

Will a severe solar storm affect power grids?

The sun is near the peak of its current 11-year cycle, sparking all the recent solar activity. A severe solar storm is headed to Earth that could stress power grids even more as the U.S. deals with major back-to-back hurricanes, space weather forecasters said Wednesday.

Will a severe solar storm affect power grids in 2024?

Stay up to date: Follow AP's live coverage of Hurricane Milton and the 2024 hurricane season. CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) -- A severe solar storm is headed to Earth that could stress power grids even more as the U.S. deals with major back-to-back hurricanes, space weather forecasters said Wednesday.

Is a solar storm heading to Earth?

This photo provided by NASA, taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory, shows a solar flare, the bright flash in the center of the image on Oct. 3, 2024. CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- A severe solar storm is headed to Earth that could stress power grids even more as the U.S. deals with major back-to-back hurricanes, space weather forecasters said Wednesday.

How does a power grid respond to a solar storm?

How a power grid responds to a powerful solar storm is primarily a function of three factors, Love said. The first is the intensity and locality of the storm itself; the second is the geological responsiveness of the minerals in any region to electrical activity in the atmosphere.

Can a solar storm prevent power outages?

A new study about solar-induced power outages in the U.S. electric grid finds that a few key regions--a portion of the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard--appear to be more vulnerable than others. The good news is that a few preventative measures could drastically reduce the damage done when a solar storm hits Earth.

What happens if a storm hits a power grid?

While the extreme storms create conditions for the lights to expand far away from the poles, those conditions can disrupt electrical power grids and cause blackouts and degrade satellite communications and navigation systems. A similar event in 2003 knocked out power in parts of Sweden and damaged electrical transformers in South Africa.



The source of the solar storm is a cluster of sunspots on the sun's surface that is 16 times the diameter of the earth. The spots are filled with tangled magnetic fields that can act as slingshots



Planet Earth is getting rocked by the biggest solar storm in decades ??? and the potential effects have those people in charge of power grids, communications systems and satellites on edge. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says there have been measurable effects and impacts from the geomagnetic storm that has been visible as



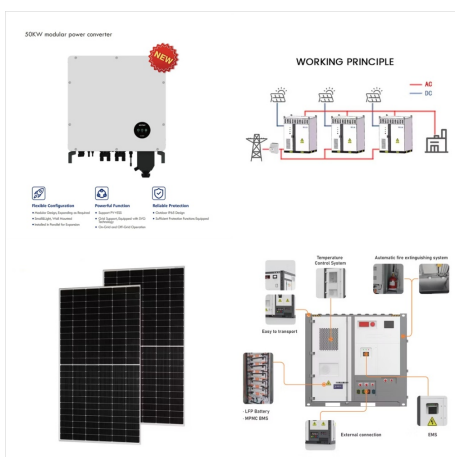
A severe solar storm is headed to Earth that could stress power grids even more as the U.S. deals with major back-to-back hurricanes, space weather forecasters said Wednesday. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a severe geomagnetic storm watch for Thursday into Friday after an outburst from the sun was detected earlier



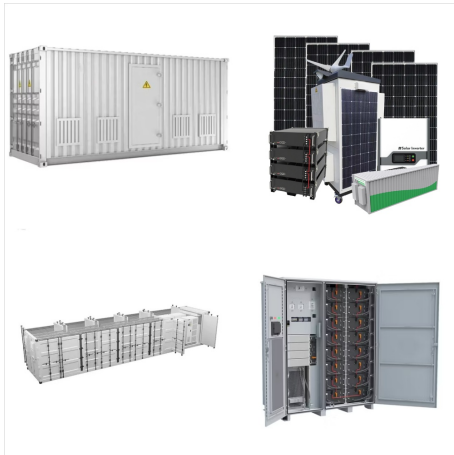
A geomagnetic storm lit up the night sky in parts of the U.S. during the first weekend in October. South Africa's National Space Agency (Sansa) told reporters that the storm had originated from a



Here is how solar storms' power compares to big terrestrial phenomena: The power of solar storms taking down the entire Quebec power grid and knocking out 6 million people's electricity



The severe solar storm, initially classified as a level 4 on a scale from 1 to 5, also could disrupt communications, the power grid and satellite operations, according to officials at the center.



The geomagnetic storm causing this event is believed to be the result of two separate events known as coronal mass ejections (CME) on March 10 and 12, 1989. [2] A few days before, on March 6, a very large X15-class solar flare also occurred. [3] Several days later, at 01:27 UT on March 13, a severe geomagnetic storm struck Earth. [4] [5] The storm began on Earth with ???



Solar storm bombarding Earth now may reach "extreme" levels, sparking auroras down to Alabama and straining hurricane-weakened power grids On Tuesday night (Oct. 8), the sunspot AR 3848 produced a



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Update ??? May 11, 2024 at 3:15 PM EDT. A series of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) originating from sunspot Region 3664 are expected to merge and reach Earth by midday (UTC) on May 12, 2023, causing another large geomagnetic ???



(NEXSTAR) ??? As of Wednesday morning, Earth is being hit by a strong solar radiation storm event that will be followed by a geomagnetic storm, space weather officials say. It's all thanks to an



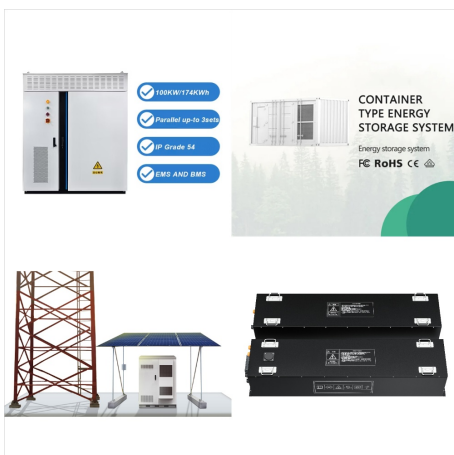
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However, solar storm or geomagnetic disturbance events have demonstrated their ability to disrupt the normal operations of the power grid. The most recent example in North America occurred in March 1989, when a GMD led to the collapse of the Hydro Quebec system, leaving more than six million people without power for nine hours.



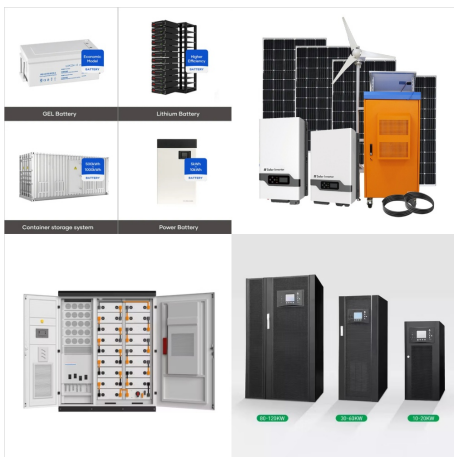
"Stay tuned, more to come," he said. This was the third severe geomagnetic storm since the current 11-year solar cycle began in 2019, according to NOAA. The agency expects the cycle to peak in 2024. For those down under, the southern lights should provide equally good shows, Murtagh said.



During a solar storm, energized particles from the sun slam into Earth's atmosphere at speeds of up to 45 million mph (72 million kph) and our planet's magnetic field funnels the particles toward the poles.



At that point, the solar storm forecasters could analyze the structure of the coronal mass ejection and issue more specific warnings. In May, the center started talking with power grid operators



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Update ??? May 11, 2024 at 3:15 PM EDT. A series of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) originating from sunspot Region 3664 are expected to merge and reach Earth by midday (UTC) on May 12, 2023, causing another large geomagnetic solar storm and producing auroras across the continental United States.. These CMEs, associated with recent flare activity, are likely to ???



Geomagnetic storms have been recorded since the early 19th century, and scientific data from Antarctic ice core samples has shown evidence of an even more massive geomagnetic storm that occurred around 774 CE, now known as the Miyake Event. That solar flare produced the largest and fastest rise in carbon-14 ever recorded.