

Space suit leak happened before, NASA admits

26 February 2014

A US-made space suit that leaked water into a helmet and threatened to drown a European astronaut had malfunctioned before, NASA admitted on Wednesday.

The flaw appeared during a spacewalk a week prior to the July 16 outing by Luca Italian astronaut Parmitano and an American spacewalker, but US space agency officials misdiagnosed it, meaning that the incident was preventable, NASA said in its final report on the investigation into what went wrong.

"The [space suit](#) actually suffered the same failure at the end of EVA (extravehicular activity) 22, performed a week earlier, and this event was not properly investigated, which could have prevented placing a crew member at risk a week later," said a summary of the report NASA posted online.

The fault was attributed to "misdiagnosis of this suit failure when it initially occurred."

Parmitano's helmet began leaking water shortly after he began his spacewalk. He was rushed back inside the International Space Station and was rattled by the experience, but unhurt.

He had 1.5 liters of water in his helmet by the time he was rescued, NASA said.

© 2014 AFP

APA citation: Space suit leak happened before, NASA admits (2014, February 26) retrieved 26 October 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-02-space-leak-nasa.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.