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# More meteorite fragments found

## Researchers have found more meteorite fragments -- including a 10-kilogram specimen -- from the spectacular asteroid that streaked across the Prairie sky two weeks ago.

BY THE STARPHOENIX (SASKATOON) DECEMBER 4, 2008 BE THE FIRST TO POST A COMMENT

Researchers have found more meteorite fragments -- including a 10-kilogram specimen -- from the spectacular asteroid that streaked across the Prairie sky two weeks ago.

A 15-member research team from the University of Calgary, led by Prof. Alan Hildebrand, is in a race against the weather as it scours an area southeast of Lloydminster.

"It's getting quite cold now and there's snow on the ground, so it's not the ideal conditions for searching anymore," said Grady Semmens, senior communications manager for research at U of C.

Still, the team will continue the search until at least Sunday. More students are expected to arrive toward the weekend to help with the search.

The fireball that lit up the skies from northern Alberta to parts of Manitoba on Nov. 20 was a chunk of low-flying asteroid that weighed about 10 tonnes before it struck Earth's atmosphere, say researchers.

They estimate the fireball first appeared about 80 kilometres above and just east of Lloydminster.

It travelled southeast over Saskatchewan toward the

Battle River valley before it blew apart in a spectacular series of mid-air explosions.

The fireball, as bright as a billion-watt lightbulb in the night sky, pierced the atmosphere at a steep angle of about 60 degrees off the horizontal and lasted about five seconds.

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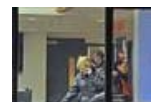
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Since the first chunk of meteorite was located on Friday, more than 70 pieces have been collected by the researchers and others in the area.

The meteorites range in size from small pebbles to a couple the size of soccer balls. The two larger ones weighed in at 10 kilograms and 13 kilograms.

Semmens says there could be dozens of the larger pieces spread over an area of cultivated and pasture land that's eight kilometres square.

The students and researchers searching for fragments have focused on one cattle pasture about 40 km southeast of Lloydminster where the first fragment was found on a frozen pond by U of C graduate student Ellen Milley.

The researchers have fanned out from that spot in the field, gathering fragments along the way. The owner of the land where the U of C team is searching has given them permission to be there.

"They've allowed us to collect everything we find and catalogue it for research purposes," said Semmens.

The pieces will remain the property of the land owner, but Semmens wasn't sure where they will be stored.

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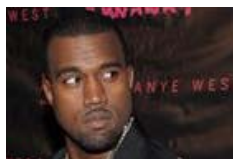
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