

Shuttle safety

The task force overseeing NASA's resumption of shuttle flights concludes that the space agency has failed to meet the toughest safety recommendations put in place after the Columbia disaster. NASA has complied with 12 of the 15 recommendations considered essential for return to flight

1 NASA has been unable to eliminate possibility of dangerous pieces of foam and ice from breaking off external fuel tank and striking shuttle at liftoff

2 NASA does not have clear idea of all the potential threats from ice

3 NASA still lacks practical way to fix holes and other damage caused by launch debris while in space