

## AT-A-GLANCE: SPACE WEATHER

### What is Space Weather?

Space weather refers to variations in the space environment between the sun and Earth (and throughout the solar system) that can affect technologies in space and on Earth.

### Preparing for a Space Weather Event

#### Before:

- ❖ Prepare for the potential loss of electrical power by building an emergency kit and making a family communications plan. More information at <https://www.weather.gov/safety/space-before>.

#### During:

- ❖ The actual storm can last anywhere from minutes to hours, but the resulting impacts can last for hours to weeks or longer.
- ❖ Follow energy conservation measures to minimize use of electricity, which can help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts during periods when the power grid is compromised.
- ❖ Follow the Emergency Alert System instructions carefully.
- ❖ Restrict phone usage to emergency situations only to keep lines open for emergency personnel and improve their response time.

#### After:

- ❖ Listen to Local Officials
- ❖ Follow emergency plans for your area
- ❖ Monitor emergency broadcast radios for updates
- ❖ Inventory supplies and replenish for future use



### FUN FACTS ABOUT THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

- ❖ Also known as Aurora Borealis
- ❖ Occur during geomagnetic storms when charged particles impact the Earth's upper atmosphere
- ❖ Typically green, purple, red, or blue
- ❖ Can be seen from Space
- ❖ Usually, it is only visible in the far northern region but during the largest geomagnetic storm ever recorded in 1859, the Aurora was visible in El Salvador!
- ❖ Near the South Pole, it is called the Southern Lights or Aurora Australis

