

## Re: Plutonium on Next Atlas V – Bad Idea?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2005-08/msg00957.html>

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- *From:* [henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) (Henry Spencer)
  - *Date:* Tue, 16 Aug 2005 15:45:45 GMT
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In article <7in1g111su1ahmf57738e249j6n5nhaeso@xxxxxxx>, Cardman <do-not@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:  
>What has been ignored in this thread so far is that launch failures  
>usually do not involve explosions at all...

Not failures of liquid-fuel systems, no. Failed solids, unfortunately, do have a fairly substantial probability of exploding -- that's one of their major failure modes, as witness a couple of spectacular Titan III/IV launches.

However, a failure down in the strap-ons isn't too likely to do catastrophic damage to a payload on top.

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No, the devil isn't in the details. | Henry Spencer  
The devil is in the \*assumptions\*. | [henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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◇ *From:* Ed Kyle

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