
Asteroid impact sparks fireball with power of a nuclear bomb - why hasn't NASA raised the alarm?

23/02/2016



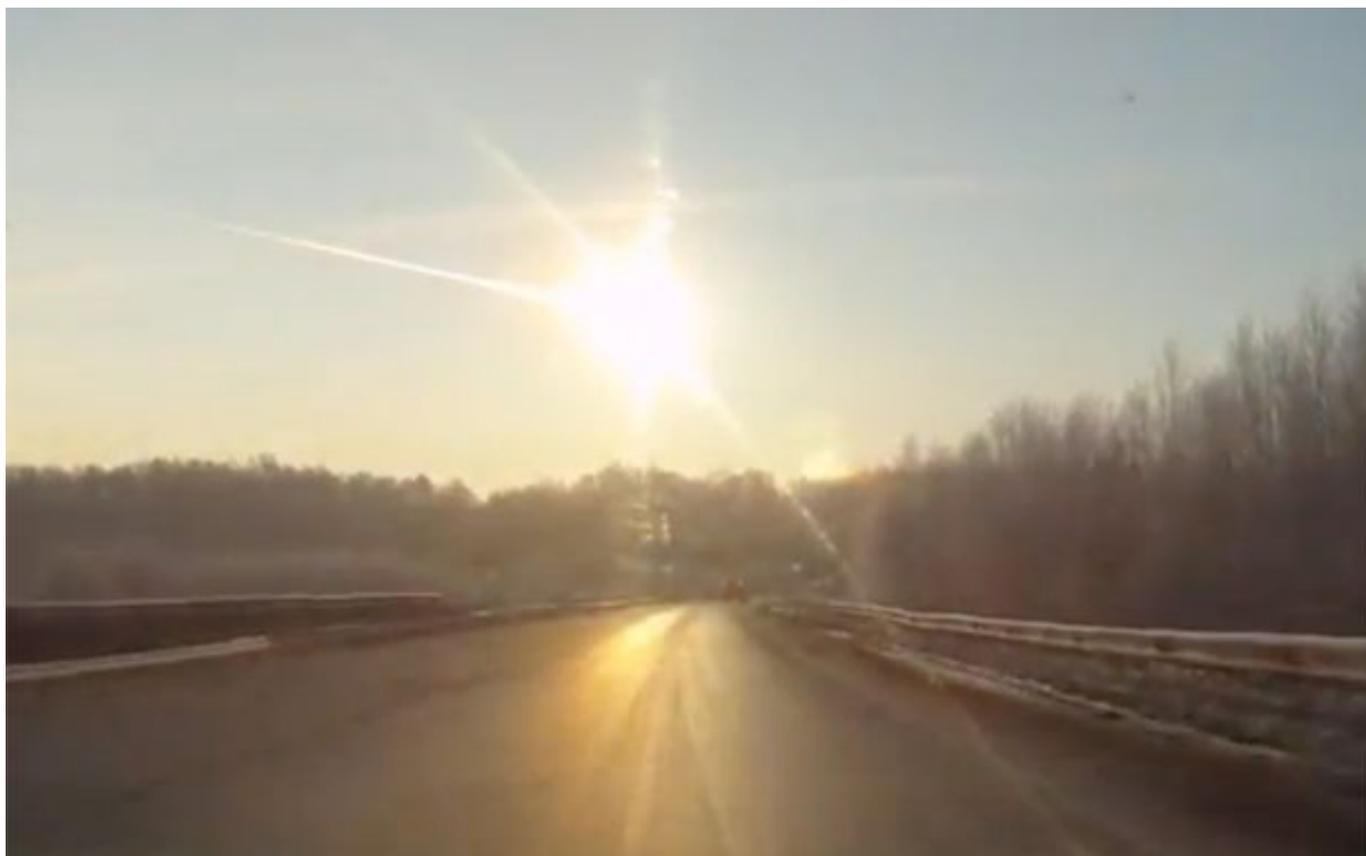
A massive fireball with the power of a nuclear bomb exploded in Earth's atmosphere two weeks ago - and the world almost failed to notice it.

An asteroid impact sparked the massive explosion in the sky, which was the most powerful recorded since a 20-metre-wide meteor blew apart 18.5 miles above the Russian city of Chelyabinsk.

A stealthy space rock smashed into Earth's atmosphere in the skies above a remote area of the Atlantic Ocean on February 6, sparking an explosion with the force of 13,000 tons of TNT.

Although NASA recorded the event, it did not choose to inform the public by announcing its existence in a blog post or press release.

Phil Plait, the astronomer that spotted signs of the explosion buried in NASA data, [suggested the explosion was recorded](#) by a wing of the US Government using classified technology.



Fireball: A picture of the inferno sparked by the Chelyabinsk Meteor

Read more : [NASA opens 'Office of the Apocalypse' to tackle looming threat of doomsday asteroids](#)

"I would assume the military sees most if not all events this size but chooses not to report them for their own reasons," he wrote in a blog on Slate.

"I understand the desire for them to keep their technology and capabilities secret."

Date/Time - Peak Brightness (UT)	Latitude (Deg)	Longitude (Deg)	Altitude (km)	Velocity (km/s)	Velocity Components (km/s)			Total Radiated Energy (J)	Calculated Total Impact Energy (kt)
					vx	vy	vz		
2016-02-19 08:15:02	0.7N	11.6W	39.4		-14.9	-0.5	4.1	20.2e10	0.56
2016-02-06 13:55:09	30.4S	25.5W	31.0		2.7	14.5	5.0	685.3e10	13
2016-01-21 16:44:54	10.8S	0.7E	42.5		-3.8	-17.7	-1.2	4.6e10	0.15
2015-12-30 13:07:50	33.8N	160.7W	39.0					2.2e10	0.079
2015-12-21 02:32:48	5.9N	143.0E	42.2		6.4	-10.0	2.5	8.3e10	0.26
2015-12-08 00:34:23	69.9S	150.5E	38.0					19.7e10	0.55
2015-11-13 14:59:27	16.0N	124.3E	28.0					10.2e10	0.31
2015-11-02 21:34:20	41.4S	33.0E	37.0					7.8e10	0.24
2015-10-31 11:34:30	9.0N	138.0W	71.0					9.7e10	0.29

Explosive: Evidence of the fireball was buried in NASA data

Although the latest deep impact caused a blast as powerful as the fireball which destroyed Hiroshima, it was not quite as powerful as the Chelyabinsk explosion.

Plait said a similar impact "would've rattled some windows and probably terrified a lot of people" if it exploded above a residential area.

More than 1,000 people were injured in Chelyabinsk, mostly by shards of glass sent flying through the air by shattering windows.



A meteorite contrail while fragments of the meteor fall in the thinly populated Chelyabinsk region in February 2013. At the time, scientists said this [enormous blast was a "wake up call" to Earth](#) and said an asteroid impact could wipe out humanity.
Why didn't NASA announce fireball?

Barcroft was covering up secret technology

- The explosion happened in a remote area and didn't kill any humans
- It was covering up existence of aliens
- Because it's nothing for us to worry about