By Christopher Sherman

HOUStON — Rescuers in boats, helicopters and high-water trucks set out across the flood-stricken Texas coast yester-

day in a monumental effort to reach tens of thousands of peo-

ple who stubbornly ignored warnings of “certain death” and

tried to ride out Hurricane Ike.

The storm roared ashore about 120 miles south of Houston with 110

mph winds and towering waves, smashing homes, flood-

ing thousands of homes, blow-

ing out windows in Houston’s skyscrapers, and cutting off

power to more than 3 million people, perhaps for weeks.

By evening, it appeared that the no was not the single exclami-

tory stroke that forecasters had feared. But the full extent of the

damage — or even a rough sense of how many people may have

perished — was still unclear, in part because many roads were

impassable.

Some authorities feared that this could instead become a slow-motion disaster, with

thousands of homes damaged

and up to 300000 more people displaced.

By David Riley

DAILY NEWS STAFF

Are they violent? Is the work

environment too stressful? Will they cost a

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Debris is seen scattered across Highway 146 on a bridge heading from Kemah to Southwestern in Kemah, Texas.

"I think there's always in an area like this, those who are unemployed, facing a mental illness. Years ago, that was the case. But continued to pound the state with its fury."