

The story

A Dutch astronaut has revealed that he accidentally called the US emergency number while orbiting the Earth aboard the International Space Station.

Speaking on Dutch radio André Kuipers explained that you make a call from space just as if you're at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston by dialling 9 for an outside line, and then 011 for an international call. But he said it's naturally trickier while floating around in space and he must have dialled 911 by mistake.

Vocabulary**astronomical**

extremely large, enormous

- Compared to 20 years ago, the cost of a train ticket is astronomical!
- The country has struggled for the last decade with astronomical debt.

sparks panic

causes strong fear

- A sudden rise in oil prices often sparks panic among drivers.
- Alien spaceships arriving from Mars sparked panic.

frenzy

activity which is out of control

- The smell of blood drove the sharks into a violent feeding frenzy.
- Last-minute Christmas shoppers grabbed the final items on the shelves in frenzy.

Language challenge

An ___ is someone who works in space.

- a) astronaut
- b) astronomer
- c) astronought

Answer

b) astronaut