

Cover

Oilfield fires of Kuwait

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One of the catastrophic results of the Gulf War was the setting ablaze of oilfields in Kuwait. Around 800 oil wells were either damaged or set on fire. The cover image is a 60 km by 60 km Landsat Thematic Mapper subscene acquired on 23 February 1991 over Kuwait. The image was produced using the thermal infrared channel (band 6 in red) and two reflected infrared (band 4 and band 5 in green and blue respectively). The thermal infrared was used in this combination because of its ability to show the flares even under the cloud of smoke. The majority of the flares shown on this image are located in the giant Burgan oilfield. The number of these flares was approximately 425. The image was processed at the Image Processing Center, Research Institute, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Special thanks go to the Meteorological Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) in Saudi Arabia for allowing the publication of this image.

