

National Hazards Information Strategy

Ms. Helen M. Wood

*Director, Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service*

ABSTRACT

NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) applies satellite data, products, and services to provide and ensure timely access to global environmental data and information services from satellites and other sources to promote, protect, and enhance the Nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life. As part of this mission, NESDIS provides hazards support to protect lives and property through improved prediction, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation of natural and technological hazards. NESDIS products include text, graphics and/or imagery, often derived from integration of data from multiple sources.

Coordination of these data and information among numerous providers and users requires a focused effort to ensure awareness of data resources and to promote processes and standards for information sharing. Working in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Natural Disaster Reduction (SNDR), the Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution (OSDPD) is developing an interagency approach to facilitate the availability of timely, accurate multi-source information to disaster managers where, when, and how it is needed. This National Hazards Information Strategy (NHIS) is an efficient and cost effective national strategy to leverage information and technology critical to reducing losses of property and lives from disasters.

The goal of NHIS is to assist federal, state, local, and private efforts to reduce disaster risks and losses and to identify responders' needs before a disaster strikes. The key components of NHIS include extensive coordination with data providers and users, including the establishment of critical mission partnerships with both civil and classified data providers. Based on this coordination, NESDIS establishes collaborative projects specifically selected to leverage data and information critical to disaster managers.

Current projects include *inter alia* collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Naval Research Laboratory, the National Interagency Fire Center, the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). OSDPD collaborative efforts include:

- The Multihazard Mapping Program and HAZUS in conjunction with FEMA.
- Developing elements of a spatial data model for a multi-agency Coastal Risk Atlas in conjunction with the Coastal Services Center.
- Supporting the fire requirements of the National Interagency Fire Center and other users with projects and studies related to fire detection and monitoring, fire weather, and land management to reduce the risk of wildfire and for post-fire recovery.
- Classified data integration in coordination with NRO.