

The power of the Chelyabinsk meteor

February 25 2014, by Elizabeth Howell



Chelyabinsk fireball recorded by a dashcam from Kamensk-Uralsky north of Chelyabinsk where it was still dawn.

Looking at the power of the Chelyabinsk meteor (which struck a year ago and is visible starting around 1:15 in the video above) is still terrifying all these months later. Happily for those of on Earth worried about these big space rocks, the world's space agencies are taking the threat seriously and are starting to implement new tracking systems to look out for more threatening space rocks.

"It was a pretty nasty event. Luckily, no one was killed but it just shows the sort of force that these things have," said Alan Harris, senior scientist

of the DLR Institute of Planetary Research in Berlin, in this new European Space Agency video.

An asteroid that is only about 100 meters (328 feet) in diameter, for example, "could actually completely destroy an urban area in the worst case. So those are the things we're really looking out for and trying to find ways to tackle."

Check out the video for some examples of how the Europeans are talking about dealing with this problem, including a fun comparison to cosmic billiards and a more serious discussion on how to shove these rocks aside if they were on a [collision course](#) with our planet.

Provided by [Universe Today](#)

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