

Near Earth Objects

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBvotWfR3j4> Russia 2013

Potentially Hazardous Objects (PHOs)

- About once every 10,000 years something very large hits the Earth.
- There are many objects out there that could potentially hit the Earth and do a lot of damage. These are PHOs.
- They may be comets (PHCs) or asteroids (PHAs).

PHOs are:

- at least 150m in diameter
- pass within 0.05 AU of Earth.
- [As of May 12, 2013](#), 9928 Near-Earth objects have been discovered.
- 860 of these NEOs are asteroids with a diameter of approximately 1 kilometer or larger.
- Also, 1400 of these NEOs have been classified as Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs).

Monitoring PHOs

- Any movement in their trajectory, e.g. caused by the gravity of another large object, could have devastating results for us.
- If one of these objects hit land it would cause a huge amount of local devastation but also send up massive clouds of dust.
- These would block out the light from the Sun, stop photosynthesis and so effect all life on the planet.
- If one of these objects landed in the sea it could cause a giant tsunami which could kill millions