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The Lunar and Planetary Institute Presents

The 2013 Chelyabinsk Air Burst and the Hazards of Near-Earth Asteroid Impacts

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In February 2013, a fireball exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, damaging buildings and injuring over 1,000 people. The Chelyabinsk asteroid was estimated to be 20 meters in diameter and the explosion 30 times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Nagasaki in World War II. The event, while horrifying, provides an opportunity to better estimate the hazards of impact events. Dr. David A. Kring of the Lunar and Planetary Institute continues the 2013-2014 Cosmic Explorations speaker series with a discussion of the dangers of asteroid impacts and possible steps that can be taken to mitigate future events.

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