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## EARTH Magazine: Solar Storms Cause Spike in Insurance Claims

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alexandria, Va. — On March 13, 1989, a geomagnetic storm spawned by a solar outburst struck Earth, triggering instabilities in the electric-power grid that serves much of eastern Canada and the U.S. The storm led to blackouts for more than 6 million customers and caused tens of millions of dollars in damages and economic losses. More than 25 years later, the possibility of another such catastrophe still looms, and the day-to-day effects of space weather on electrical systems remain difficult to quantify. Now, a new study correlating electrical insurance claims with geomagnetic data suggests that even moderate space weather may play a significant role in destabilizing the power grid.

Read more about the striking correlation between solar storms and financial losses in the November issue of EARTH magazine: <http://bit.ly/ZI0a2X>.

For more stories about the science of our planet, check out EARTH magazine online or subscribe at [www.earthmagazine.org](http://www.earthmagazine.org). The November issue, now available on the digital newsstand, features an update on our moon's violent birth and turbulent infancy coming from a quartet of new research papers, an invitation to explore the incredible scenery and geology of Bali, and an interview with Sarah Anzick, a molecular biologist who sequenced DNA from infant remains found in the only-known Clovis burial site — which was discovered on her family's Montana ranch, plus much, much more.

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<http://www.earthmagazine.org/>. Published by the American Geosciences Institute, EARTH is your source for the science behind the headlines.

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## Press Release PDF:



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