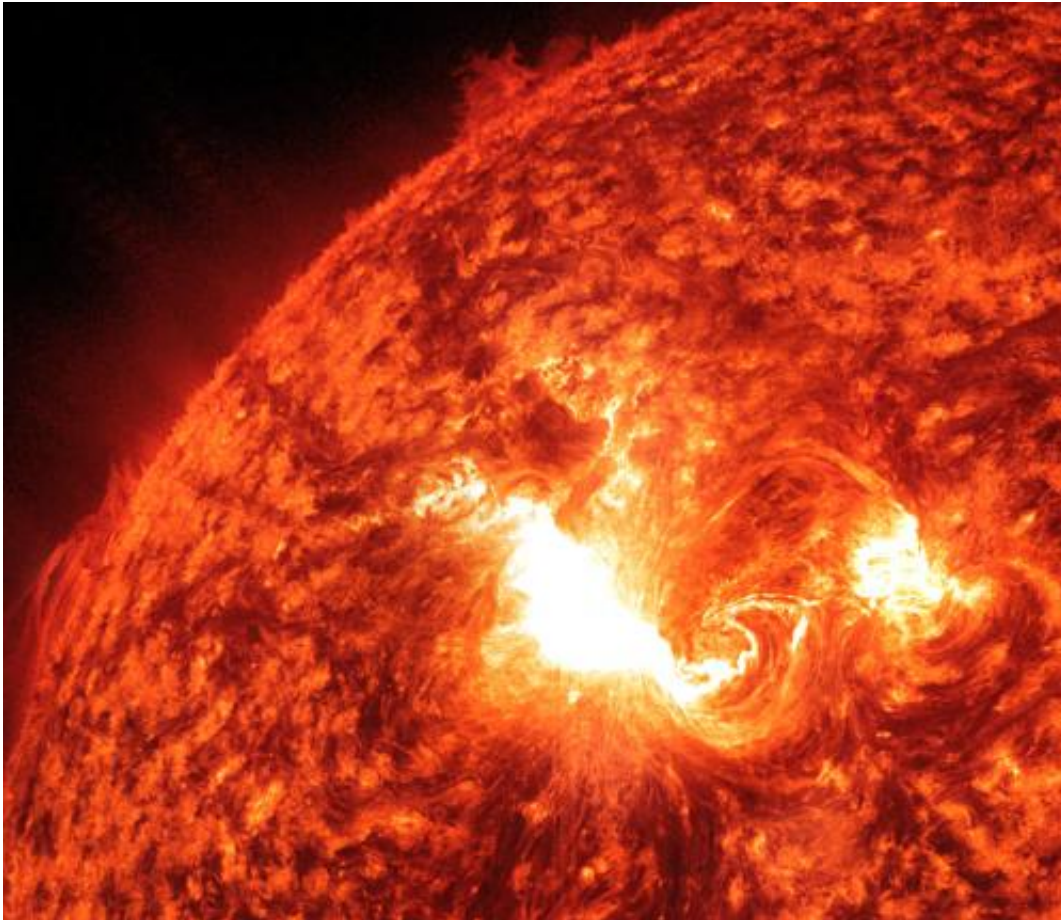


# Sun releases a powerful X5 flare

March 7 2012, by Jason Major

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AR1429 released an X-class flare on March 7 at 00:28 UT. Credit: NASA/SDO

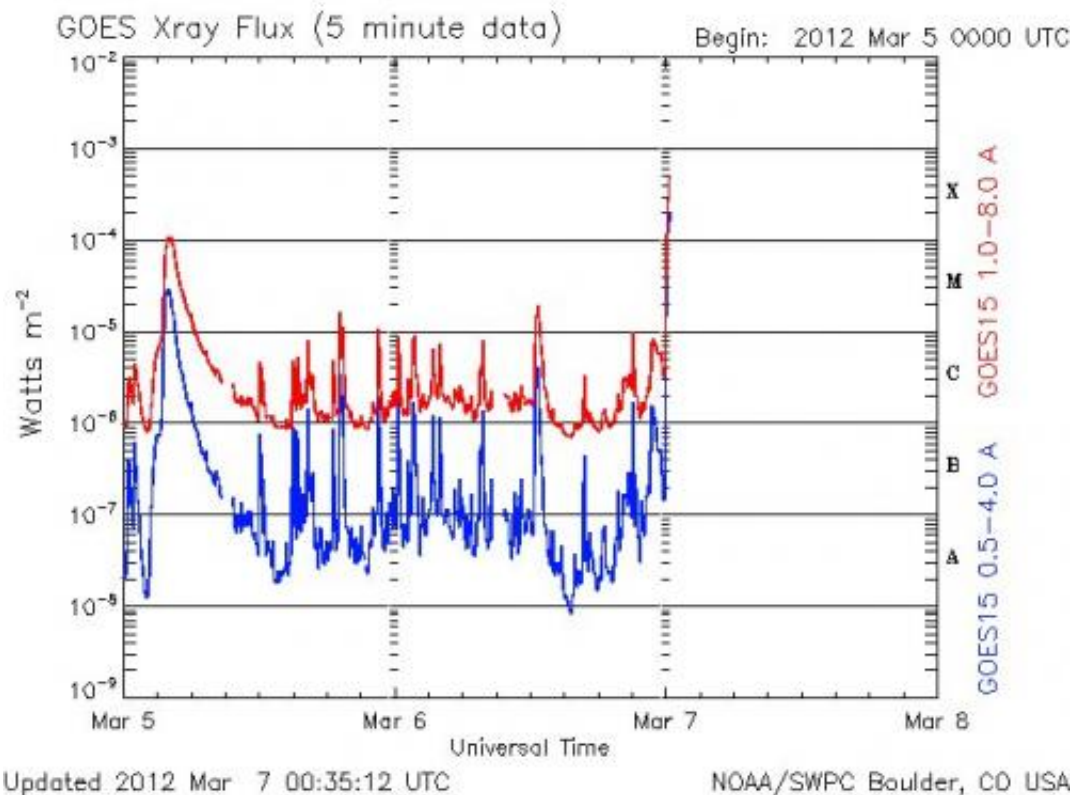
Active Region 1429 unleashed an X5.4-class solar flare early this morning at 00:28 UT, as seen in this image by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (AIA 304). The eruption belched out a large coronal mass ejection (CME) into space but it's not yet known exactly how it will

impact Earth — it may just be a glancing blow.

Solar flares are categorized by a scale according to their x-ray brightness. X is the strongest class, followed by M and then C-class. Within each class the numbers 1 through 9 subdivide the flares' intensity.

A run-in with an X5-class flare is a major geomagnetic event that can cause radio blackouts on [Earth](#) and disrupt satellite operations, as well as intensify auroral activity.

The GOES satellite data for the March 7 flare is below:



The CME is expected to impact Earth sometime on the 8th or 9th. Check back here or at [Spaceweather.com](https://spaceweather.com) for updates on the storm (and any subsequent aurora photos!)

Also, check out the video below, assembled by the SDO team. Just after the X5.4-class flare another smaller X1-class flare occurred, sending a visible wave across the Sun.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

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