

Faint auroras may be visible in Northern Hemisphere skies after weekend solar storms

August 12 2024, by Adithi Ramakrishnan



The northern lights, or the aurora borealis, appear in the sky over Rat Lake in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories on Thursday, Aug.8, 2024. Credit: Bill Braden /The Canadian Press via AP

[Solar storms](#) persisting from the weekend may produce faint colorful

auroras across the Northern Hemisphere, with little disruption to power and communications, space forecasters said Monday.

The sun has shot out at least five strong solar [flares](#) since Saturday containing clouds of high-energy plasma that can interfere with power grids and scramble GPS signals, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. But no major communication problems have been reported so far, said NOAA spokesperson Erica Grow Cei.

Unusually strong [solar storms](#) in May produced jaw-dropping aurora displays across the Northern Hemisphere. Grow Cei said this event that produced light shows over the weekend will likely be shorter, but may still produce faint auroras as far south in the U.S. as Alabama and Northern California on Monday night.

The [sun's magnetic field](#) is currently at the peak of its 11-year cycle, making storms and aurora displays more frequent.

© 2024 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Faint auroras may be visible in Northern Hemisphere skies after weekend solar storms (2024, August 12) retrieved 13 August 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-08-faint-auroras-visible-northern-hemisphere.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.