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April 27-30, 2020
Broomfield, Colorado, USA

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The Shocking Impact of Lightning on America's Space Program in Florida

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Abstract

Lightning impacts America's space program in Florida in many ways. This is due to several factors. Central Florida is 'Lightning Alley' in the U.S. with the highest lightning density in the country. Many of the activities in preparing for space launch and the space launches themselves are sensitive to lightning. Finally, the Lightning Launch Commit Criteria, the complex weather rules to avoid natural and rocket-triggered lightning, are the leading source of scrubs and delays to space launch. This presentation will give a broad overview of these lightning impacts and the weather services provided to mitigate those impacts including: lightning locating systems, lightning forecasting, lightning warnings, lightning reporting, and the Lightning Launch Commit Criteria.

Topic Areas

Aviation and Other Unique Uses of Lightning Data

Submission Format

Oral