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Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Oct](#) -> **Re: Meteor Lands Near El Paso**

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Meteor Lands Near El Paso

From: XianneKei@aol.com [Rebecca Schatte]
Date: Fri, 10 Oct 1997 04:11:09 -0400 (EDT)
Fwd Date: Fri, 10 Oct 1997 22:01:21 -0400
Subject: Re: Meteor Lands Near El Paso

Meteor Lands Near El Paso

EL PASO, Texas (Reuter) - An apparent meteor streaked across the sky and slammed into Earth near the Texas border city of El Paso Thursday, sparking hundreds of calls to police as flashes and loud sonic booms scared residents.

``I saw a large flash like an explosion in the sky,'' said Steven Marquez, who was in his yard near the Organ Mountains outside Las Cruces in New Mexico. ``Something fell off of it and left a huge cloud of smoke over there by the mountains.''

Robert Simpson, a spokesman for the McDonald Observatory in Texas, said he saw what appeared to be a small meteor flash across the sky at 12:47 p.m. MDT and that it was about as bright as the surface of a setting sun.

Las Cruces Police Sgt. Joel Cano said the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) tracked the object as it entered Earth's atmosphere until it fell to the ground about 30 miles east of El Paso.

A police command post was set up near the Organ Mountains as U.S. Army Reserve helicopters used infrared sensors to look for pieces of debris from the object.

``What they are looking for is any debris that is still hot or anything that came off the object,'' Cano said.

Witnesses said the streak of light left a contrail across southern New Mexico that hung in the sky for about 30 minutes.

22:10 10-09-97

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