Satellite and Other Imaging Techniques in Post-Earthquake Geotechnical Reconnaissance



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Available Imaging Techniques

- Optical satellite images
 - 60-cm resolution
 - Recon uses: base maps, rapid damage evaluation
 - Post-recon uses: damage evaluation, documenting lateral ground deformation
 - Issues: cloud cover, satellite orbits, processing time





Available Imaging Techniques

- Space-borne synthetic aperature radar
 - 10-m resolution, no cloud issues
 - Post-recon uses: documenting ground deformation
 - Issues: satellite orbits, time to obtain and process images



Available Imaging Techniques

- Airborne laser altimetry (LIDAR)
 - Ability for high resolution
 - Recon uses: 3D topography over large area
 - Issues: no pre-event image, international earthquakes
- Land-based laser scanning
 - Very high resolution
 - Recon uses: 3D topography
 - Issues: transporting equipment, no pre-event image