

VIJAY  
JYOTISH

Proven Success: The Record Speaks

# Case Studies: Launch Advisories

**CONFIDENTIAL**

April 17, 2026 1:33 PM

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# SpaceX Starship 2

## Background

On November 10, 2023, SpaceX announced that Starship was preparing for an integrated flight test as early as November 17, pending regulatory approval. Three days later, on November 13, Elon Musk quoted the post, indicating that approval could come in time for a Friday launch attempt. The launch window was subsequently moved to Saturday, November 18, 2023, with liftoff scheduled for 7:00 a.m. CST from the Boca Chica facility in Texas.

## Advisory Issued

On November 12, 2023, at 10:11 p.m., a direct message was sent to Elon Musk asking for the targeted launch time and stating that the Starship might go down in flames.

On November 16, 2023, Elon Musk posted an update that the launch had been postponed to Saturday due to the need to replace a grid fin actuator. The launch window was set to open at 7:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Boca Chica facility in Texas. At 7:04 p.m. on November 16, a public advisory was issued warning that the chosen 7:00 a.m. CST launch window on November 18 did not support success and that the mission would most likely experience a catastrophic failure.

## Outcome

Starship IFT-2 launched on November 18, 2023, at 7:02 a.m. CST. The vehicle cleared the launch tower and achieved stage separation. Shortly afterward, the Super Heavy booster experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly. The Starship upper stage continued firing for several minutes before it was also lost.

## Elon Musk's Post-Flight Acknowledgment

On January 12, 2024, during a company update with SpaceX employees, Elon Musk reflected on the flight:

"So, Flight 2 actually almost made it to orbit. In fact, if it had a payload, it would have made it to orbit. But the reason it didn't quite make it was because we vented the liquid oxygen and that ultimately led to fire and an explosion."

## FAA Mishap Investigation Report

On February 26, 2024, the FAA released its detailed mishap investigation report. The report described how the vehicle appeared on track after a successful ascent until approximately 13:09:55 UTC, when the planned liquid oxygen dump began. What should have been a routine operation turned into a cascade of failures: sudden explosions erupted, fires ignited on board, and communication between the forward and aft flight computers was lost. The autonomous flight safety system executed a flight termination command at 13:10:55 UTC, destroying the vehicle in a fiery inferno. The booster disintegrated midair, leaving behind a trail of flames and wreckage.

## Accuracy of the Advisory

The advisory, issued more than 24 hours before liftoff, correctly identified the selected launch window as carrying a high probability of catastrophic failure. The forecast specifically warned that the mission would most likely "go down in flames," which aligned with the rapid unscheduled disassembly of the booster and subsequent loss of the upper stage.



## Value Delivered

This case demonstrates the ability of independent launch timing intelligence to identify high-risk windows well in advance of terminal count. By providing early warning of timing-specific vulnerabilities, the service offers launch providers and payload customers an additional layer of decision support that can help reduce the probability of costly anomalies, protect mission objectives, and minimize financial and reputational exposure.

### Exhibit-1:

#### [Initial Outreach to Elon Musk](#)

**Elon Musk** @elonmusk · Nov 13, 2023  
Was just informed that approval to launch should happen in time for a Friday launch

**SpaceX** @SpaceX · Nov 10, 2023  
Starship preparing to launch as early as November 17, pending final regulatory approval → [spacex.com/launches](https://spacex.com/launches)

**Vijay Jyotish - International** @vijayjyotish  
Good evening Elon. What is the targeted launch time? It appears that the Starship might go down in flames. Thanks and have an auspicious evening.

### Exhibit-2:

#### [Sigh of relief when Elon confirms schedule change](#)

**Vijay Jyotish - International** @vijayjyotish  
#Starship saved from certain explosion. Will share reading for Saturday Nov 18 launch soon.

**Elon Musk** @elonmusk · Nov 16, 2023  
Replying to @SpaceX  
We need to replace a grid fin actuator, so launch is postponed to Saturday

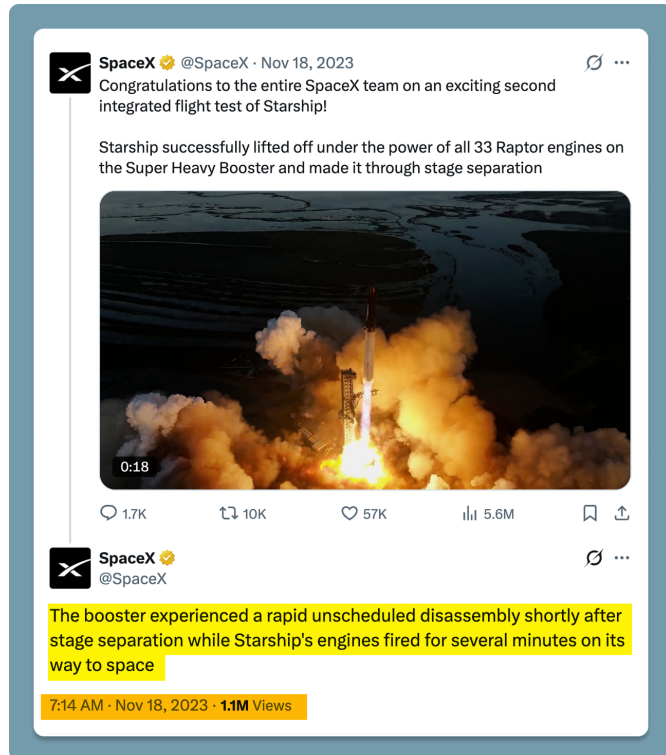
### Exhibit-3:

#### [Forecast for launch on November 18, 2023](#)

**Vijay Jyotish - International** @vijayjyotish  
Good evening Elon. Unfortunately, the chosen launch time of 7 AM CST on November 18 does not promote success for the #StarshipLaunch. It will most likely go down in flames. Thanks and have an auspicious day 🙏

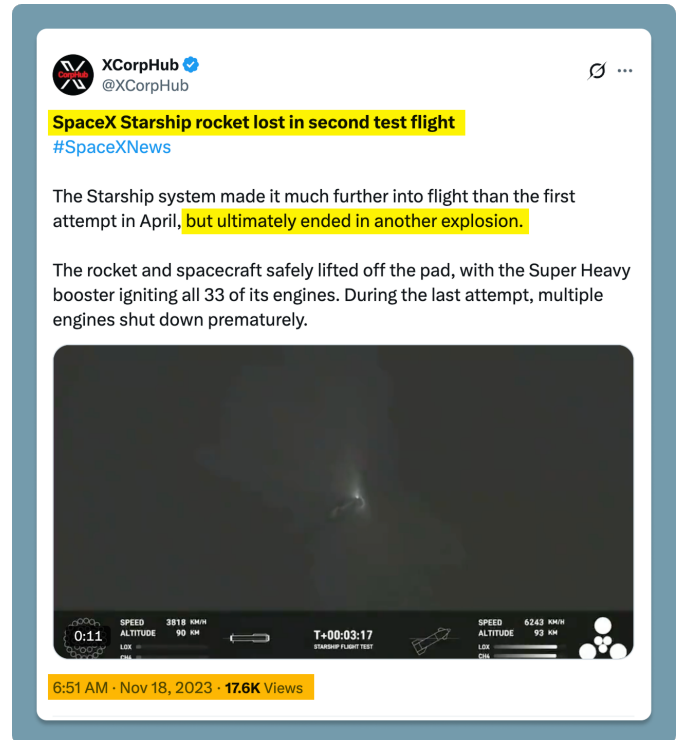
**Elon Musk** @elonmusk · Nov 16, 2023  
Replying to @SpaceX  
We need to replace a grid fin actuator, so launch is postponed to Saturday

**Exhibit-4:**  
[SpaceX confirms RUD and forecasted outcome](#)



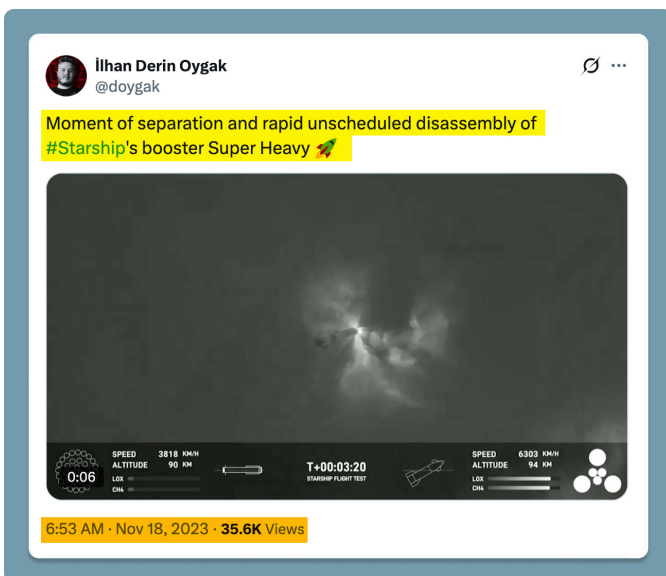
Twitter post from SpaceX (@SpaceX) dated Nov 18, 2023. The text reads: "Congratulations to the entire SpaceX team on an exciting second integrated flight test of Starship!" and "Starship successfully lifted off under the power of all 33 Raptor engines on the Super Heavy Booster and made it through stage separation". The video shows the Starship rocket launching at night. Engagement: 1.7K comments, 10K retweets, 57K likes, 5.6M views. A yellow highlight at the bottom states: "The booster experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly shortly after stage separation while Starship's engines fired for several minutes on its way to space".

**Exhibit-6:**  
[Snippet video showing catastrophic explosion](#)



Twitter post from XCorpHub (@XCorpHub) dated Nov 18, 2023. The title is "SpaceX Starship rocket lost in second test flight" with the hashtag #SpaceXNews. The text says: "The Starship system made it much further into flight than the first attempt in April, but ultimately ended in another explosion." and "The rocket and spacecraft safely lifted off the pad, with the Super Heavy booster igniting all 33 of its engines. During the last attempt, multiple engines shut down prematurely." The video shows a bright explosion in the night sky. Engagement: 17.6K views. A yellow highlight at the bottom states: "6:51 AM - Nov 18, 2023 - 17.6K Views".

**Exhibit-5:**  
[Detailed video showing catastrophic explosion](#)



Twitter post from Ilhan Derin Oygak (@doygak) dated Nov 18, 2023. The text reads: "Moment of separation and rapid unscheduled disassembly of #Starship's booster Super Heavy". The video shows a detailed view of the booster exploding. Engagement: 35.6K views. A yellow highlight at the bottom states: "6:53 AM - Nov 18, 2023 - 35.6K Views".


**Exhibit-7:**  
[Anecdotal evidence from social media affirming a supernova-like explosion](#)



Twitter post from Liz Amill (@sotexsis) dated Dec 9, 2023. The text reads: "I saw a video of the explosion taken by a friend who was watching; it took my breath away. It was unnerving, too much like a supernova." Engagement: 530 views. A yellow highlight at the bottom states: "1:22 PM - Dec 9, 2023 - 530 Views".

## Exhibit-8:

### [Elon Musk admits root cause for failure of Starship 2 in company meeting](#)


 **Vijay Jyotish - International** @vijayjyotish

Elon Musk @elonmusk says that **venting the liquid oxygen ultimately led to fire and an explosion** in the Starship 2 Launch.

For all those claiming that this was either "scheduled" or "controlled" or that "everybody knew it was going to happen anyway", please hear it from the honorable Elon Musk himself. It was a **"fire"** and **"explosion"** in his own words. I guess **"flames"** are integral to both.

Can we remove the silly @CommunityNotes now, if there is any common sense left? Thanks!


Here's the original source and complete video of Elon's talk from @SpaceX: [x.com/SpaceX/status/...](https://x.com/SpaceX/status/...)



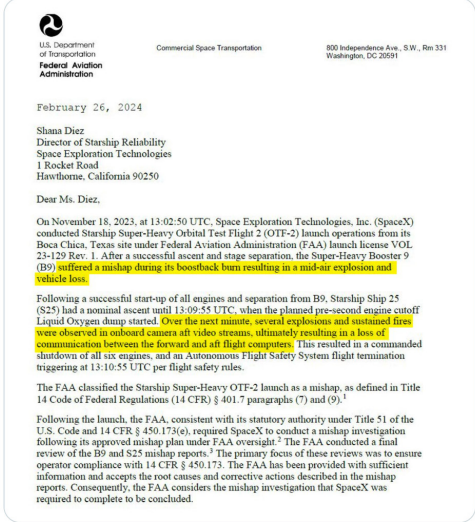
6:09 PM · Jan 12, 2024 · 341 Views

## Exhibit-9:

### [FAA Mishap Report for SpaceX Starship 2](#)

 **Vijay Jyotish - International** @vijayjyotish

Here is the official letter from the FAA stating that the @SpaceX Starship 2 "Super-Heavy Booster 9 (B9) suffered a **mishap during its boostback burn resulting in a mid-air explosion and vehicle loss**". Hmm... did someone tell you this would happen in advance of the launch?



8:26 AM · Feb 27, 2024 · 399 Views

# Blue Origin New Shepard NS-24

# ULA Vulcan Cert-1 + NASA/Astrobotic Lunar Lander Peregrine

# SpaceX Falcon 9: Axiom 3 Mission

# SpaceX Starship 3

# SpaceX Falcon 9: ISRO GSAT-N2

# SpaceX Falcon 9: Axiom 4 Mission

# NASA-ISRO NISAR

# ISRO GSLV Mark III + GSAT Navy Satellite

# NASA Artemis II

# Blue Origin New Glenn 3 + AST Spacemobile BlueBird Block2 FM2