

How fast is post-catastrophe imagery captured after an event?

We endeavour to capture as quickly as possible after an event, usually within days. There are several factors that affect the timing of a capture after a natural disaster event; at all times, the safety of our crew is paramount. We will not fly through or in adverse weather conditions (which includes thick smoke) or have our crew stay in areas where infrastructure has been disrupted.

Whilst we may capture in conditions we wouldn't normally consider for our standard program, we still need relatively clear conditions free from rain and thick cloud, wind, turbulence and smoke. Waiting for a capture window (and a safe flight path to the disaster area) dictates when we might be able to capture. ATC clearances are also mandatory before we can fly - some emergencies may include temporary 'no fly' mandates.

Once the capture is complete, the survey data needs to be returned for processing. Depending on the nature and location of the disaster, there may be a delay due to disrupted transport infrastructure.