

NASA advisers say the SpaceX new technology could put lives at risk

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| <p>Notes & Cues:</p> | <p>Article:</p> <p>When Elon Musk and his team at SpaceX were looking to make their Falcon 9 rocket even more powerful, they came up with a creative idea — keep the propellant at super-cold temperatures to shrink its size, allowing them to pack more of it into the tanks.</p> <p>But the approach comes with a major risk, according to some safety experts. At those extreme temperatures, the propellant would need to be loaded just before takeoff — while astronauts are aboard. An accident, or a spark, during this maneuver, known as "load-and-go, " could set off an explosion.</p> <p>Elon Musk's flare have collided with a bureaucratic system at NASA that has been accused of being overly conservative in the wake of two shuttle disasters that killed 14 astronauts.</p> <p>In a recent speech, Robert Lightfoot, the former acting NASA administrator, lamented in candid terms how the agency, with society as a whole, has become too risk-averse, saying: "I wonder, if Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong would have ever been able to go to the moon in the risk environment we have today."</p> |
| <p>Summary:</p> | |