

Meteors spark 'UFO sightings'

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WHEN people saw bright lights exploding through the South Wales sky they thought UFOs were about to land.

Sightings included:

- A man who says he saw a white flash and then a bright blue object the size of a small boat with a 20-foot streak of fire coming from it;
- A woman whose phone went dead during a call as the lights passed over;
- An ambulance driver who saw a blue flashing light — and thought he had turned

By Gary Spinks

on his emergency light by mistake; and

Skywatchers say the cause was not down to aliens — but a meteor storm.

Gerry Lacey, secretary of Swansea Astronomical Society, said: "These sightings are likely to have been Perseids meteors which fall around this time every year.

"The meteor showers contain the debris left behind by a comet and get their name because they appear to come from the constellation of Perseus.

"The streams of debris occur when the Earth's orbit links with that of the meteor and pieces burn up as they hit the atmosphere.

"Added to the bright white light can be a range of colours in the meteor trail, often orange or yellow, as elements burn in the rarified air."

Mr Lacey said the Perseids shower was due on August 12, or one week either side. The sightings were late Sunday night, August 16.

Mr Lacey says more meteors may come this week