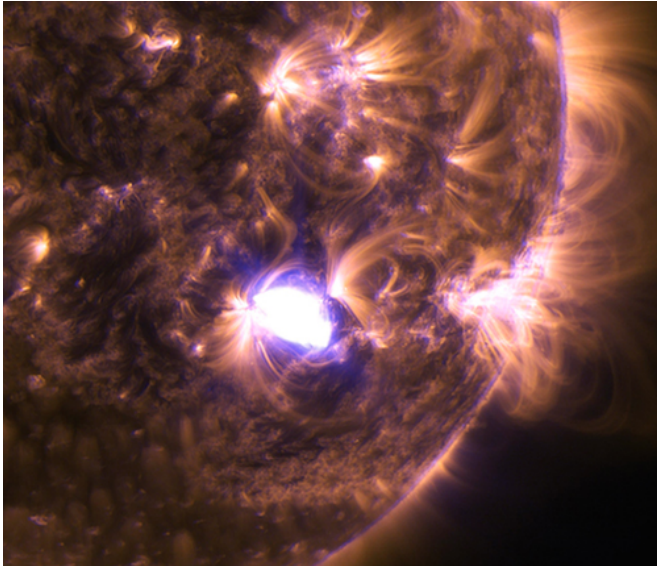


# Sun emits mid-level flare on Dec. 4, 2014

4 December 2014



This flare is classified as an M6.1-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.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

The sun emitted a solar flare on Dec. 4, 2014, seen as the flash of light in this image from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. The image blends two wavelengths of extreme ultraviolet light -- 131 and 171 Angstroms -- which are typically colored in teal and gold, respectively. Credit: NASA/SDO

On Dec. 4, 2014, the sun emitted a mid-level solar flare, peaking at 1:25 p.m. EST.

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.

APA citation: Sun emits mid-level flare on Dec. 4, 2014 (2014, December 4) retrieved 12 November 2019 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-12-sun-emits-mid-level-flare-dec.html>

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