eagleview®

CASE STUDY

EagleView Disaster Response Program Invaluable in Spokane Wildfire Reappraisal

Fresh post-disaster imagery helped Spokane County reassess nearly 800 affected parcels within weeks of wildfires.

Background

In August 2023, Spokane County, Washington, faced an overwhelming natural disaster as two simultaneous wildfires, the Gray and Oregon Road fires, burned over 21,000 acres. These fires resulted in the largest property destruction in state history, with an estimated $166 million in assessed property value loss.

Challenge

The Spokane County Assessor's office, led by Tom Konis, faced the daunting task of reassessing property values for 781 affected parcels. Traditional methods would have been time-consuming and potentially dangerous due to the rural nature of the affected areas and ongoing safety concerns for both staff and residents.

Solution

After consulting with fellow Assessors and contacting his EagleView representative, Konis leveraged EagleView's Disaster Response Program.

In the unfortunate event of a disaster, EagleView can quickly capture new imagery at reduced or no additional cost to aid response and recovery, providing governments information, data and insights to make critical and life-saving decisions.

This collaboration enabled the use of high-resolution aerial imagery to assess property damage remotely. Within two days of airspace clearance, EagleView captured critical fresh imagery, allowing the Assessor's office to conduct remote reappraisals efficiently and safely.

"The first image I looked at that EagleView delivered, I zoomed in and there was who I assumed to be the property owner standing in his backyard and I cried. I mean, you could just feel their pain through that image because their property was just 100% destroyed."



TOM KONIS
Spokane County
Assessor



Impact

The use of aerial imagery significantly accelerated the reassessment process. The Assessor's office, in collaboration with the Treasurer's office, amended property taxes and issued new tax statements and refunds where applicable, all within eight weeks of the fires. This rapid response contrasted starkly with the potential months-long process of traditional assessment methods. The imagery not only ensured the safety of the assessment staff but also provided clear, irrefutable evidence of property damage, streamlining the entire reassessment process, and helping affected residents begin to recover.

Providing Disaster Imagery and Helping Communities for Over Two Decades

For two decades, EagleView has captured imagery after the most severe weather events in the United States. No matter the event, our goal is always the same: to be in the air quickly and capture images which support the first responders, planners, and recovery efforts on the ground.

Benefits include:

- **Property Assessment:** Property assessors use aerial imagery to safely re-assess damaged properties and calculate lost tax revenue, which helps governments apply for state and federal funding.
- **Before and After Views:** Easily compare pre and post-disaster images using EagleView's database of historical imagery.
- **Communication with Residents:** Aerial imagery helps governments keep residents informed. For example, sharing post-disaster aerial imagery on a website can help evacuated homeowners see whether their homes were damaged.



"I'm just so thrilled with the response. If it weren't for EagleView, I'm sure we would probably still be out there driving these roads..."



TOM KONIS
Spokane County
Assessor

For more information about EagleView's Disaster Response Program, visit:

www.eagleview.com/government/disaster-response-program/

To discuss how EagleView solutions can support your needs, contact a member of our Sales Team at:

www.eagleview.com/government/contact/

eagleview®