

News Release

U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Satellite Images Show Cedar Rapids Before and After the Floods of 2008

Satellite imagery of eastern Iowa is now available from the U.S. Geological Survey at: <ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/cr/co/lakewood/Koontz/>

Recent Landsat 5 satellite images acquired by the USGS illustrate the flooding conditions in eastern Iowa on June 16, 2008, as it appears from space.

“When the 2008 imagery is compared to data acquired over the same area on June 14, 2007, the changes in river conditions become apparent. The Cedar River from Vinton to just west of Tipton covers much of the lowland and downtown Cedar Rapids. The Iowa River covers the low areas from Belle Plaine through Iowa City downstream to Wapello,” said USGS scientist Bruce Quirk.

Satellite images from before and after the 1993 floods are also available at the above ftp site. These images were collected by an AVHRR sensor, managed by NOAA and processed by the USGS.

Local, State, and Federal agencies responsible for emergency response and for recovery operations will use the satellite data to examine the effects of the flooding over large areas.

The Landsat program is the longest running enterprise for acquisition of imagery of Earth from space. The first Landsat satellite was launched in 1972. Landsat 5 was launched March 1, 1984.

The USGS will continue to acquire data from Landsat 5. However, cloud cover could prevent a clear view of the area.

For more information on USGS Midwest flood-related activities, please see: http://www.usgs.gov/homepage/science_features/flooding_june08.asp

Photos of Iowa flooding available at: <http://www.usgs.gov/hazards/floods/images.asp?CurPage=1>

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