

# NASA: Satellite pieces to hit Earth in a week

September 16 2011

---

(AP) -- U.S. space officials say they expect a dead satellite to fall to Earth in about a week.

NASA has been watching the 6-ton satellite closely. On Friday officials moved up their prediction for its arrival to Sept. 23, give or take a day.

[NASA](#) scientists have calculated the satellite will break into 26 pieces as it gets closer to Earth. The odds of it hitting someone anywhere on the planet are 1 in 3,200. The heaviest piece to hit the ground will be about 350 pounds, but no one has ever been hit by falling [space junk](#) in the past.

NASA expects to give the public more detailed information early next week. For now, all [continents](#) except Antarctica could be hit by satellite debris.

**More information:** UARS satellite: <http://www.nasa.gov/mission-pages/uars/uars-concept.html>

©2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: NASA: Satellite pieces to hit Earth in a week (2011, September 16) retrieved 21 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-09-nasa-satellite-pieces-earth-week.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.