



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2023

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COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM



Large Solar Flares and The Risk of Earth-Bound EMP Blasts

As our Sun journeys through its approximately 11-year solar cycle, it experiences phases of increased and decreased solar activity. We are rapidly approaching the phase known as the "solar maximum," during which the number of sunspots and, consequently, solar flares reach their peak. Predicted to occur in the mid-2020s, this next solar maximum has captured the attention of scientists and policymakers alike due to the increased risk of Earth-bound electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events.

Solar flares, often associated with sunspots, are powerful bursts of radiation. When these energetic outbursts are directed towards Earth, they can cause geomagnetic storms, triggering the Earth's magnetic field to fluctuate wildly. These fluctuations, in turn, create rapidly changing electric fields in the Earth's atmosphere, essentially producing an EMP.

An EMP event poses a significant threat to our technologically reliant world, mainly due to its potential impact on electrical and electronic systems. The induced electric currents can overload circuits, causing system failures and widespread blackouts, not dissimilar to an unseen, silent lightning storm targeting our infrastructure.

Continued on next page

A solar-induced EMP, or solar storm, can have catastrophic consequences on a global scale. The most significant danger lies in its potential to disrupt power grids. The overloading and potential failure of transformers, which are critical components of the power grid, can result in large-scale blackouts that last for months or even years. As modern society is highly dependent on electricity, the knock-on effects would be catastrophic, disrupting every facet of life from communication and transportation to healthcare and food production.

The biggest solar storm on record, known as the Carrington Event of 1859, offers a small glimpse of what a full-scale solar EMP could do. It induced widespread failures in telegraph systems, the most advanced technology at the time, and caused auroras visible as far south as the Caribbean. If a similar event were to occur today, with our deeply ingrained reliance on technology, the results would be profoundly more devastating.

Satellites, which serve a pivotal role in communications, weather monitoring, GPS systems, and numerous other functions, are also at great risk. A large solar flare can cause serious damage to the delicate electronics aboard these satellites, rendering them nonfunctional. The loss of satellites would disrupt global communications, hinder weather prediction, incapacitate navigation systems, and more, presenting significant challenges to both daily life and national security.

Moreover, the intense radiation from a solar storm threatens astronauts' safety in space. Despite the shielding technologies used in spacecraft and space stations, a powerful enough solar flare could still put the lives of astronauts in jeopardy, making interplanetary travel and future space colonization efforts significantly riskier.

Yet, it's not all doom and gloom. Scientists and engineers are working tirelessly to develop early warning systems and protective measures against such events. The first line of defense is improved monitoring and prediction of solar flares, giving us a better chance to prepare and respond. Power companies can "harden" their equipment to make it less susceptible to EMP events, while satellite operators can put their spacecraft into "safe mode" during a predicted solar storm.

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In conclusion, large solar flares and their potential to trigger EMP events on Earth present a substantial threat to our technologically driven civilization. However, understanding this threat allows us to work towards more resilient systems and improved countermeasures. As our knowledge and technology continue to advance, so too will our ability to protect our world from these celestial perils.

For everyday people, preparation is key. Here are some steps individuals can take to mitigate the effects of a significant solar storm:

- 1. Stay Informed: Follow credible space weather forecasting sites or apps to stay updated on solar activity.**
- 2. Prepare a Basic Emergency Kit: In case of prolonged power outages, it's wise to have a kit that includes essentials like water, non-perishable food, batteries, a flashlight, a manual can opener, and a battery-powered radio.**
- 3. Backup Important Data: Regularly back up essential electronic data, both to the cloud and to offline storage devices, ensuring access to crucial files even if connected devices are affected.**
- 4. Protect Electronics: Use surge protectors for critical electronics, and consider keeping backup devices in a Faraday cage or a makeshift Faraday container (like a metal trash can with a lid). These containers can protect electronics from electromagnetic interference.**
- 5. Educate and Plan with Community: Engage with community members to develop local contingency plans. A community that's prepared can more effectively pool resources and support one another during power outages or communication disruptions.**
- 6. Reduce Dependency: Begin to familiarize yourself with manual tools and techniques for daily tasks. Knowing how to perform tasks without electricity or modern technology can be an invaluable skill during prolonged disruptions.**

While solar storms might seem overwhelming, preparation, community collaboration, and education can significantly reduce their potential impact on our daily lives.

**For more info visit:
<https://www.ready.gov>**



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



Hello from the RACES and the CERT Communications Group. Our monthly general membership meeting was held on Thursday August 3rd. It was a short meeting but an important one. We reviewed procedures and protocols when operating as a Net Controller. Our ICS training continued with the ICS 309 - Communication Radio Log. We also conducted an HF Communications training after the conclusion of the business portion of our meeting.

The entire country has been going through an unusual weather pattern which has created new problems for many communities. That is why being prepared is critical. Review your family communications plan now. How will you stay in touch during an Emergency/Disaster? Many of our members have also created an extended communications plan using FRS radios as an alternate form of communications with elderly neighbors. Helping to keep our community safe is why we became CERTs and RACES members.

On a local level, we are reminded that September begins the high of Hurricane Season for Long Island. Now is the time to inspect and transition our Go bags and Jump Kits from warm weather gear to cold weather gear. Check any items that may have expiration dates, this includes batteries, over the counter medications and any perishable items. Don't wait, tomorrow maybe the day you and your family will need it.

If you are interested or just curious about Emergency Communications we invite you to attend our meetings and trainings. The next RACES / CERT Communications meeting will be held on Thursday September 7th at 7:30pm in the lecture hall, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY. Hope to see you there.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

RACES along with Faithful Response, a 501 c3 not for profit organization, are holding its annual Thanksgiving food drive for those Long Island families in need. By donating you are not only feeding those who are hungry, but also showing kindness and support to those who are less fortunate. Won't you please help make it possible for this annual charitable tradition to continue?

Any in-kind donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and will make a difference in the lives of so many people, right here on Long Island. We will be collecting donations, non-perishable food items and gift cards at the October and November RACES General Membership meetings.

If you need further information or have any questions please contact me at 516.417.0416.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday, September 10th the Babylon Village Fair - For more information go to the GSBARC Website www.gsbarc.org click on Special Events

Sunday, October 22nd will be the 9th Running of the Suffolk County Marathon - For more information go to the GSBARC Website www.gsbarc.org click on Special Events

Sunday, Sept 24th the Ocean to Sound Relay Race - For more information go to the ARES website at www.nassaucountyares.org.

Sunday November 5th the TCS New York City Marathon - EventHams is asking anyone interested to go to www.evnhams.org to register.

73

Michael Arcari

RACES Training Officer

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If you SEE Something SAY Something



Word Scramble



Good luck, and have fun unscrambling these words related to solar storms.
Answers are upside down at bottom of page.

1. Nus _ _ _ _
2. Feral _ _ _ _ _
3. Lampas _ _ _ _ _
4. Racoon _ _ _ _ _
5. Mangcite _ _ _ _ _
6. Proteinu _ _ _ _ _
7. Sclerapit _ _ _ _ _
8. Magnetogie _ _ _ _ _
9. Heroncorpse _ _ _ _ _
10. Painterlytin _ _ _ _ _

Now, try to unscramble each word. They are all related to solar storms.

Hints:

1. The center of our solar system.
2. A sudden burst of light or flames.
3. The fourth state of matter, often found in stars.
4. The Sun's outer atmosphere; visible during a total solar eclipse.
5. A force that can attract or repel.
6. A sudden and violent release.
7. Small bits, often referred to in the context of atoms or molecules.
8. Referring to Earth's magnetic field.
9. A red-colored layer of the sun's atmosphere.
10. Between planets.

2023 Theme: Preparing for Older Adults

The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

Visit www.ready.gov for more info

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR OLDER AMERICANS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Plan how you will communicate if you have a communication need.



Plan for your transportation if you need help evacuating.



Plan how you will evacuate with any assistive devices.



Plan for food, water, and essentials for you and pets or service animals.



Include medicines, medical supplies, batteries, and chargers.

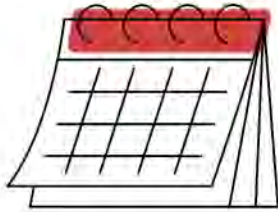


Make copies of Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards.

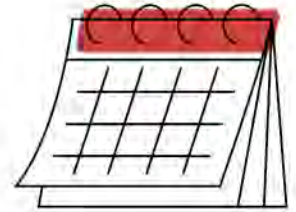
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

- ✔ Contact information for important people and care providers.
- ✔ A list of medicines you need, dosage instructions, and any allergies.
- ✔ Contact information for your durable medical provider.
- ✔ Need-to-know information for first responders and others who might need to help you.





Planned Events & Trainings



New York Brain Tumor Walk - September 29th and 30th

Recruiting volunteers to help with the New York Brain Tumor Walk on Saturday, September 30 at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh, NY. Opportunities include event setup, participant check-in, water stops, cheer station, and refreshments, to name a few.

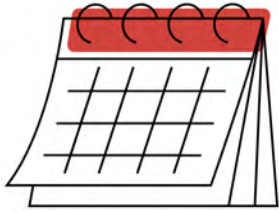
Volunteers are needed to help on **Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th**. Volunteers play an integral role at our events, and we couldn't do it without you. To register as an event volunteer, please visit our event website and choose volunteer as your registration option. Registration for our volunteers is free, but necessary so we get you into our system for when we begin assigning shifts. As we get closer to the event, we'll provide volunteer assignments and additional details. Once registered please send an email to OEMCERT@nassaucountyny.gov to which dates and times that you registered for as we do not have access to the organizations volunteer registration website.

September 22nd - Fire Service Academy (FSA) Training Day

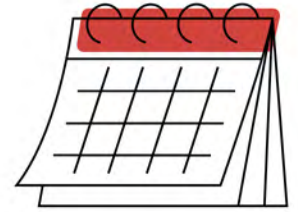
This event will be held at the Nassau County Fire Academy in Bethpage on September 22nd. This will be a training exercise for medical professional from the Medical Center (NUMC). CERT members participated in this event last year and it was a big success. So much so that the Doctor in charge requested the use of our CERT team once again. They are looking for approximately 30 CERT members to volunteer to play victims of an active shooter situation. We will provide more information and send out an official request as it gets closer to the event.

September 23rd - South Farmingdale Open House

South Farmingdale Fire Department will be holding their annual open house and have requested the OEM Command Vehicle. We will most likely be setting up a CERT table and will need a few CERT volunteers to assist. We will send out a request when more info is available.



Planned Events & Trainings



Wide Area Search Exercise on Sunday, August 20th at West Hills County Park





Please send in any photos you have taken of news worthy items or from any CERT events that you have attended and I will select some to be used in the newsletter. Send images to:
rdelucia@nassaucountyny.gov

Calendar of Events

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Div 1	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



**CERT Division Meetings
7:00pm**



**Sept. 22 - Fire Service
Academy Training Day**



**RACES Meeting
7:30pm**



**Sept. 30th - S. Farmingdale
FD Open House**

Important Dates

RACES Meeting - 7:30pm Thursday September 7th

CERT Division 1 Meeting - Wednesday September 6th at 7:00pm

CERT Division 2 Meeting - *CANCELED* To be rescheduled.



CERT Basic Class

The next CERT Basic Course has been scheduled. It will begin on September 13th and run through October 26, 2023. It will be held at the Lecture Hall at 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage, NY 11714

Classes will begin at 7:00p.m.

For more info and to sign up, please visit:

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/3250/CERT-Training>

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