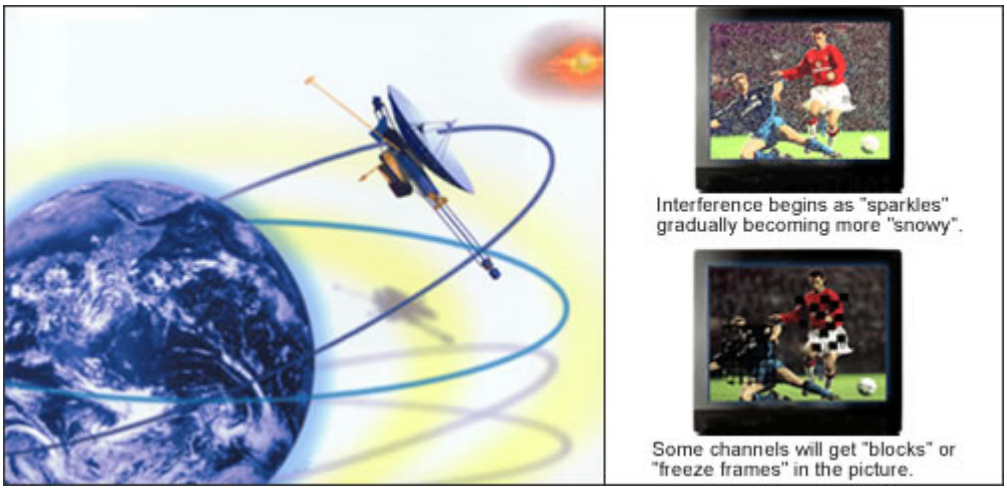
Solar Outages



Every spring and fall during the equinox, the sun passes directly behind the geosynchronous satellite, creating interference, which can degrade the signal from the satellite. This can temporarily disrupt satellite reception and cause a phenomenon known as a solar or sun outage. This is common to all geosynchronous satellite communications

When the sun passes directly behind the satellite, as viewed from the receiving earth station, reception may be degraded or sometimes even drowned-out by the overwhelming interference from the sun.

The length of the period of interference is typically short (~10 to 20 minutes), and it occurs through out the day, usually between 7:00am and 4:00pm. However, the exact date, time and duration of the solar outage risk period is dependent on many factors including: the receive site's lat/long, the satellite's orbital slot, the earth station antenna size and pointing accuracy, and the inclination of the satellite.

Solar outages affect the network twice a year (February/March and September/October for most of North America) for a period of about 7-10 days each occurrence.