



FEMA



FEMA Orthoimagery Transfer to USGS

What is orthoimagery?

Orthoimagery is high resolution pictures that combine the visual attributes of an aerial photograph with the spatial and geometric accuracy of a map. United States Geological Survey (USGS) digital orthoimagery typically has a resolution of 6 inches to one meter. With ortho imagery, the resolution refers to the distance on the ground represented by each pixel.

Ortho images support a variety of geographic information and mapping applications. These images provide the foundation for most public and private Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Orthoimagery is used as a base map for many of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The orthoimagery that is used to create a FIRM is delivered to FEMA to be distributed to other stakeholders. These stakeholders may use the imagery, along with the FIRM database, to manage local flood risk, evaluate building permits, create a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) or produce a new study.

Who will be affected by this transfer?

This transfer will affect stakeholders of the Map Service Center (MSC), the Mapping Information Platform (MIP) and the Engineering Library. Stakeholders who are interested in obtaining this imagery to use in their GIS, prepare LOMRs or restudies will be affected by this transfer.

Imagery Transfer to USGS

Beginning August 29, 2011 orthoimagery for effective studies will be stored at USGS. Orthoimagery will no longer be available via the MSC, the MIP or the Engineering Library. Storing the images at USGS provides a central point of access for distributing the imagery. This transfer also removes the files from FEMA's servers which reduces maintenance costs, prevents duplication of effort and promotes inter-agency cooperation. USGS also offers additional data beyond what is available through FEMA. Please use the following web address to access the imagery: <http://stratus.cr.usgs.gov/viewer/>



For more information please contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday
8:00am through 6:30pm

To chat online with a Map Specialist, visit: <http://msc.fema.gov>

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