

The Hazards Data Distribution System Is Updated

Introduction

After a major disaster, a satellite image or a collection of aerial photographs of the event is frequently the fastest, most effective way to determine its scope and severity. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Emergency Operations Portal provides emergency first responders and support personnel with easy access to imagery and geospatial data, geospatial Web services, and a digital library focused on emergency operations. Imagery and geospatial data are accessed through the Hazards Data Distribution System (HDDS). HDDS historically provided data access and delivery services through nongraphical interfaces that allow emergency response personnel to select and obtain pre-event baseline data and (or) event/disaster response data. First responders are able to access full-resolution GeoTIFF images or JPEG images at medium- and low-quality compressions through ftp downloads.

USGS HDDS home page: <http://hdds.usgs.gov/hdds2/>

Hazards Data Distribution System Enhancements

HDDS has recently been upgraded to include a graphical interface that provides a simplified capability for interactive searching and visualization of the HDDS holdings, based upon a particular event or geographic area of interest. This new graphical HDDS interface will run concurrently with the existing (directory-based) HDDS interface, to provide an important additional option for data discovery and access by the emergency response community. New features include:

- Search by event
- Search by geographic coordinates
- Search by State and county
- Easily refinable search on results
- Access to all Emergency Operations event imagery - "Ad-hoc" and ingested data
- RSS XML feeds for ingested data
- Item basket for data requests
- Separate production and development environments
- User feedback capability

Subsequent releases will include the following:

- Registration service authentication for restricted data

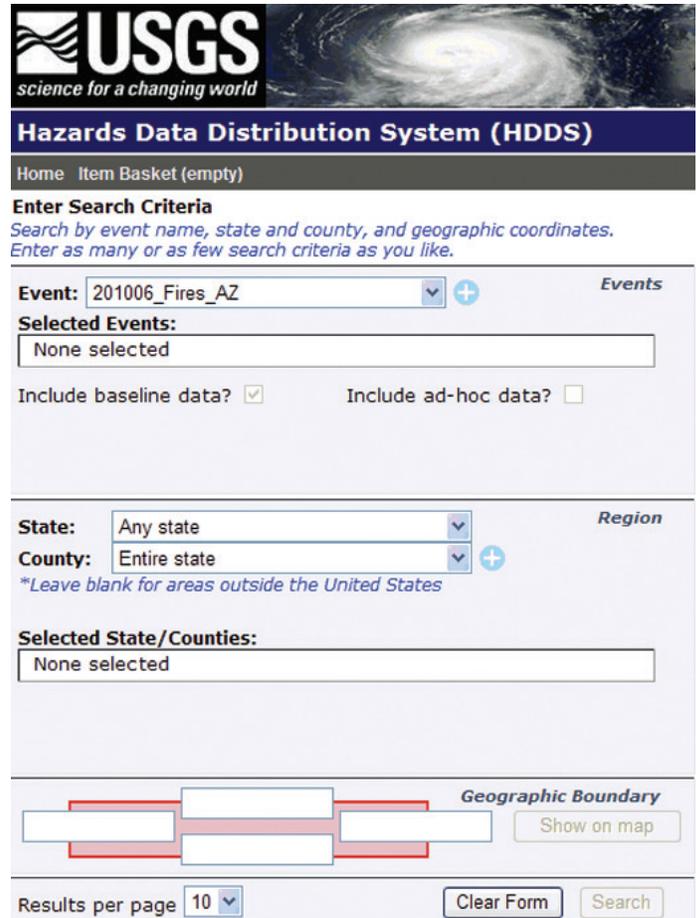


Figure 1. Screen capture of USGS Hazards Data Distribution System (HDDS) search criteria Web page.

- Download manager for multiple tiles
- Browse overlay capability
- Database replication for added system stability
- Filtering by sensor and date of acquisition

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