

SpaceX Rocket Crashes on the Moon, Causes, Latest News

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A **SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage** crashed into the Moon on **5 August 2026**, attracting global attention from scientists and space agencies. The rocket stage, which had been left in an uncontrolled orbit after launching a lunar mission in **January 2025**, impacted the Moon after drifting through space for nearly **18 months**.

Scientists estimate that the impact created a **crater about 18 metres (60 feet) wide** and released a cloud of lunar dust and rocks.

What is SpaceX?

SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corp.) is an **American private aerospace company** founded by **Elon Musk** in **2002**. The company develops **reusable rockets, spacecraft, and satellite systems** to reduce the cost of space travel and support future human missions to the **Moon, Mars, and beyond**.

- **Headquartered in Hawthorne, California, USA.**
- **Develops reusable launch vehicles, including the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and Starship.**

- **Operates the Dragon spacecraft** for transporting cargo and astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Provides Starlink satellite internet services** through a large constellation of low Earth orbit satellites.
- **Partners with NASA and other organizations** for commercial crew, cargo, and deep-space exploration missions.
- **Long-term vision** is to enable **human settlement on Mars** and support sustainable exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies.

What is the Falcon 9 Rocket?

Falcon 9 is a **partially reusable, two-stage orbital launch vehicle** developed by **SpaceX** for launching **satellites, cargo, and astronauts** into space. First launched in **2010**, it is one of the world's most reliable and frequently used rockets, known for significantly reducing launch costs through the reuse of its first-stage booster.

- **Developed by SpaceX** to carry satellites, cargo spacecraft, and astronauts into orbit.
- **Two-stage rocket** powered by **Merlin engines**, with a reusable **first-stage booster**.
- **First launched in 2010** and has completed hundreds of successful missions.
- **Supports missions** for NASA, commercial customers, and international space agencies.
- **Launches the Dragon spacecraft** for cargo and crew missions to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- **Can place payloads into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO), and interplanetary trajectories.**
- **Known for reusability**, allowing the first-stage booster to land and be flown again, reducing the cost of space missions.

What is Space Debris?

Space debris, also known as **space junk**, refers to **non-functional human-made objects** left in space after completing their missions. These objects continue to orbit the Earth or travel through deep space, posing risks to **satellites, spacecraft, astronauts, and future space exploration.**

- **Non-Functional Objects:** Includes inactive satellites, discarded rocket stages, and spacecraft fragments that no longer serve any purpose.
- **Sources of Debris:** Created by satellite failures, rocket launches, accidental collisions, explosions, and anti-satellite (ASAT) tests.
- **High-Speed Movement:** Debris travels at extremely high speeds, making even small fragments capable of causing significant damage.
- **Threat to Space Missions:** It can collide with operational satellites, spacecraft, and the International Space Station, disrupting missions.
- **Environmental Concern:** Increasing debris raises the risk of **Kessler Syndrome**, where collisions generate even more debris.
- **Need for Debris Mitigation:** Controlled re-entry, end-of-life disposal plans, and active debris removal technologies help reduce space junk.
- **Global Cooperation:** International coordination and adherence to space debris mitigation guidelines are essential for safe and sustainable space exploration.

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