

# UFOs near Calgary?

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Bright, blinking unidentified flying objects sighted north of Calgary this week were probably nothing more than a low Venus or Jupiter sighting, an astronomer says.

"A lot of evidence seems to point in that direction," said Russ Sampson, community astronomer at the Space Sciences Centre in Edmonton.

The objects were seen early Monday morning by several RCMP and city police officers.

Sampson said a bright object in a starless sky all by itself tends to produce an optical illusion. "People, when they look at a particularly bright object without any other reference points around it, have a tendency to think it's moving.

"The blinking on and off . . . well, once you stick an object as bright as Venus or Jupiter close to the horizon, all the atmosphere the light has to pass through acts as a lens or prism and can make the objects flicker and turn all kinds of different colors."