

**Title:** Solar Energetic Events - An Overview

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**Abstract:**

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At times it appears that each large solar energetic particle (SEP) event is unique, resulting in a zoo of characteristics where commonalities are hard to find. However, similarities do exist and this talk will provide an overview of the general characteristics of large SEP events and the risks they present to human space flight and space-based instrumentation. The variability of SEP intensities, spectral forms, and composition will be examined and what is thought to govern these aspects will be reviewed. Additionally, this talk will present measurements and analysis currently underway in an effort to more accurately understand, and eventually predict, these events and thus evaluate the degree to which a given event poses a space weather risk.