



Contribution ID: 385

Type: Oral Presentation

PLENARY: Space Weather – why should we care?

Tuesday, 30 June 2015 12:10 (1 hour)

**Abstract content (Max 300 words)
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Special chars**

There is much talk about how potentially dangerous space weather storms are to modern society. However, mankind has survived for millennia and therefore many a solar storm long before we even knew they existed or were a problem. So just how vulnerable are we? In this presentation we review the chain of events from solar eruptions to geomagnetic storms as well as some impacts on the space environment, atmosphere, and technology. Example impacts relate to radiation hazards for spacecraft and human spaceflight, the radiative and chemical balance of the atmosphere, and power outages on the ground, respectively. How can developing countries contribute to this important science? The effective use of relatively low-cost ground-based instrumentation is introduced.

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Session Classification: Plenary

Track Classification: Track H - Plenaries