

**IS NASA
AWARE OF ANY
EARTH-THREATENING
ASTEROIDS ?**

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00:00:01,439 --> 00:00:04,360

Is NASA Aware of Any Earth-Threatening Asteroids?

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00:00:07,852 --> 00:00:08,843

We Asked a NASA Scientist.

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00:00:09,469 --> 00:00:15,040

No, there is no asteroid that we know of
that is concerning in terms of impact hazard.

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Now, we know that asteroid impacts have
happened in the past

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and can certainly happen in the future.
But we should keep in mind that those are rare events.

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An asteroid impact that could cause serious regional damage

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00:00:27,187 --> 00:00:30,134

only happens every few thousand years or longer.

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Still, it's a good idea to protect us against
that possibility and the rule of the game is

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00:00:34,559 --> 00:00:37,392

find asteroids before they find us.

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00:00:37,392 --> 00:00:43,440

And that's why for over 20 years, NASA has been funding
search programs to observe the sky

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00:00:43,440 --> 00:00:48,299

pretty much every single night to find
and track asteroids.

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00:00:48,299 --> 00:00:51,360

And we've been doing a pretty good job at that. So far, we've discovered

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00:00:51,360 --> 00:00:54,879

more than a million asteroids, including 95 percent

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00:00:54,879 --> 00:00:59,460

of the asteroids that are greater than one kilometer and that could come close to the Earth.

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00:00:59,460 --> 00:01:03,397

Once we discover an asteroid, we project its motion into the future

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00:01:03,397 --> 00:01:05,760

to assess the possibility of an impact with Earth.

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00:01:05,760 --> 00:01:10,957

We have a scale called Torino scale that helps us rank the risk coming from each asteroid.

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00:01:10,957 --> 00:01:15,043

It goes from zero, which is lowest risk, to 10, which is highest risk.

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00:01:15,043 --> 00:01:17,680

And the good news is that for all the asteroids that we've

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00:01:17,680 --> 00:01:23,539

discovered so far, the Torino scale is zero — so, lowest risk for the next hundred years.

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00:01:23,539 --> 00:01:26,401

So, is NASA aware of any Earth-threatening asteroids?

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00:01:26,401 --> 00:01:29,735

No. But we will keep searching the skies just in case.

