1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000
(Music)

2
00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:11,000
Asteroid 2012 DA 14 is an object about half the size of a football field in diameter,

3
00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:15,000
that is going to pass very close to the Earth on Feb. 15th.

4
00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:21,000
Coming from the south to the north, it actually gets to within 17,200 miles of the Earth's surface,

5
00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:26,000
and will pass interior to the geosynchronous satellites and the GPS satellites, but there's really no chance

6
00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:34,000
of the asteroid hitting the Earth and very little change it will hit a satellite.

7
00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:36,000
Although this object gets very close to the Earth on Feb.15th,

8
00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:42,000
it's fairly small as asteroids go and it won't be observable with the naked eye.

9
00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,000
But if you happen to be located in Eastern Europe, Asia, Australia,

10
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000
and you know where to look and you have a pair of binoculars, it will indeed be visible.

11
00:00:52,000 --> 00:01:03,000
The asteroid was discovered by a group of Spanish astronomers in La Sagra observatory in southern Spain.

12
00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:11,000
An object the size of DA 14 actually impacted the Earth on June 30th 1908. The so-called 'Tunguska event.'

13
00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:18,000

An object about 30 or 40 meters came down into the Earth's atmosphere and exploded leveling trees for

14
00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:27,000
820 square miles. The close approach of this object 2012 DA 14 on Feb 15 is nothing to worry about.

15
00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:36,000
Its orbit is very well known. We know exactly where it's going to go and it cannot hit the Earth.

16
00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:40,000
20 years ago, you probably wouldn't have found this object.

17
00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:45,000
But now NASA is observing the skies nightly and picking up these objects and we track them

18
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:50,000
for a hundred years into the future and see if any of them make interesting close Earth approaches.