



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,070

Narrator: Recently, a team of scientists and volunteers from NASA Ames Research Center

2
00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:08,500

searched for debris left in the wake of a large meteor that plummeted

3
00:00:08,520 --> 00:00:12,970

into Northern California on April 22, 2012.

4
00:00:12,990 --> 00:00:17,750

To expedite their search, researchers enlisted the services of an airship called "Eureka"

5
00:00:17,770 --> 00:00:21,180

for an airborne survey of the debris field.

6
00:00:21,200 --> 00:00:25,790

During a five hour flight, they searched a 300-square mile area.

7
00:00:25,810 --> 00:00:29,460

They used a sophisticated video camera system that is commonly used

8
00:00:29,480 --> 00:00:31,790

to cover sporting events.

9
00:00:31,810 --> 00:00:36,510

Researcher were also conducting ground surveys to look for fragments.

10
00:00:36,530 --> 00:00:40,910

Within days, a NASA team was able to find and identify a fragment

11
00:00:40,930 --> 00:00:44,570

as a type of meteorite known as a carbonaceous chondrite.

12
00:00:44,590 --> 00:00:47,040

Peter Jenniskens: It is a really special meteorite,

13
00:00:47,060 --> 00:00:52,820

because this particular one contains all the goodies

14

00:00:52,840 --> 00:00:56,570

that scientists are interested in: the amino acids, all the compounds

15

00:00:56,590 --> 00:01:01,420

that could have made life possible on our planet.

16

00:01:01,440 --> 00:01:05,500

Narrator: Because meteorite fragments will quickly degrade when exposed to the elements,

17

00:01:05,520 --> 00:01:08,640

the rush to find them as soon as possible began.

18

00:01:08,660 --> 00:01:13,250

One of the larger fragments was discovered in the de Haas family pasture.

19

00:01:13,270 --> 00:01:15,550

Merv de Haas: I'm glad they found it there.

20

00:01:15,570 --> 00:01:19,400

I'm glad it's a piece that's going to be valuable to science

21

00:01:19,420 --> 00:01:23,110

and I'm looking forward to hearing some of the results from it.

22

00:01:23,130 --> 00:01:27,560

Along with the de Haas fragment, over 20 specimens have been recovered.

23

00:01:27,580 --> 00:01:32,740

Some of the largest are now undergoing tests in a lab at Ames Research Center.

24

00:01:32,760 --> 00:01:37,160

This discovery could provide clues as to what our planet may have been made from

25

00:01:37,180 --> 00:01:40,660

and how life could have begun on Earth.

