property owners in preparing for the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season.

For homeowners, the publication "Reducing Hurricane Risk" identifies the areas of a house that are the most vulnerable to hurricane damage, based on years of building-science research and post-disaster field investigations, and offers solutions for reducing structural risks. It is available in PDF format in English and Spanish from the IBHS website, [www.DisasterSafety.org/hurricane](http://www.DisasterSafety.org/hurricane).

Other resources available on the site to help homeowners minimize property damage include Hurricane 101, Common Hurricane Myths, a how-to video for gable end roof bracing, Manufactured Home Inspection Checklist, Trim Your Risk of Tree Damage, and a Shutter Selection Guide.

To assist business property owners with hurricane preparedness, IBHS offers Quick Tips for Business: Hurricane Season 2010, High Wind Protection for Commercial Property, and Steps to Protect Commercial Buildings from Wind-driven Rain. Also, the IBHS Open for Business® helps small businesses to avoid costly business interruptions due to hurricanes or other natural disasters. These materials are also available at [www.DisasterSafety.org/hurricane](http://www.DisasterSafety.org/hurricane).

The Insurance Center for Building Safety Research (ICBSR), located at the Chester County-owned [Chester Research and Development Park](#), will conduct state-of-the-art building and structure testing research that will provide data to make buildings safer and stronger, and thereby reduce costs to insurers for repairing and replacing weather-damaged structures.

More information about the ICBSR is available on the IBHS website, [DisasterSafety.org](http://DisasterSafety.org).

The mission of the Chester County Department of Economic Development (CCED) is to create an environment that supports existing industry expansion, encourages new industry investments, fosters entrepreneurialism, and welcomes visitation by others — all of which support the provision of public services and otherwise improves each citizen's prosperity and overall quality of life. For more information about Chester County, please contact the Chester County Economic Development Office at 1-803-377-1216, [info@choosechester.com](mailto:info@choosechester.com) or [choosechester.com](http://choosechester.com).