Mapping Hazards & Risk Mitigation with Satellite Imagery

DigitalGlobe FirstLook coverage of the September 2013 flooding

Flooding in Longmont, Colorado | September 13, 2013
September 11, 2013: Massive flooding reported in Boulder County. Evacuations ordered for mountain areas, with the front range on stand-by; Roads were closed or washed out, stranding residents and prompting rescue efforts.

DigitalGlobe activated FirstLook to cover the flooding event.
What is FirstLook?

- FirstLook is DigitalGlobe’s solution for emergency management and emergency response
- FirstLook provides imagery coverage of impacted areas from before, during and after a crisis
- Imagery is available online and via GIS tools within hours of collection
Imagery shows considerable flooding in the area of the confluence of the North and South St. Vrain creeks in Lyons.
Imagery shows destruction of the McConnell Drive bridge, which provides primary access to neighborhoods and schools in the area.

Ongoing flooding is also visible along the St. Vrain River that exits Lyons to the southeast.
Southwest of Lyons, along the South St. Vrain Creek, imagery shows extensive flooding and damage to CO Highway 7.
So what made FirstLook valuable?
Satellite imagery of the area provided a much needed overview of the extent and locations of the damage.
Imagery of flooding along Airport Road in Longmont

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Flooding in Longmont, Colorado | September 14, 2013
What’s next?

- Imagery is a valuable resource for mapping hazards and assessing risk
- Satellite imagery provides the necessary overview of impact areas during and after an event
- FirstLook is an imagery service providing access to imagery online or from GIS tools which includes
  - a current imagery basemap for mitigation and preparedness
  - immediate new imagery coverage of crisis events for response and recovery