

# Unexplained light seen in Southwestern skies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A bright light streaked across skies in the Southwest, prompting scores of calls to government agencies, but officials were at a loss to explain the phenomenon.

The object, which authorities said could be a meteorite, was seen from Arizona to California and south of the Mexican border, according to reports that started coming in shortly before 9 p.m. Monday.

"It was described as something on fire, like a ball of fire in the sky," said Martha Pfrommer, a dispatcher with the California Department of Forestry in Riverside. "Apparently everybody was reporting it as a plane crash."

Beth Kilgore, a spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said the light did not result from any man-made object such as a satellite or missile.

"We have checked and double-checked and we have no debris that has entered at that point that would cause this," said Kilgore.

San Diego County sheriff's dispatcher Stephanie Simpson said deputies had been sent out to look for wreckage, but had found nothing and believed the light was from a meteorite.

As many as 50 calls had come in to various agencies in inland California, Pfrommer said.

Calls to the Forestry Department came in from Hesperia, in the Mojave Desert northeast of Los Angeles, to near the Mexican border about 80 miles to the south, she said.

NORAD received calls from Tucson, Ariz., from south of the Mexican border and from San Diego and San Bernardino in California.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Tornadoes strike Arkansas

GREEN FOREST, Ark. (AP) — Tornadoes and high-speed winds ripped apart a mobile home park, injuring four people, and peeled the roof off an elementary school filled with children in rural northwest Arkansas. No students were injured.

The storm Monday afternoon appeared to have cut a 300- to 400-yard wide swath through the Old Race Track Mobile Home Park four miles north here, said Carroll County Judge Jack Beeson, who surveyed the damage.

The storm also uprooted trees, snapped utility poles, damaged barns and struck another mobile home near the park, he said.

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