

REPORTING OF FIREBALL AND METEORITE OBSERVATIONS AND UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

GENERAL

1. The National Research Council (NRC) Associate Committee on Meteorites coordinates reports of sightings of falling meteors and periodically launches a publicity campaign to enlighten the Canadian public. All members of the Canadian Forces located in North America can assist this activity by reporting any such sightings.

2. The National Research Council, Radio and Electrical Engineering Division is the recognized governmental agency responsible for investigating unidentified flying objects (UFOs). DND may be required to assist NRC by carrying out field type investigations.

DESCRIPTION

3. A fireball is a bright meteor with a luminosity which equals or exceeds that of the brightest planet. It is usually seen moving rapidly across the sky and sometimes a trail of glowing particles is left behind. The meteor may explode with a burst of light and a loud sound; this may happen several times during a single fall.

4. A UFO is defined as an unusual aerial sighting which the observer is unable to identify or explain.

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5. When a sufficient number of fireball observations are obtained over an area 100 miles or more, it becomes possible to combine the observations and predict the most probable area in which meteorites associated with the fireball may have reached the surface of the earth. As freshly fallen meteorites are of considerable more interest than old falls, sightings should be reported as soon as possible.

6. Unclassified priority messages shall be addressed to CANFORCEHED with information copy to the addressee indicated in para 7. The first words in the text shall be "FOR CFCO, FIREBALL AND METEORITE OBSERVATIONS". All reports shall include as much of the following information as is relevant, using the identifying letter indicated:

- A Date and time of sighting (GMT shall be used).
- B Condition of sky (clear, cloudy, haze, etc).
- C Location of observer (either precise position on ground or geographical reference).
- D Occurrence of bursts (number and approximate positions along path).
- E Luminosity (brightness compared to planets or moon and occurrence of shadows cast by nearby objects, if any).
- F Colour (distinguish between colour of fireball and any persistent train or trail after passage of fireball).
- G Form (size in relation to moon and shape).
- H Duration (both of fireball in motion and persistent train or trail in the sky).