

Image: Toxic sludge in Hungary

October 13 2010



Image Credit: NASA

On Oct. 4, 2010, an accident occurred at the Ajkai Timfoldgyar alumina (aluminum oxide) plant in western Hungary, when a corner wall of a waste-retaining pond broke, releasing a torrent of toxic red sludge down a local stream.

Several nearby towns were inundated, including Kolontar and Devecser, where the sludge was up to 6.5 feet deep in places. Four people were killed immediately, several more were missing and dozens of residents were hospitalized for chemical burns.

On Oct. 9, 2010, the Advanced Land Imager on NASA's Earth Observing-1 satellite captured this natural-color image of the area.

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Image: Toxic sludge in Hungary (2010, October 13) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-10-image-toxic-sludge-hungary.html>

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