



1

00:00:00,870 --> 00:00:04,130

NASCAR driver Carl Edwards appreciates high speeds.

2

00:00:04,130 --> 00:00:09,611

He stopped by NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida just a few days before racing in

3

00:00:09,611 --> 00:00:13,000

the 2016 Daytona 500.

4

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:17,890

During his visit, Edwards pointed out the similarities between racing on the track . . . and

5

00:00:17,890 --> 00:00:18,890

racing into space.

6

00:00:18,890 --> 00:00:23,390

I drive the No. 19 Toyota Camry for Joe Gibbs Racing but there are 500 people back in the

7

00:00:23,390 --> 00:00:28,270

shop who build that car and test everything and have a plan in place for every contingency.

8

00:00:28,270 --> 00:00:33,000

And it appears from my time here today at NASA, it's very similar.

9

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,079

There's the launch, and there are the folks that ride the shuttle, but there are so many

10

00:00:35,079 --> 00:00:38,839

things that go into that and so much happening behind the scenes.

11

00:00:38,839 --> 00:00:41,039

It's neat to see the parallels.

12  
00:00:41,039 --> 00:00:46,149  
Edwards went behind the scenes inside the massive Vehicle Assembly Building and historic

13  
00:00:46,149 --> 00:00:47,530  
Launch Pad 39B.

14  
00:00:47,530 --> 00:00:53,760  
NASA's Ground Systems Development and Operations Program is preparing both facilities for the

15  
00:00:53,760 --> 00:00:58,659  
assembly and launch of the agency's next-generation, heavy-lift rocket, the Space Launch System.

16  
00:00:58,659 --> 00:01:03,469  
I mean this is the stuff, as a kid, I read about, I watched on television, saw all these

17  
00:01:03,469 --> 00:01:04,469  
things.

18  
00:01:04,469 --> 00:01:07,660  
But to see it in person is really a treat.

19  
00:01:07,660 --> 00:01:14,010  
Edwards also got behind the wheel of a Mine-resistant Ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP.

20  
00:01:14,010 --> 00:01:18,690  
The armored vehicle will be used to help astronauts evacuate from the launch pad in the event

21  
00:01:18,690 --> 00:01:19,960  
of an emergency.

22  
00:01:19,960 --> 00:01:23,210

But . . . would he ever be interested in riding  
a rocket?

23

00:01:23,210 --> 00:01:25,130

Yeah, of course!