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Reports of meteor streaking across Prairies

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CBC News



Andy Bartlett recorded this footage from a 10th-floor apartment in Edmonton on his digital camera. (Submitted by Andy Bartlett)

A bright light lit up the sky around 5:30 MT Thursday evening in Western Canada, with people reporting sightings in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

People telephoned the CBC newsrooms in Edmonton and Calgary to talk about what they saw.

"It was a really big flash, lit up the sky, and there was this huge, flaming fireball falling from the sky," said Rowyn Windsor, 12, who lives on the Canadian Forces base in Cold Lake, Alta., about

350 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

"This huge light in our kitchen window lit up our whole kitchen," said Sabrina Schneider, who lives just outside Lloydminster on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. "It kinda flashed a couple of times. It was really bright. It was a different light than lightning.

"We weren't really sure what happened ... got up to look out the window, and all of a sudden, we heard this rumbling."

Schneider said her sister saw the meteor while she was driving past North Battleford, Sask.

Torey Van Vam was driving north from Redcliff, Alta., outside Medicine Hat when he saw a bright white streak.

"As it got closer to the ground, it was more visible as a ball of white light with green around it. And as it got really close to the ground, it turned kind of orange, and I'm pretty sure it went straight to the ground," he said.



Footage captured by Alister Ling using equipment at the University of Calgary shows a flash in the sky. (CBC)

Bev Uilly, who lives on a farm near Unity, Sask., was watching TV when she saw a light through her west-facing living room window.

"It was just like there were headlights right outside the window and that something was moving. It wasn't just one big, bright flash. It was several flashes," she said.

Uilly said her daughter in Brooks, in southern Alberta, had told her she had seen the light as well.

The fireball was also visible in Edmonton. Kim Wingrove was driving in the city's west end when

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he saw something in the sky.

"I saw this large orb shoot across in an east-southeast direction, on a very steady trajectory," he said. "It was very, very big. And I've seen a lot of shooting stars from all the world as I travelled, but I've never seen one so large. It was very bright yellow, with hints of green in it. It stayed in the air ... for about two to two and a half seconds."

Alister Ling, an Edmonton-area amateur astronomer who is a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, recorded the fireball using equipment from Alan Hildebrand, a meteorite researcher at the University of Calgary.

"When it flares out on the tape, you can see there's several of these multiple flashes, and that's when it's probably partly blowing up, which is also a really good indicator ... that there's multiple stones that have come down," he said.

He said anyone who sees a fireball with their own eyes has a hard time judging where it came down, because fireballs stop glowing when they are 50 kilometres above the earth.

Ling said he will be consulting with other astronomers in Alberta, who will look at tapes from a local network of cameras and assess eyewitness reports to try and figure out where the fireball may have landed.

Although its early in the process, he thinks it may have fallen somewhere in central Alberta, and there could be search parties out looking for chunks as early as this weekend.

"Who knows," he said. "We might be really, really lucky."

With files from the Canadian Press

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JohnBinyon wrote:

Posted 2008/11/24 at 7:21 PM ET

I observed this in Little Rock, Arkansas (US).

I told several friends about it, but haven't seen any US news reports on the matter. It was quite large and had a bright green hue. It happened so fast, I wasn't sure what I'd seen. One of the coolest natural phenomena I've ever witnessed.

3  **0** 

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MiraLink wrote:

Posted 2008/11/24 at 3:06 PM ET

our local radio says that a part of it landed in Whitecourt, that there is nothing left of it, but you can see where it hit.... i dont know if thats true or not.

2  **0** 

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MiraLink wrote:

Posted 2008/11/23 at 2:53 PM ET

google earth gets updated only about once every two years

4  **0** 

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




sonar324 wrote:

Posted 2008/11/23 at 11:56 AM ET

Google earth????

Because it is updated how often? And the resolution in rural areas is

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3
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significantly less than urban areas.

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SaskaBoy wrote:

Posted 2008/11/23
at 9:55 AM ET

Just search it on Google earth. Should be no problem.

5
1

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