



NOAA Distributes Emergency Response Imagery

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS)

acquires and rapidly disseminates a variety of spatially-referenced remote-sensing datasets to support homeland security and emergency response requirements. NOAA has used **high-resolution digital cameras, film-based aerial camera systems, lidar, and thermal and hyperspectral imagers** to obtain the imagery.

These images assisted with recovery efforts along coastlines impacted by numerous major hurricanes, including Hurricanes Isabel (2003), Ivan and Jeanne (2004), Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma (2005), Ernesto (2006), Humberto (2007), and Gustave and Ike (2008). In its largest response effort, NOAA collected more than 8,000 aerial images of the hardest hit areas in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. These **images were made available to emergency personnel and the public** on the NGS Website (www.ngs.noaa.gov). Several commercial sources have incorporated the aerial imagery into Internet-based map servers, allowing for searches based on street addresses, city names, and points of interest.

NOAA plans to acquire remotely sensed data to **support homeland security and emergency response requirements**, including providing tools, technology, and expertise to assist emergency response efforts, such as:

- **aiding** emergency managers to develop recovery strategies,



- **assessing** damage by comparing before-and after-event imagery, and
- **allowing** those displaced to see images of their homes and neighborhoods.

The data is also used to integrate remote sensing technologies into NOAA programs such as coastal mapping.

For more information, contact NGS:

- **On the Web**
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Emergency
Response