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## **Solar Extreme Event Syndrome**

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Sporadic solar energetic particle (SEP) events are a significant hazard for current and future space missions. Particles constituting a SEP can come either from a solar flare or from the shock wave driven by a coronal mass ejection. The "October to November 2003" period ranks as one of the largest outbreaks of solar activity in recent history. Since the occurrence of these events "solar extreme events" has become a term widely used in the space weather community. More recently the Jan. 20, 2005, and Dec. 15, 2006 events have been added to the solar extreme event list. How should one go about analyzing solar extreme events - as part of the global distribution of all solar events or as outliers with their own special characteristics? The big question is: have we started to create a "Solar Extreme Event Syndrome"?