

Mysterious lights illuminate Eastern sky

Associated Press

Mysterious lights brightened the sky from New York to Virginia early Tuesday, but officials and witnesses pondering the source of the brilliant blaze disagreed on just what it looked like.

Police and emergency operators and Coast Guard spokesmen variously described the display as blue lights, a fireball and a meteor shower.

"What really shocked me was how bright it got," said Maryland State Trooper Paul Keplinger in Easton. "It looked like daylight out here for about five seconds."

Keplinger said he saw a bright

yellow light traveling across the sky, trailing a reddish flare. After it disappeared, he said he heard what sounded like thunder.

"It looked to me just like a meteor or something," said Keplinger, who added that he had never seen a meteor shower.

A boiler room attendant at Wallops Island NASA Flight Center on Virginia's Eastern Shore reported seeing "a big blue light that lit the whole sky almost like lightning."

"After that, I saw two balls of like fire, only not a red fire . . . a white fire," said Eddie Quillen.

In Cape May, N.J., Coast Guard Petty Officer Carlos Johnson said he received a radio report from a ship in the Delaware Bay at 12:38 a.m.

"We figure it's a meteor shower. We just assumed that due to the fact we had so many calls, from Virginia to New York," Johnson said.

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