

Video: Fireball lights up the sky, screen for researchers

October 10 2016

Western researchers have released footage of a basketball-sized fireball seen widely by observers throughout southern Ontario early Friday morning, Oct. 7.

Physics & Astronomy professor Peter Brown, Canada Research Chair in Meteor Astronomy, says six all-sky cameras from [Western's Southern Ontario Meteor Network](#) recorded a bright, long-lasting fireball in the morning sky over Georgian Bay, moving on an easterly path across Parry Sound at 6:46 a.m. Friday morning. The fireball was last detected in bright twilight by the network's cameras over Algonquin Park at a height of 45 km.

First detected by Western camera systems at an altitude of 90 km over Tobermory moving eastwards at 24 km/s, the meteoroid was initially roughly the size of a basketball. At its brightest, the fireball was almost as bright as the full moon. The long duration of the fireball (almost 10 seconds) was due to its very low entry angle (only 8 degrees from the horizontal).

Small meteorites are possible from this fireball, but will be difficult to find in the terrain of Algonquin Park.

Provided by University of Western Ontario

Citation: Video: Fireball lights up the sky, screen for researchers (2016, October 10) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-10-video-fireball-sky-screen.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.