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# Area residents report explosion, sky lights.

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An explosion rocked South Texas late Thursday night shortly after witnesses saw a brilliant flash of blue (or green) light flood the sky.

Although no official explanation was given for the vivid flash of light and thundering boom that accompanied it, many law enforcement officers believe the display was the result of a huge meteor that came crashing to the earth.

North Bee County residents reported seeing the brilliant blue light or a flaming streak of light around 11 p.m. Thursday and told police that a meteor must have fallen in the county. However, persons as far away as San Antonio and Dallas were reported to have witnessed the eerie phenomenon.

Sheriff Bob Horn said he did not see the explosion, but after it was reported, he sent deputies out to investigate. The sheriff feared the explosion might have been the result of a ruptured natural gas line.

"I'm just wondering if a meteor did hit, how long it's going to be before someone stumbles across it," Horn said.

Mitchell Pawlik, Live Oak County game warden, said he was outside in the northeast section of Live Oak County when he saw a green light fill the sky.

"It just lit up everything super, super bright," he said. "Bright enough to where you could have read a newspaper by it."

Pawlik said the flash of light

lasted for about three or four seconds. "Meteorites usually don't last that long," he said. "It kind of spooked me because I didn't think it was a meteorite and wondered what was fixing to happen next."

Deputy Albert Gilliam and Department of Public Safety Trooper Barry Detlefsen also saw the explosion when they were on patrol in Bee County.

Several area residents said Friday that their dogs had paced, whined and barked throughout Thursday night after hearing the explosion.

Pawlik said he heard a "piercing, low-grumbling explosion" almost three minutes after he witnessed the bright light. He added that he thinks the sound came from a meteor crashing into the earth far in the distance.

Saturday's *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* reported that Live Oak County Sheriff Larry Busby thought he was seeing the beginning of a thunderstorm and said some county residents who live as far away as 15 miles apart reported that they believed the explosion occurred directly above them.

He said many Live Oak residents were awakened by either the sound or bright flash and others reported that their homes trembled.

"I was in bed reading, and I felt the windows shaking momentarily, but I didn't know what it was," Beeville DPS Sgt. Hugh Robie was quoted as saying.