
**** SITUATION CRITICAL ****

TO: THE U.S. SPECIAL ENGINEERING TASK FORCE ON CATASTROPHIC COLLISIONS

FROM: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MR. HOMER DEBRAVE

**SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL ENGINEERING FORCES FOR SITUATION CRITICAL: ASTROID IMPACT
CODE NAME: *BIG ROCK* CLEARANCE: R-UN-4-YRL-IVES**

DATE: 0600 HOURS, YESTERDAY

**CC: NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, MR. IKE EEPUSAFE
DIRECTOR OF ASTROID RESEARCH, MS. I.C. STARRZ**

Ladies and Gentleman, on behalf of the American people, I hereby call you to action to address a serious matter of National Security. An asteroid with a 1.6-kilometer (one mile) diameter is headed straight for earth. NASA does not know its exact impact location; however, they do believe it will impact somewhere in North America. NASA scientists project that the asteroid will impact earth in approximately 13 months. Time is critical - you have just two weeks to design a solution.

Scientists and engineers have modeled the asteroid's impact and expect it will produce an enormous crater – even bigger than the Barringer crater in Arizona (shown here). The immediate area around the impact location will experience severe damage. In addition, a dust cloud will form and produce a worldwide winter for a year or more. All humans will need to be sheltered below ground.



Image courtesy of USGS

I am tasking you with the ultimate assignment – design a system of underground caverns to house people and necessary supplies to save the people of the state of Alabraska until this pending natural disaster has passed.

As engineers, I know you are well qualified and will use science, math and common sense to save the millions of people at risk. In addition, rock samples and detailed maps of the State of Alabraska have been sent by messenger to your attention. This project will require considerable team effort – Good Luck!