

Northern lights take unusual trip down south

25 October 2011, By SETH BORENSTEIN , AP Science Writer

A baffling solar storm pulled colorful northern lights unusually far south, surprising space weather experts.

TV stations in Georgia and Kentucky reported people calling about the sky show Monday night. And NASA posted a photo from Huntsville, Ala. Southerners normally don't get to see the vibrant red and green aurora borealis.

Officials at the federal Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colo., said they were surprised at the southern reach. The center monitors solar storms, which trigger auroras.

[Space weather](#) forecast chief Bob Rutledge said given the size of the [solar storm](#) that occurred last night, the lights probably shouldn't have been visible south of Iowa. Rutledge said the storm was unusual, its effects reaching Earth faster than forecast. The storm caused no damage to technology as it sometimes does.

©2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

APA citation: Northern lights take unusual trip down south (2011, October 25) retrieved 2 December 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-northern-unusual-south.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.