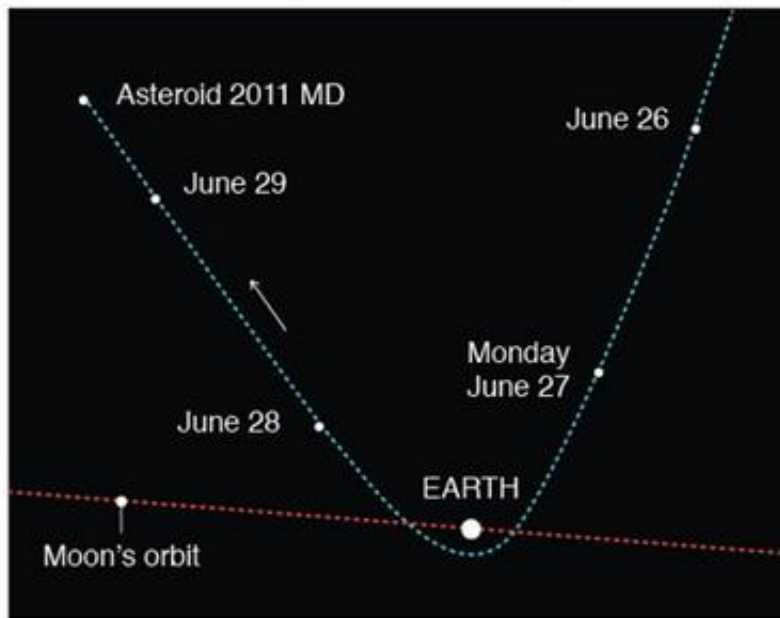


Small asteroid swings harmlessly past Earth (Update)

June 27 2011

Small asteroid to whip past Earth

An asteroid named 2011 MD will pass within 7,600 miles of the Earth on Monday June 27 at about 1 p.m. EDT.



SOURCE: NASA

AP

Illustration shows path of asteroid 2011 MD.

An asteroid the size of a tour bus has zipped harmlessly past Earth.

The space rock flew 7,600 miles above the Earth's surface. It sailed high

above the southern Atlantic Ocean at closest approach.

The asteroid was discovered last week by telescopes in New Mexico. It is between 15 feet and 60 feet wide. Scientists say asteroids this size sail past Earth every six years.

Earlier this year, a smaller [space rock](#) came within 3,400 miles of Earth.

More information: NASA's near Earth object program:
<http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/index.html>

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