

Planet-killing asteroid to miss Earth

A “potentially hazardous” asteroid the size of Midtown Manhattan is large enough to destroy the Earth if it collided with our planet

■ **Near Earth Object (NEO):** Small object in Solar System whose orbit brings it into proximity with Earth – closest approach to Sun is less than **195m km**

■ **Potentially Hazardous Object (PHO):** NEO that comes within less than **7.5 million km** of Earth and is greater than **140 metres** in size

April 29, 2020: Asteroid 1998 OR₂ passes by Earth at distance of **6.2m km**

Asteroid orbit: Takes **3 years and 8 months** to orbit sun, travelling away nearly as far as **Jupiter**

Effect of largest estimated size of 1998 OR₂ over New York City*

1998: First seen from **Haleakala Observatory, Hawaii**

As of Mar 2020, **1,955 of 22,261** known near-Earth asteroids are regarded as potentially hazardous

4.1km wide

1.8

Estimated size range of Asteroid 1998 OR₂

*Artist's concept of near-Earth object

Sources: Space.com, NASA, Astronomy Now

Pictures: Apple Maps, NASA

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