

'What Is That In The Sky?' Floridians Catch Meteor's Close Brush With Earth

It wasn't a bird or a plane that gave Floridians a shock late Monday night. It wasn't even Superman. A meteor shot across the sky around 10 p.m. Monday. Residents along the state's Atlantic coast from West Palm Beach south to Miami shared videos of the surprising sight on social media. Dashcam footage and security videos showed a still, dark night suddenly lit up by what appeared to be a large fireball streaking diagonally across the sky. In just a few seconds, it was over.

According to NASA, an **asteroid** is a small, rocky object that orbits the sun. A meteor is what happens when a meteoroid — a small piece of an asteroid or comet — burns up upon entering Earth's atmosphere, creating a *streak* of light in the sky.

He tweeted, "To put this in perspective, most close approach asteroids are between 1 and 3 millions miles from earth."