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## UFO startles viewers

*Flash likely a meteor, experts guess*

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MARIETTA, Ga. (UPI) — Experts say the unidentified flying object that airline pilots and ground observers reported seeing in the western sky was probably the fiery entry of a meteor soaring through the Earth's atmosphere.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Lang said a meteor entered the atmosphere 50 miles northeast of Atlanta around 8 p.m. EST Sunday. He said another object — possibly a second piece of the same meteor — also was reported.

"We had a number of pilots to the south, near Macon, report seeing a meteor," Lang said. "It might have come down in two pieces — very fast, at thousands of miles per hour. That's why there's so much heat and light."

Motorist Michael Opitz said he was stopped at a traffic light on U.S. 41 near Marietta when he saw a strange object in the sky.

"I saw the whole sky light up," Opitz said. "First I thought either a plane exploded or the bomb had been dropped."

He said it was like a "gigantic white flash bulb going off." He did not hear anything, but he saw a "plane or a light moving near the flash." He said the light appeared so quickly he could not tell where it came from.

Several people in the area from Douglasville, 20 miles west of Atlanta to Marietta, 20 miles north, reported seeing a flash in the sky, said assistant fire chief Delton Frazier of Dobbins Air Force Base.

An astronomer at Georgia State University said the light may have been a meteor, but it could also have been the planet Venus.