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# LEVERAGING GEONETCAST FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS: RECENT INITIATIVES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CHARTER "SPACE AND MAJOR DISASTERS" AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM

**Abstract**

Access to information is fundamental in the preparation, response, and recovery from disasters. However, during a disaster, traditional information networks may be disrupted, preventing timely distribution of data. Satellite-based dissemination networks can provide a complementary dissemination system that operates even in the most challenging of disaster environments. This paper describes two initiatives that would leverage GEONETCast's real time, global network of satellite-based data dissemination systems in support of and in application to disaster management. The first initiative supports the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" in distributing Earth observation data and products in disaster situations; the second will use GEONETCast as an operational backup in support of the Central American Flash Flood Guidance (CAFFG) System.