

NASA asteroid tracker: An 820FT asteroid will skim Earth at 38,000mph TOMORROW

A GIANT asteroid measuring up to 820ft (250m) in diameter will shoot past the Earth this week at speeds reaching 38,000mph, NASA's asteroids trackers have revealed.

NASA expects the imposing asteroid to narrowly miss the Earth tomorrow morning (Wednesday, March 20). The asteroid, dubbed Asteroid 2019 CD5, is hurtling towards Earth on a so-called "Earth Close Approach" trajectory. NASA's astronomers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) have narrowed the flyby down to 9.03am GMT (UTC). This moment will mark the space rock's closest approach to Earth at breakneck speeds of around 38,095mph or 17.03km per second.

The news comes a month after the space rock was first spotted flying towards our planet.

NASA's first observations of the asteroid were made on February 4, followed by subsequent views until March 17.

And to paint an even more terrifying picture of the asteroid, the space rock could be almost twice as tall as the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.

NASA
JPL

estimates
CD5

measures
somewhere
in the
range of
360.8ft to
820ft (110m to
250m) in
diameter.

At the
upper end
of that
limit,
the [space](#) rock is
roughly 30
times the length

of a London double-decker bus.

The asteroid is also comparable in size to more than 100 Queen Size beds lined up in a row.

At the smaller end of NASA's estimate, Asteroid CD5 still stands taller than Big Ben's clock tower, the Statue of Liberty and Tower Bridge in London.

Thankfully, the bad news ends there because the asteroid is not expected to hit Earth any time soon.

Asteroid CD5 is a so-called "Near-Earth Object" (NEO), meaning its trajectory cuts into the path Earth takes around the Sun.

NEOs range in size from car-sized objects to monstrous killer asteroids capable of wiping out entire cities and regions.

NASA said: "The direct effects from a NEO impact depend on its size, composition, and impact speed.

"Small, rocky NEOs are likely to explode before hitting the ground, resulting in an airburst that could produce a wider area of moderate damage compared with a similarly sized metallic object that would strike the ground and cause heavier, more localised devastation."

Asteroid CD5 is not one of these hazardous space rocks and NASA believes it will miss our home by more than two million miles (3.2 million km).

At its closest, NASA's calculations show CD5 will approach the Earth from a distance of 0.02597 astronomical units.

A single astronomical unit measures the distance between the Sun and the Earth and is equal to about 93 million miles (149.6 million km).

Tomorrow, Asteroid CD 5 will trim this distance down to just 2.41 million miles (3.88 million km)

This is roughly the equivalent of 10 times the distance from Earth to the Moon.

After the asteroid zips past the Earth tomorrow morning, the space rock is expected to visit our planet again on May 22, 2026.

Before that, Asteroid CD5 will fly past Venus on October 16, 2022, and past Jupiter on July 16, 2024.

The asteroid will then skim Earth again on July 17, 2033, and the planet Mars on March 10, 2040.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1101716/NASA-asteroid-tracker-Asteroid-2019-CD5-Earth-Close-Approach-nasa>

