

Global Navigation Satellite Systems – Trust, But Verify
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Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) have become an integral part of everyday life. However, at times, the positioning signals may be impacted by interference from both natural and human-made sources. The most common types of interference are reception issues, usually due to bad installations, poor antenna positioning or faulty equipment.

Jamming devices, while illegal in the U.S. and a threat to safety, have been used for nefarious or deceptive purposes. Interference can also be unintentionally caused when operating GNSS in close proximity to other radiating devices, such as amplified TV antennas. You can see a map of world-wide GPS interference here: <https://gpsjam.org>.

Indicators of positioning systems interference include an intermittent signal, no signal, or an incorrect signal. Suspected or suspicious disruptions should be reported immediately. Reporting a disruption - or other navigation hazards or aids to navigation outages - is simple, and can be done electronically (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>) - the preferred method) or phone call to the NAVCEN (703-313-5900), 24 hours a day.

Therefore, it is important to remember that you should use all available means for navigation and maintain proficiency so you can still navigate should your primary GPS fail.