

Piece of SpaceX rocket debris lands at Washington state farm

April 3 2021



In this image taken from video provided by Roman Puzhlyakov, debris from a SpaceX rocket lights up the sky behind clouds over Vancouver, Wash. Thursday evening, March 25, 2021. The remnants of the second stage of the Falcon 9 rocket left comet-like trails as they burned up upon re-entry in the Earth's atmosphere according to a tweet from the National Weather Service. (Roman Puzhlyakov via AP)

A piece of burning rocket debris seen streaking across the Pacific Northwest sky last week crashed on a farm in eastern Washington state, authorities said.

After the March 25 event, a [farmer](#) discovered a nearly intact piece of rocket in a private field, The Tri-City Herald [reported](#).

The approximately 5-foot (1.5-meter) composite-overwrapped [pressure vessel](#) used for storing helium left a nearly 4-inch (10.16-centimeter) dent in the ground, Grant County sheriff's spokesman Kyle Foreman said. No one was hurt, he said.

The National Weather Service in Seattle has said the widely reported bright objects in the sky on March 25 were remnants of the second stage of the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket leaving comet-like trails as they burned up upon reentry to the Earth's atmosphere.

The farmer, who authorities said didn't want to be identified, suspected the debris may have come from the rocket and left a message with the sheriff's office over the weekend, Foreman said. Deputies responded Monday and contacted SpaceX officials. SpaceX confirmed it was part of the rocket and has since retrieved it, Foreman said.

The Falcon 9 is a reusable two-stage [rocket](#) designed by SpaceX to transport people and payloads into the Earth's orbit and beyond, according to the SpaceX [website](#). It says there have been 111 launches and 71 landings.



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Citation: Piece of SpaceX rocket debris lands at Washington state farm (2021, April 3) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-04-piece-spacex-rocket-debris-washington.html>

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