GDACS
Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

GDACS is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters.

United Nations and the European Commission

This service summarizes current satellite mapping activities of interest to GDACS stakeholders. It is issued weekly and based on contributions from map-producing entities and GDACS partners.

Satellite mapping overview

As of 04 April 2016

North America

United States volcanic eruption – GLIDE number: TBD

Located on the Alaskan Peninsula, Pavlof is Alaska's most active volcano and it started to erupt in late March 2016 for the first time since November 2014. The recent eruption was described by the Alaska Volcano Observatory as the most energetic since 1996, spewing ash and gas up to 11 kilometers above sea level. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired 28 March 2016 satellite imagery of Pavlof, one of the volcano's most active days aside from 27 March 2016. Three subsequent overview maps illustrate a large ash plume flowing out of the volcano at different times on 28 March 2016. One satellite sensor detected ash between 3 and 6 kilometers in altitude that day. Villages to the northeast of Pavlof received as much as 1.7 centimeters of ash fall. It is possible that volcanic mud and lava flows were also produced by the eruption, according to scientific and coast guard observers nearby. As of 31 March 2016 some ash and gas was still being emitted from the volcano, however the altitude of the plume did not exceed 2.5 kilometers. Map products are available for online viewing or download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=87782&eocn=home&eoci=nh

United States wildfire – GLIDE number: TBD

The rural areas of Kansas and Oklahoma experienced widespread wildfire in late March 2016. According to local authorities and the media, this was the largest grass fire in the history of Kansas. In northern Oklahoma, the fire began on 22 March 2016 and went on to burn over 1,600 square kilometers of prairie and cattle grazing land. The NASA Earth Observatory acquired 23 and 27 March 2016 satellite imagery of the affected area and produced two overview maps. On 23 March 2016 vast plumes of smoke were visible emanating from the fires in southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma. By 27 March 2016 a wide expanse of burn scarred land could be seen in the same region. The wildfire spread rapidly as a result of dry conditions. While there are no known human deaths from this event, 600 cattle perished and at least 16 homes as well as 25 structures were destroyed. As of 31 March 2016 the fire was almost 90 percent contained. Map products are available for online viewing or download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=87790&eocn=home&eoci=nh