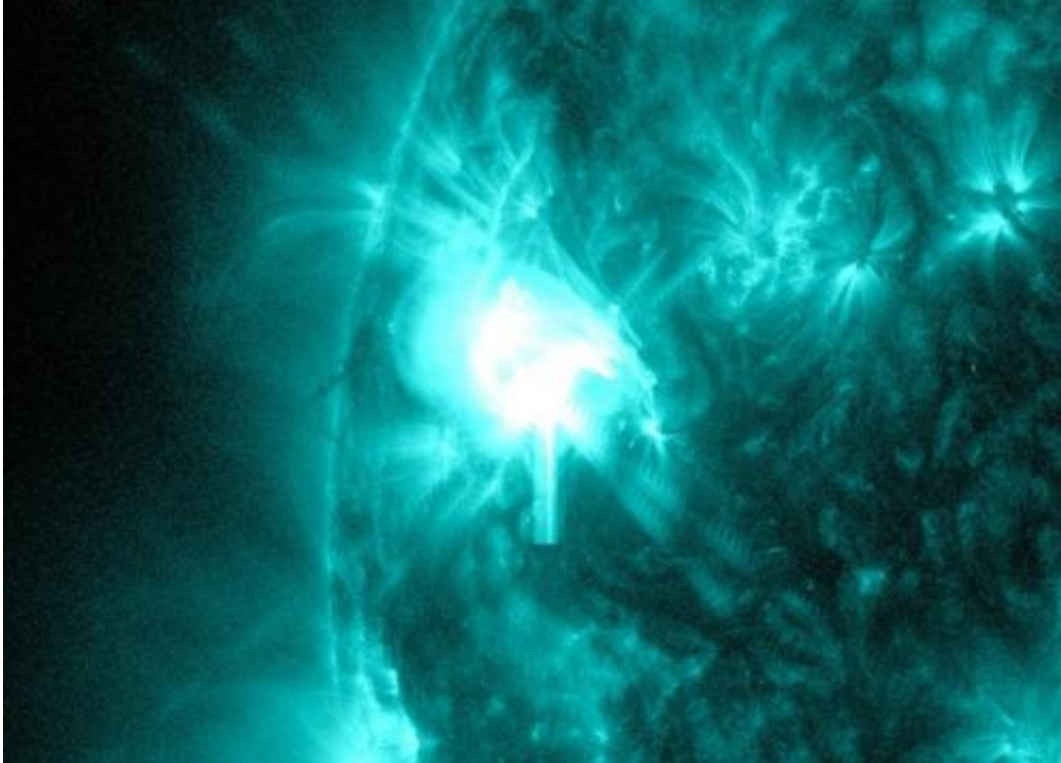


Mid-level solar flare erupts from the Sun

May 8 2014



The bright light on the left side of the sun shows an M5.2-class solar flare in progress on May 8, 2014. This image, captured by NASA's SDO, shows light with a 131 Angstrom wavelength, which highlights the extremely hot material in a solar flare and is typically colored in teal. Credit: NASA/SDO

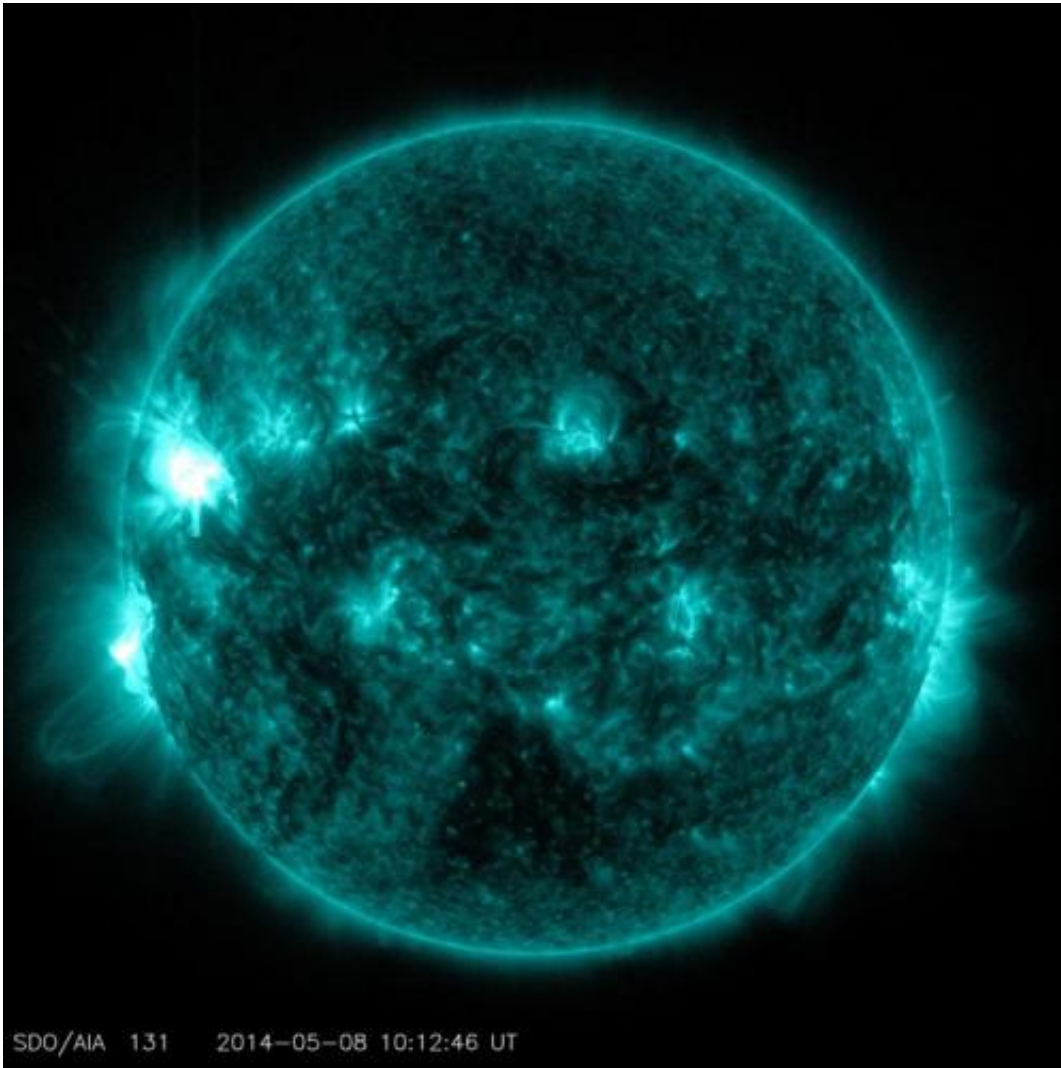
The sun emitted a mid-level solar flare, peaking at 6:07 a.m. EDT on May 8, 2014, and NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, captured images of it.

Solar flares are powerful bursts of radiation.

Harmful radiation from a flare cannot pass through Earth's atmosphere to physically affect humans on the ground, however—when intense enough—they can disturb the atmosphere in the layer where GPS and communications signals travel.

To see how this event may impact Earth, please visit NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center at <http://spaceweather.gov>, the U.S. government's official source for space weather forecasts, alerts, watches and warnings.

This flare is classified as an M5.2-class flare. M [class flares](#) are on the order of a tenth as strong as the most intense flares, the X-class flares.



DO Sees M5.2 Solar Flare: The bright light on the left side of the sun shows an M5.2-class solar flare in progress on May 8, 2014. This image, captured by NASA's SDO, shows light with a 131 Angstrom wavelength, which highlights the extremely hot material in a solar flare and which is typically colorized in teal. Credit: NASA/SDO

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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