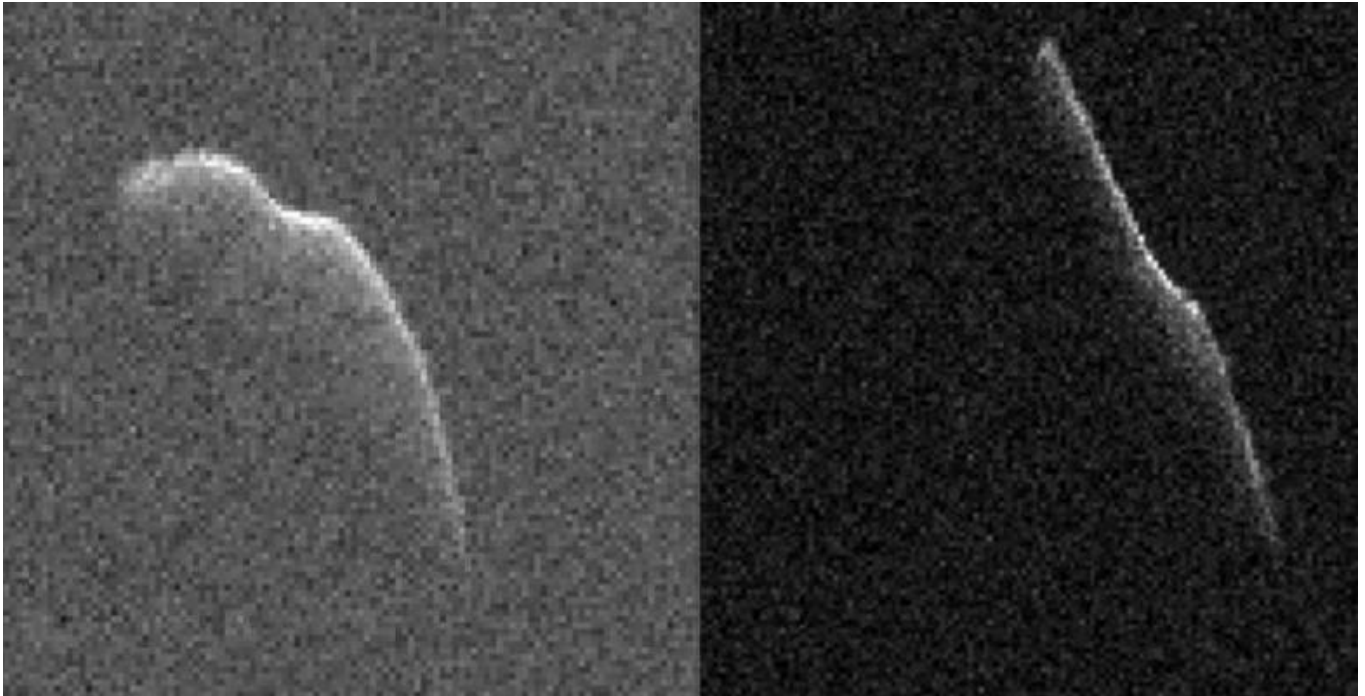


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**No, the 'Christmas Eve Asteroid' Flying by Us Will Not Destroy Earth, NASA Says**

24/12/2015



The 3,600-foot-long asteroid 2003 SD220 will fly by Earth tonight at a safe distance of 6.8 million miles, NASA [said in a statement](#) on Wednesday.

"The closest this object will come to [Santa](#) and his eight tiny reindeer is about 28 times the distance between Earth and the moon," said Paul Chodas, manager of NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object (NEO) Studies at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

[Massive Asteroid Zooms Past Earth With a Surprise Moon](#)

[Why NASA Plans to Grab a Chunk of Asteroid and Move It Closer to the Moon](#)

[5 Things to Know About the 2015 'Halloween Asteroid'](#)

The asteroid will actually make its closest flyby to Earth in 2018, but it's still expected to be a safe distance away, at about 1.7 million miles, according to Lance Benner, who leads JPL's asteroid radar research program.

Meanwhile, NASA's Near-Earth Object office is taking to Twitter to debunk reports and concerns the asteroid could wipe out our planet before the end of the year.