

January 15

Jim Oberg advises

1. With the crash of the Fobos-Grunt probe only hours away, I've attached several websites that are providing both official and unofficial updates, see para 6 .
2. Consensus is for hitting the atmosphere about 1 PM EST, plus minus an hour or so. Some experts expect it to last an hour or two later.
3. It may take hours more to confirm it's no longer in orbit, and to collect eyewitness reports [and videos], AND to filter out pranks and misinterpretations.
4. Maps of the ground track in danger are available in the list of websites. North America is NOT in any of them -- we're clear.
5. Yesterday afternoon's advisory attached at end.
6. Here are the sites offering best insights, which I will be monitoring.

Private space discussion thread, very well-informed contributors

**input~2** // jan15/1204

<http://forum.nasaspaceflight.com/index.php?topic=27593.new>

Latest USSTRATCOM predicted interval: 1611 to 1835 UTC

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<http://www.spaceflight101.com/phobos-grunt-re-entry-information.html>

January 15, 2012 - 13:30 UTC:

Current Orbit: 123x140km      Inclination: 51.417°      Period: 87.2 min

Re-Entry Predictions:

Spaceflight101: January 15, 2012 - 17:54 UTC +/- 60 Minutes

USSTRATCOM: January 15, 2012 - 16:11 to 18:35 UTC

Harro Zimmer: January 15, 2012 - 18:02 UTC +/- 24 Minutes

Ted Molczan #1: January 15, 2012 - 16:37 UTC +/- 90 Minutes

Ted Molczan #2: January 15, 2012 - 20:07 +/- 129 Minutes

Aerospace Corp.: January 15, 2012 - 19:21 UTC +/- 03 Hours

Roscosmos: January 15, 2012 - 18:53 UTC +/- 130 Minutes

See also <http://www.spaceflight101.com/phobos-grunt-entry-blog.html>

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Зомби. Просто Зомби Янв 15, 2012 16:57 [In Russian]

<http://www.novosti-kosmonavtiki.ru/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=10631&postdays=0&postorder=asc&start=12945&sid=16fb344924f083ffd2a9a4fdb8fb6427>

Россия 24. Падение обломков Фобос-Грунт ожидается после 20:30

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<http://celestrak.com/events/reentry/phobos-grunt.asp>

### **Latest PHOBOS-GRUNT Reentry Prediction**

Updated 2012 Jan 15 11:00:34 UTC

Using the latest TLE data for PHOBOS-GRUNT, together with the Lifetime tool in STK, the current estimated reentry date/time is now 2012 Jan 17 16:05:35 UTC.

The latest decay prediction from USSTRATCOM (available in the Current Decay Predictions (From TIP Messages) section of the Space Track web site) shows an estimated reentry date/time of N/A (no estimate is currently available). NOTE: It appears that USSTRATCOM will not be issuing any specific reentry predictions for this event, choosing instead to only issue a reentry time span—unlike any other reentry prediction currently or previously issued on Space Track.

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MSNBC discussion:

[http://technology-science.newsvine.com/\\_news/2012/01/14/10158081-experts-count-down-to-doomed-russian-probes-last-hours?pc=25&sp=25#discussion\\_nav](http://technology-science.newsvine.com/_news/2012/01/14/10158081-experts-count-down-to-doomed-russian-probes-last-hours?pc=25&sp=25#discussion_nav)

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

**PHOBOS-GRUNT RE-ENTRY TODAY:** Russia's malfunctioning Mars probe, Phobos-Grunt, will re-enter the atmosphere today, creating a brilliant fireball over a still-unknown part of Earth. Best estimates [[http://satobs.org/seesat\\_ref/phsrm/Fobos-Grunt\\_decay\\_estimates\\_v10.pdf](http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/phsrm/Fobos-Grunt_decay_estimates_v10.pdf)] of the re-entry time range from 1700 UT to 2200 UT on Jan. 15th. The Aerospace Corporation has published some possible ground tracks [<http://reentrynews.aero.org/2011065a.html>].