



The SpaceX Starship and Super Heavy v3 Booster auto-aborts at ignition before its 13th test flight from the SpaceX launch complex in Starbase, Texas. STEVE NESIUS/REUTERS

SpaceX Starship launch aborted

Engine fizzles out just before liftoff in Texas

Brooke Edwards
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK

The countdown clock hit T-0. Some engines ignited. Steam surrounded the rocket. But SpaceX’s massive Starship rocket stayed on the pad.

The much anticipated Thursday, July 16 liftoff from Texas was aborted. While a new launch date has not yet been set, it won’t be until next week at the earliest.

“Some of the engines didn’t start, triggering an automatic launch abort. Now offloading propellant,” SpaceX CEO Elon Musk wrote on X shortly after the abort.

The engine visual on the SpaceX webcast showed four out of the 33 Raptor engines on the Super-Heavy booster did not start up.

Musk later updated that two of the Raptor engines would be replaced out of caution.

This 13th Starship test flight from Starbase, Texas, marks the second test overall of the new Starship V3 (Version 3), which is the same model of the ship

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Trump: 2020 election undermined by Chinese



Citing a trove of declassified intelligence documents, President Donald Trump said China tried to undermine the 2020 election by compromising U.S. voter data, with 220 million voter files stolen. SAUL LOEB/POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES



In a video message ahead of President Donald Trump’s address, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, left, said the president’s remarks would be “full of grievances and blatant lies.” House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, right, said in a post on X, “Donald Trump is a feeble, unhinged conspiracy-peddling 80-year-old failed president.”

WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

President’s claim met with lots of skepticism

Phillip M. Bailey and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China, alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

“Every American deserves to know that when they cast their vote, that vote will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure – one where cheating and interference are not just difficult, but virtually impossi-

ble,” he said. “Unfortunately, the system we have today falls catastrophically short of that standard.”

The president said newly declassified documents will show China tried to undermine the 2020 election in several ways, including compromising U.S. voter data. He also said Americans have for years been “blatantly lied to” by the government about the security of election infrastructure, such as voting machines and ballot-counting systems.

“They’re vulnerable and they’re easily compromised, and people within our government knew that,” Trump said.

Yet most of the documents released by the White House did not support the president’s sweeping assertions about “shocking vulnerabilities” in America’s elections.

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WAR

U.S., Iran trade infrastructure attacks

Escalation in fighting pushes oil prices higher

Jana Choukeir and Eman Abouhassira
REUTERS

DUBAI – The United States struck bridges and an airport in Iran on July 17 and Tehran responded by hitting a power and desalination plant in Kuwait, as the warring foes risked further escalation by expanding their targets to include infrastructure.

In the contested Strait of Hormuz, where the renewed conflict has again cut off global energy supplies from the Middle East, U.S. Marines boarded a tanker, and another ship was reported to have been hit by a projectile. Another vessel was boarded by armed men off Yemen, though one maritime security source said the incident appeared to be an act of Somali piracy rather than linked to the war with Iran.

Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. President Donald Trump has threatened to launch broad-based air strikes on Iran’s infrastructure and has also declined to rule out a ground as-



Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/ WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS FILE

sault on Iran’s coast or islands.

U.S. officials have said attacks on southern Iran are designed in part to give Trump options. Such moves risk provoking Iran to escalate in turn by hitting the vital infrastructure of vulnerable neighboring Arab states, or having its allies in Yemen further disrupt global energy supplies by attacking shipping from the Red Sea.

In the latest strikes, the U.S. military’s Central Command included “military logistics infrastructure” in the list of targets it said it had hit, the first time

it has mentioned infrastructure in more than a week.

Iranian state media said at least five bridges had been struck in the south. Seven people were reported killed in attacks on bridges in the southern port of Bandar Khamir, where the train station was also hit. An airport was reported hit further east and away from the coast in Iranshahr, in a province bordering Pakistan.

Reuters could not verify the reports,

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CYCLOSPORIASIS

Officials link Taco Bell lettuce to outbreak

Mike Snider, Sara Moniuszko and Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

Lettuce served at Taco Bell restaurants has been linked to an ongoing cyclosporiasis outbreak that has sickened more than 1,600 people in five states, federal health officials say.

An investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and state health officials has linked shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia to an outbreak of the stomach-churning parasitic infection that causes diarrhea and nausea.

The FDA’s trace-back investigation has identified a single supplier of iceberg lettuce from Mexico used by those Taco Bell locations, the agencies said July 16.

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