



VERMONTVIEW 2022-2023

AmericaViewSM
Empowering Earth Observation Education
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VERMONTVIEW 2022 - 2023 ACTIVITIES

Remote Sensing Disaster Response

Remote sensing technologies from satellites to drones are crucial in disaster response and recovery. They provide the information needed to direct first responders to the most affected areas and enable damages to be quantified.

VermontView convened two working groups this past year, comprised of state, local, and higher education partners to work through the process of how Vermont could leverage remote sensing technology in the next disaster.

The Worst Floods in Nearly a Century

The floods of the summer of 2023 were the worst Vermont experienced in nearly a century. Rain that started on July 9th fell on soil that was already saturated. Rivers and streams swelled over their banks flooding roads, towns, and farm fields. Thousands of people were displaced, businesses closed, crops were ruined, and roads were impassible. In the weeks that followed numerous landslides occurred throughout the state, damaging homes and roads.

VermontView responded, putting into practice the procedures developed during the remote sensing disaster response working group sessions. The result was the most successful uses of remote sensing technology to respond to a disaster in the Northeast, with the disaster declaration made weeks earlier than anticipated, providing millions of dollars in aid to Vermonters.



Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont Agency of Transportation, and University of Vermont personnel met in June of 2023 to discuss remote sensing technologies for disaster response.



VermontView captured imagery to catalog the impact of the floods on Vermont's transportation infrastructure.



The flooding devastated Vermont's cities, towns, and villages near waterways. Homes and businesses were inundated with water, resulting in millions of dollars' worth of damage. VermontView's drone teams captured the impact.

VermontView is a member of the AmericaView Consortium, a nationally coordinated network of academic, agency, non-profit, and industry partners and cooperators that share the vision of promoting and supporting the use of remote sensing data and technology within each state. AmericaView is funded by USGS grant agreement G18AP00077.

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BENEFITS TO VERMONT



Timely Response

The procedures developed by VermontView enabled the timely collection of imagery needed for response and recovery operations.



Collaboration

The working groups built trust, enabling State Police, the Agency of Transportation, and the University of Vermont to carry out the largest joint drone operation in the state's history.



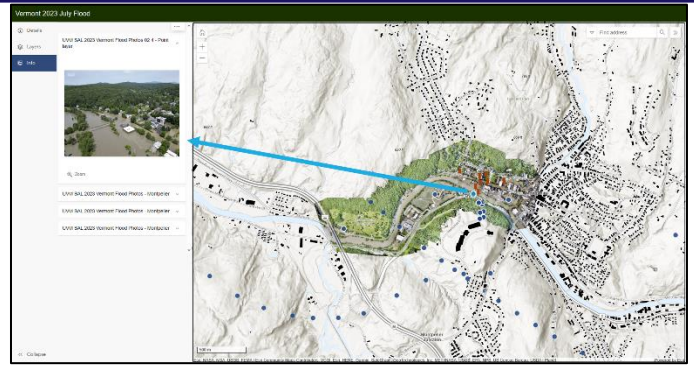
Decision Making

The concept for a common operational picture (COP) was hatched during the working groups and implemented within a day of the floods. It provided everyone from the public to the governor situational awareness.



Relief Funds

Relief funds were released earlier than anticipated. FEMA reported that they were able to move the disaster declaration up by four weeks because the imagery captured the high-water marks.



The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) set up a common operational picture (COP) web viewer that integrated flood data. The concept for the COP was developed at a VermontView working group session.



3D web apps enabled state geologists to perform rapid assessments of landslides.

VERMONTVIEW CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP



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