

Some Major Solar Storms

- 9/2/1859 - Strongest solar storm recorded, with aurora worldwide and telegraph disruptions
- 5/13/1921 - Storm shuts down NY City transit system with induced ground currents
- 3/25/1940 - Easter Sunday storm halts U.S. long distance phone service for hours, radio and wire services disrupted
- 2/10/1958 - Radio blackout caused by one of the 10 strongest storms
- 3/13/1989 - Quebec power grid collapses for nine hours
- 10/29/2003 - "Halloween" storms cause numerous satellite problems and produce the strongest X-ray flare ever recorded

Milestones of Solar Exploration

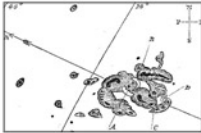
1610



Galileo Galilei is among the first to study the Sun & sunspots with a telescope

1859

First solar flare observed and sketched by Richard Carrington



1908



George Ellery Hale discovers magnetic fields in sunspots -- a key to understanding solar activity

1971-74

OSO-7, Skylab are first spacecraft to study solar storms



1995



The Solar & Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) begins sophisticated solar study mission

