

## Risks Associated with Space Exploration

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### Risks

Human spaceflight is both risky and expensive. From the crash landing of the first manned Soyuz spacecraft in 1967 to the explosion of the shuttle orbiter *Columbia* in 2003, 18 people died during spaceflights. Providing the systems to support people while in orbit adds significant additional costs to a space mission, and ensuring that the launch, flight, and re-entry are carried out as safely as possible also requires highly reliable and thus costly equipment, including both spacecraft and launchers.