

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 20 June 2016

Africa

Northeast Africa dust storm – GLIDE number: TBD

Intense dust storms over East Africa and the Red Sea are a common occurrence in the summer season. The NASA Earth Observatory captured 15 June 2016 satellite imagery of one such dust storm originating from Northeast Africa and produced an overview map. As of this date, winds were blowing the dust from Sudan, Eritrea, and Egypt in an east-northeast direction out of Africa and over the Red Sea. While the dust storm affected coastal areas in these African countries, the plume was particularly dense over the Tokar Delta in Sudan. Dust from such storms provides an important source of nutrients to the Red Sea which is otherwise nutrient poor, especially in the north. When it comes into contact with human populations, however, public health problems may arise as small particles, bacteria, and viruses can enter into the human respiratory system. This map product is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the NASA Earth Observatory website.

Source: NASA Earth Observatory

Link: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=88211&eocn=home&eoci=nh>

North America

Canada wildfire – GLIDE number: WF-2016-000043-CAN

In early May 2016, a massive wildfire broke out in the Northern Alberta region of Canada and required the evacuation of an entire city. The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was activated on 04 May 2016 by GOC Public Safety Canada, and project management was assumed by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation of Natural Resources Canada recently released a damage assessment for Fort McMurray. Using satellite imagery acquired 06 May 2016, many damaged structures were identified in Timberlea, Thickwood, Hilltop Estates, Beacon Hill, Gregoire, and other areas. Large burn scars were visible surrounding many of these areas. While some residents returned to their homes in early June 2016, the reentry date for those in the most affected places was still unknown as of 17 June 2016. This damage assessment is available for online viewing and download in JPEG format on the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters website.

Source: International Charter on Space and Major Disasters

Link: <https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/-/fire-in-canada>

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This summary is compiled by the GDACS mapping & satellite imagery coordination mechanism, operated by the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

When referring to this summary, please credit: GDACS, UNITAR-UNOSAT.

For comments, questions and to submit information on satellite image derived products, please contact:

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Sources indicate satellite analysis production entities and imagery providers. The products referenced in this summary are based on remote satellite imagery and may not be validated in the field prior to release, in which case findings are based only on what is observed in the satellite imagery.

**Not an official GLIDE number, as event has no entry in GLIDE database, but used by GDACS for seamless information integration.*