

SDO captures images of a mid-level solar flare

March 9 2015



NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory captured an image of a mid-level solar flare on March 7, 2015, seen as a bright flash of light on the left side of the sun. This image is a blend of two wavelengths of light -- 171 and 131 Angstroms - typically colorized in gold and teal, respectively. Credit: NASA/SDO

The sun emitted a mid-level solar flare, peaking at 5:22 pm EST on March 7, 2015. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, which watches

the sun constantly, captured an image of the event. 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 affect 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 M9.2-class flare. M-class flares are a tenth the size of the most intense flares, the X-class flares. The number provides more information about its strength. An M2 is twice as intense as an M1, an M3 is three times as intense, etc.

Updates will be provided as needed.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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