



*"AT NASA WE FIND
ASTEROIDS
BEFORE THEY
FIND US"*

1

00:00:00,400 --> 00:00:07,040

Planetary defense is finding asteroids before\h
they find us but then also maybe getting asteroids\h\h

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00:00:07,040 --> 00:00:13,520

before they get us. My name is Kelly Fast and I'm\h
a planetary defender. In the Planetary Defense\h\h

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00:00:13,520 --> 00:00:18,560

Coordination Office, I manage the Near-Earth\h
Object Observations Program. I handle the program\h\h

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00:00:18,560 --> 00:00:25,920

that addresses finding the asteroids and this\h
handles getting the asteroids. This is the DART\h\h

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00:00:25,920 --> 00:00:32,080

spacecraft. The DART mission is just a spacecraft\h
that is going to go and smack an asteroid. It is\h\h

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00:00:32,080 --> 00:00:37,680

fantastic to see it in real life. DART will only\h
be changing the period of the orbit of Dimorphos\h\h

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00:00:37,680 --> 00:00:44,240

by a tiny amount and really that's all that's\h
needed in the event that an asteroid is discovered\h\h

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00:00:44,240 --> 00:00:50,640

well ahead of time before it might impact Earth.\h
You can't have a mission like DART without finding\h\h

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00:00:50,640 --> 00:00:55,920

the asteroids first. That involves searching for\h
near-Earth asteroids, getting them in the catalog,\h\h

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00:00:55,920 --> 00:01:00,000

calculating their orbits, tracking them,\h
keeping an eye on them. You know as a kid\h\h

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:06,560

I loved astronomy. I love Star Trek. So I became
a research astronomer my first observing run ever

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00:01:06,560 --> 00:01:12,720

was observing the impact of comet Shoemaker-Levy with Jupiter. I never would have known that

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00:01:12,720 --> 00:01:17,840

somehow my career would kind of come full circle
to be part of something that affects people's

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00:01:17,840 --> 00:01:23,120

everyday lives. I feel really honored and humbled
to be working in the field of planetary defense

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00:01:23,120 --> 00:01:27,520

because it can affect people. It's just
really exciting to have that kind of role