

# Satellite captures images of sandstorm

March 20 2012

---



Captured by Envisat's MERIS instrument on March 10 and 18, these two images show a sandstorm over Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and southern Iraq and Iran. Credit: ESA

ESA's Envisat satellite has captured images of a sandstorm over Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and southern Iraq and Iran.

The animation shows two images of the region: the first captured on 10 March and the second on 18 March. The latest image shows how sand

has swept over the Persian Gulf States in recent days, extending some 1500 km north to south.

Over the past few days, strong winds have whipped up dust and sand, causing low visibility and grounding flights across the region.

In some areas of [Saudi Arabia](#), schools have been closed and hundreds of people are suffering from respiratory problems. The storm has also caused a sharp decline in temperatures.

The storm has even disrupted traffic further south in the [United Arab Emirates](#), Kuwait, Oman and Yemen.

These images were captured by Envisat's MERIS instrument. This month, Envisat celebrated ten years in orbit.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Satellite captures images of sandstorm (2012, March 20) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-03-satellite-captures-images-sandstorm.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.