

An X1.4 Solar Flare and a CME

September 23 2011



This X1.4 class flare was recorded by the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) on the morning of September 22, 2011.

(PhysOrg.com) -- A large coronal mass ejection (CME) shot off the West (right) side of the sun at 6:24 PM ET on September 21, 2011. The CME is moving away from Earth at about 900 miles per second.

The next morning, an X1.4 class flare erupted from the other side of the

sun, peaking at 7:01 AM ET on September 22. The flare came from [sunspot](#) N15E88, which is just moving into view as the sun rotates. This flare has caused elevated [proton](#) levels on the East (left) side of the sun. Associated with this flare, there was a significant CME, traveling at over 600 miles per second, that began around 7:24 AM ET.

What is a solar flare? What is a [coronal mass ejection](#)? For answers to these and other space weather questions, please visit the [Spaceweather Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Provided by JPL/NASA

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