

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** **ACCIDENTS IN SPACE**  
[TV-PG] [CC] [Stereo]

**LENGTH:** 1/49

**NOLA CODE:** ACIS

**CATEGORY:** Documentary

**OFFERED:** Spring 2007 Teleconference, page S29

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** June 30, 2007

**CONTRACT TERMS:** Four releases to be completed by June 29, 2009. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

**PROGRAM SUPPLIER:** BBC Worldwide Americas

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** **ACCIDENTS IN SPACE** examines in compelling detail what went wrong and why in each catastrophe, or near-catastrophe that has occurred since the American and Russian space programs were established. It is the "black box" of space accidents, showing the unfortunate chains of events that led to death, destruction or heart-stopping near misses, such as the time Apollo 12 was struck twice by lightning as it launched. Using rare archive film and powerful and chilling testimony, **ACCIDENTS IN SPACE** looks beyond the horrors of the Challenger explosion, Apollo 13 and the fire on Apollo 1 to examine the unreported and the unknown.

**PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:** Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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**BROADCAST HISTORY:**

Aired on Discovery Channel.

**RELATED MERCHANDISE:**

Home Video is **NOT** available.

Pledge: If you are interested in pledging this program and need assistance with premiums, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

**VIEWER CONTACT:**

[www.bbcprograms.com](http://www.bbcprograms.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT:**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **APT's ACCIDENTS IN SPACE Explores the Glorious and Dangerous Fascination with the Final Frontier**

*"If we die, we want people to accept it. We're in a risky business, and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the program. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life."*

-Gus Grissom

On July 20, 1969, the world watched — awestruck — as Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. What had previously seemed only possible in science fiction became a reality. But “this giant leap for mankind” did not come without a heavy price. **ACCIDENTS IN SPACE**, a chilling documentary airing on public television stations nationwide beginning June 30, 2007 (check local listings), chronicles humans’ risky and often rushed attempts to conquer space and analyzes the resulting accidents that have killed over 100 astronauts and cosmonauts to date.

In the 1960s, America and Russia were entrenched in the Space Race — both countries driven to be the first to land a man on the moon and thereby claim technological superiority. Russia strived for the moon in secret with clandestine cosmonaut trainings and missions, while America made television events of its efforts and household names of its astronauts. Their approaches may have differed, but ultimately both sides made fatal errors that still bear investigation and introspection.

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**ACCIDENTS IN SPACE** combines moving testimony from surviving astronauts and engineers with rare archive film to produce a documentary detailing the human sacrifices made in the quest to conquer the final frontier. Coverage of the '60s Space Race tragedies and modern day accidents, such as the Apollo 12 lightning incident and the Challenger explosion, remind viewers of the tremendous danger and bravery inherent in every space mission.

**ACCIDENTS IN SPACE**, a chilling “black box” of space accidents, provides viewers with many explanations and much to consider.

**ACCIDENTS IN SPACE**, a BBC/Travel Channel co-production, produced by Chris Hale, was acquired from BBC Worldwide by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

**About American Public Television**

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs and classic movies. Press should contact Faye Pantazopoulos at 617-338-4455 ext. 127 or email [Faye\\_Pantazopoulos@APTonline.org](mailto:Faye_Pantazopoulos@APTonline.org). For more information about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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