

Mexico's Strongest Earthquake in a Century



Juchitan 09 September 2017

On Thursday 7th September, an 8.2 magnitude earthquake struck the waters off Mexico's Southern coast. Affecting the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco, the earthquake killed 96 people in the region.

In order to get the first critical information on affected areas and help local authorities quickly react, Airbus' high-resolution Pléiades satellites were immediately tasked over the impacted region. With multiple tasking plans per day, Pléiades constellation offers an unrivaled optimization of data collection: unforeseen weather changes, as well as last-minute requests, can be taken into account for the first-class level of service.

Detailed and very fresh satellite images were collected and delivered only a few hours after the event struck the Gulf of Tehuantepec. This was thanks to the OneNow tasking option that is ideally suited to plan emergency response on the ground.

The new images were also contrasted with historic images of the areas, allowing experts to understand where private houses, public buildings or infrastructure had been damaged. The images of the city Tonalá and Juchitán clearly show the destroyed official Palacio Municipal building, as well as damaged church wall.

It was the strongest earthquake in over a century.

