

**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**Fort  
McMurray  
Observatory  
Monthly  
Magnetic  
Bulletin  
April 2017  
17/04/FM**



**British  
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

RESEARCH COUNCIL

# FORT McMURRAY OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

## 1. Introduction

The British Geological Survey (BGS) now operate or assist in the operation of six overseas geomagnetic observatories. The most recently established of these, Fort McMurray Observatory, is a joint venture between BGS and Sperry Drilling, Halliburton Group Canada in support of directional drilling programmes. The installation was carried out in December 2014 and the earliest data and data products are available from January 2015.

This bulletin is published to provide rapid access to the provisional geomagnetic observatory results. The information is freely available for personal, academic, educational and non-commercial research or use. Magnetic observatory data are presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by tabulations of monthly values. The operation of the observatory and presentation of data are described in the rest of this section.

Enquiries about the data should be addressed to:

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Internet: [www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk)

## 2. Position

Fort McMurray Observatory is situated on Halliburton land, to the south of the town of Fort McMurray in Alberta, Canada. The observatory co-ordinates are:-

*Geographic:* 56° 35'52.8"N 248° 41'06.0" E  
*Geomagnetic:* 63° 28'12"N 310° 04'12" E  
*Height above mean sea level:* 386m

The geographical co-ordinates and altitude were determined by a surveying company using a differential GPS and reference station. Data were provided in GPS co-ordinates to UTM 12 NAD83: Ellipsoid GRS1980, and converted to WGS84 by BGS. The geomagnetic co-ordinates are approximations, calculated using the 12th

generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) at epoch 2017.5. On-line access to models (including IGRF), charts and navigational data are available at

[http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data\\_service/models\\_compass/home](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/models_compass/home)

## 3. The Observatory Operation

### 3.1 GDAS

The observatory operates under the control of the Geomagnetic Data Acquisition System (GDAS), which was developed by BGS staff, installed and became fully operational from December 2014. The data acquisition software, running on QNX operated computers, controls the data logging and the communications.

There are two sets of sensors used for making magnetic measurements. A tri-axial linear-core fluxgate magnetometer, manufactured by DTU Space at the Technical University of Denmark, is used to measure the variations in the horizontal ( $H$ ) and vertical ( $Z$ ) components of the field. The third sensor is oriented perpendicular to these, and measures variations, which are proportional to the changes in declination ( $D$ ). Measurements are made at a rate of 1 Hz.

In addition to the fluxgate sensors, a GEM Systems GSM-90 Overhauser magnetometer makes measurements of the absolute total field intensity ( $F$ ) every 5 seconds.

The raw unfiltered data are retrieved automatically via Internet connections to the BGS office in Edinburgh in near real-time. The fluxgate data are filtered to produce one-minute values using a 61-point cosine filter and the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 13-point cosine filter.

### 3.2 Absolute Observations

The GDAS fluxgate magnetometers accurately measure variations in the components of the geomagnetic field, but not the absolute magnitudes. Two sets of absolute measurements of the field are made manually twice per month. A fluxgate sensor mounted on a theodolite is used to determine  $D$  and inclination ( $I$ ); the GDAS PPM measurements, with a site difference correction applied, are used for  $F$ . The absolute observations are used in conjunction with the GDAS variometer measurements to produce a continuous record of the absolute values of the geomagnetic field

elements as if they had been measured at the observatory reference pillar.

## 4. Observatory Results

The data presented in the bulletin are in the form of plots and tabulations described in the following sections.

### 4.1 Absolute Observations

The absolute observation measurements made during the month are tabulated. Also included are the corresponding baseline values, which are the differences between the absolute measurements and the variometer measurements of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  (in the sense absolute–variometer). These are also plotted (markers) along with the derived preliminary daily baseline values (line) throughout the year. Daily mean differences between the measured absolute  $F$  and the  $F$  computed from the baseline corrected  $H$  and  $Z$  values are plotted in the fourth panel (in the sense measured–derived). The bottom panel shows the daily mean temperature in the fluxgate chamber.

### 4.2 Summary magnetograms

Small-scale magnetograms are plotted which allow the month's data to be viewed at a glance. They are plotted 16 days to a page and show the one-minute variations in  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$ . The scales are shown on the right-hand side of the page. On disturbed days the scales are multiplied by a factor, which is indicated above the panel for that day. The variations are centred on the monthly mean value, shown on the left side of the page.

### 4.3 Magnetograms

The daily magnetograms are plotted using one-minute values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  from the fluxgate sensors. The magnetograms are plotted to a variable scale; scale bars are shown to the right of each plot. The absolute level (the monthly mean value) is indicated on the left side of the plots.

### 4.4 Hourly Mean Value Plots

Hourly mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  for the past 12 months are plotted in 27-day segments corresponding to the Bartels solar rotation number. Magnetic disturbances associated with active regions and/or coronal holes on the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically

quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence. Diurnal variations are also clear in these plots and the amplitude changes throughout the year highlight the seasonal changes. Longer term secular variation is also illustrated.

### 4.5 Daily and Monthly Mean Values

Daily mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$ ,  $Z$  and  $F$  are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. It is anticipated that these provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive at the end of the year.

## 5. Conditions of Use

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Reproduction of any part of this bulletin should be accompanied by the statement: 'Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved'. Publications making use of the data should include an acknowledgment statement of the form: 'The results presented in this paper rely on the data collected at Fort McMurray observatory, operated by Sperry Drilling, Halliburton Group Canada and the British Geological Survey.'

Commercial users can contact the geomagnetism team for information on the range of applications and services offered. Full contact details are available at [www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/contactus/staff](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/contactus/staff)

# FORT McMURRAY OBSERVATORY

## ABSOLUTE OBSERVATIONS

Date	Day Number	Declination			Inclination		Total Field		Horizontal Intensity		Vertical Intensity		Observer
		Time (UT)	Absolute (°)	Baseline (°)	Time (UT)	Absolute (°)	Site difference (nT)	Absolute corrected (nT)	Absolute (nT)	Baseline (nT)	Absolute (nT)	Baseline (nT)	
05-Apr-17	95	16:06	14.6913	14.3933	16:14	77.5700	0.0	57576.4	12393.1	12328.3	56226.8	56488.0	RG
05-Apr-17	95	16:24	14.6919	14.3733	16:33	77.5696	0.0	57579.9	12394.3	12328.0	56230.2	56488.1	RG
05-Apr-17	95	16:42	14.6457	14.3683	16:50	77.5637	0.0	57579.3	12399.9	12328.2	56228.2	56488.0	RG
05-Apr-17	95	17:19	14.6974	14.3867	17:28	77.5750	0.0	57575.6	12388.1	12328.3	56227.1	56488.0	RG
13-Apr-17	103	23:22	14.5438	14.3800	23:32	77.5438	0.0	57597.8	12423.5	12327.4	56242.0	56488.2	SP
13-Apr-17	103	23:40	14.5313	14.3783	23:50	77.5500	0.0	57595.9	12417.0	12327.0	56241.5	56488.3	SP
14-Apr-17	104	15:17	14.6538	14.3900	15:25	77.5674	0.0	57516.6	12382.8	12328.9	56167.8	56487.8	SP
14-Apr-17	104	15:39	14.5814	14.3783	15:48	77.5867	0.0	57511.6	12362.8	12328.3	56167.1	56488.0	SP
14-Apr-17	104	17:00	14.4933	14.3850	17:09	77.5990	0.0	57536.9	12356.2	12327.5	56194.5	56488.1	SP

# Fort McMurray 2017

Declination : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

14.62

10min

Horizontal Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

12326

20nT

Vertical Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

56489

6nT

Total Intensity : Absolute (Proton F) - Baseline Adjusted Variometer (derived F)

-0.5

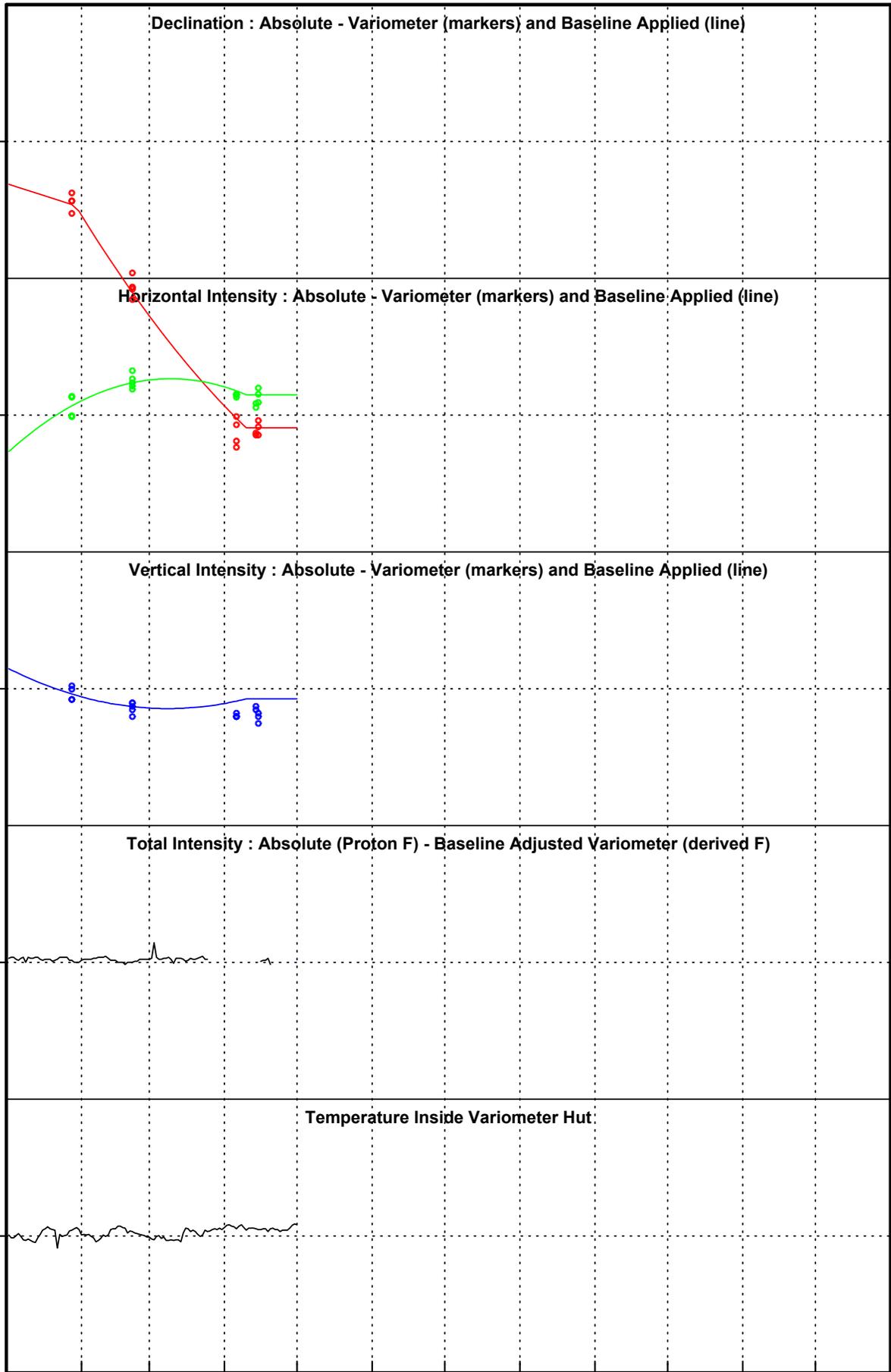
20nT

Temperature Inside Variometer Hut

34.2

30°C

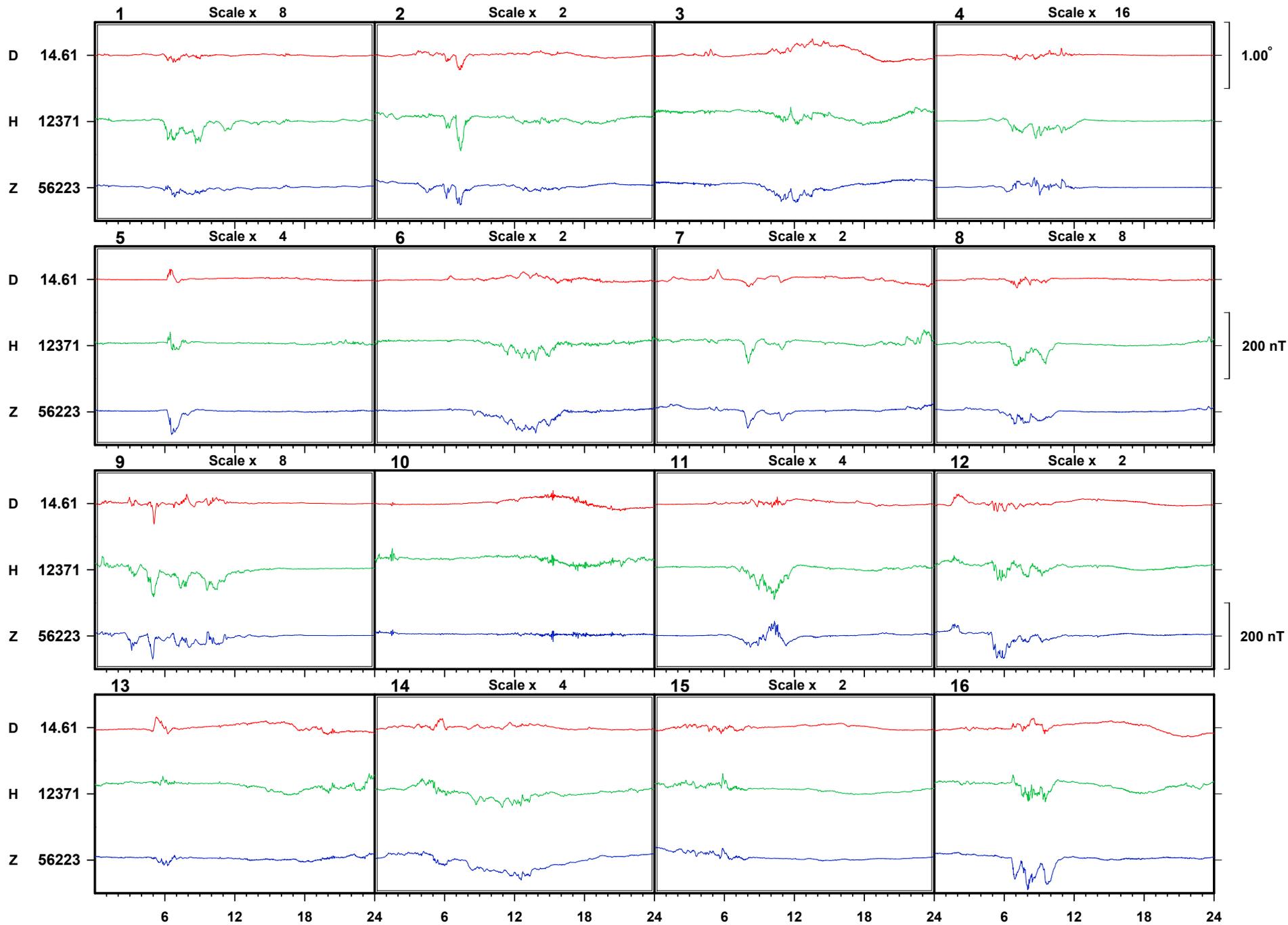
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

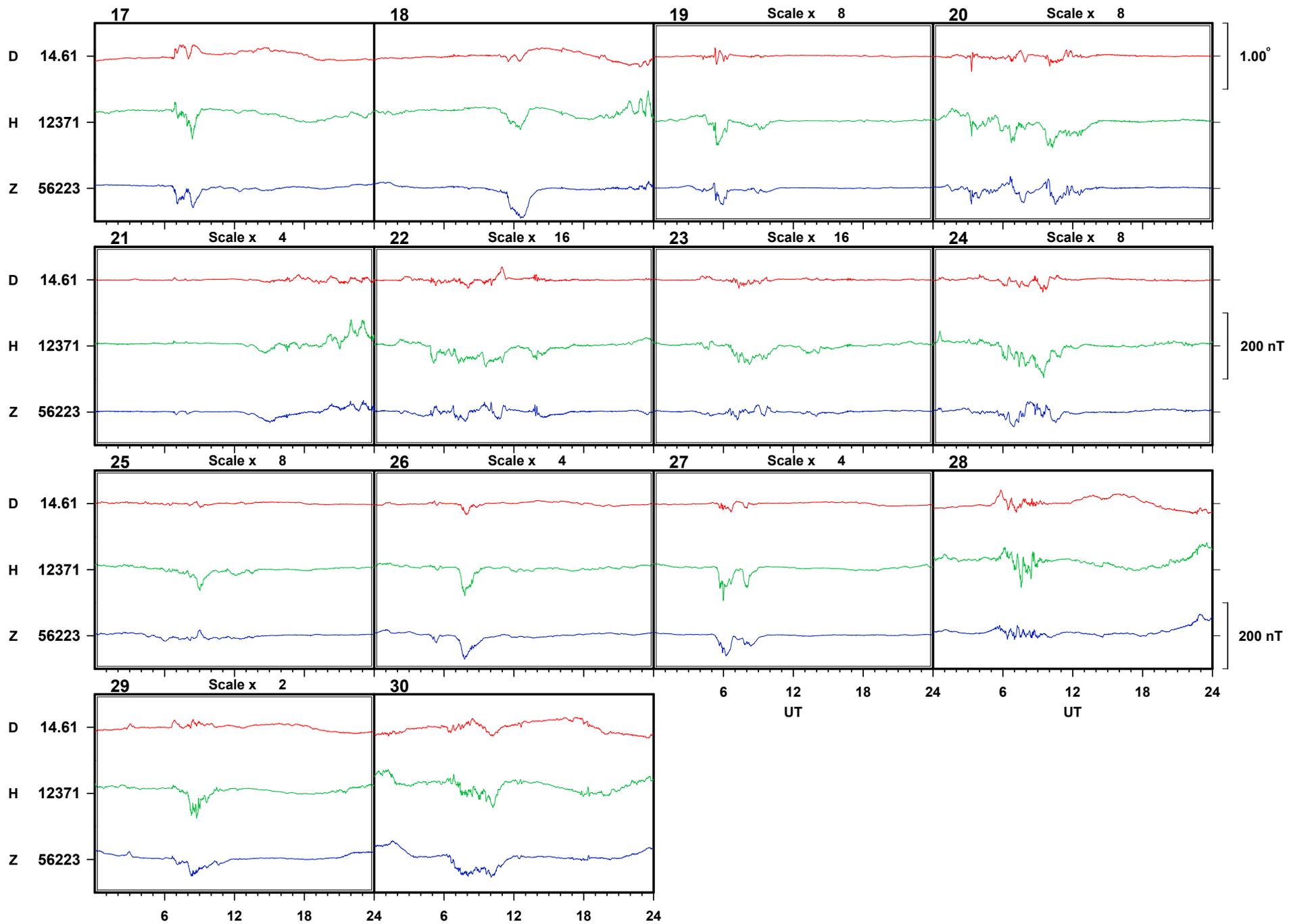


# Fort McMurray

# April

# 2017





Fort McMurray

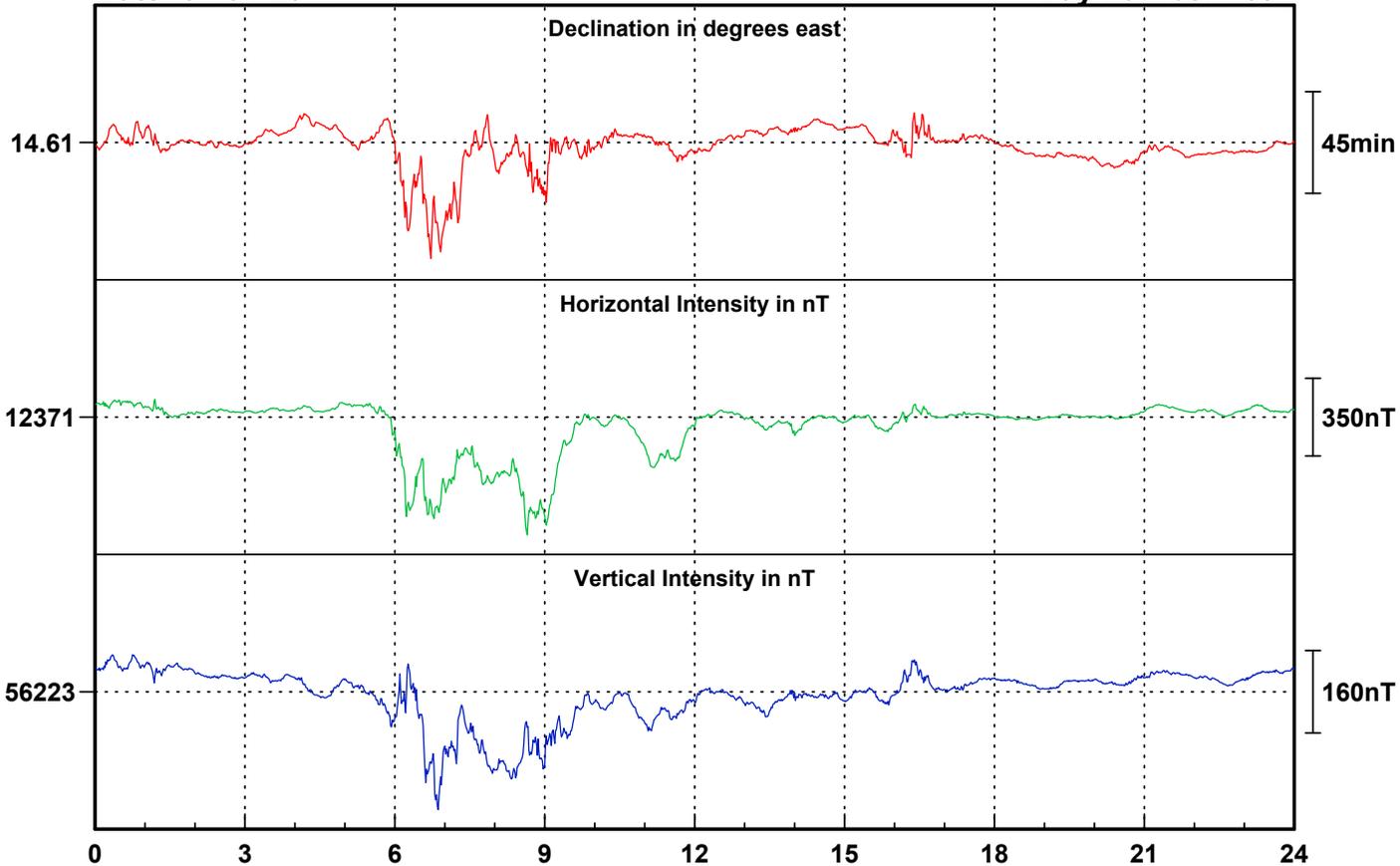
April

2017

Date: 01-04-2017

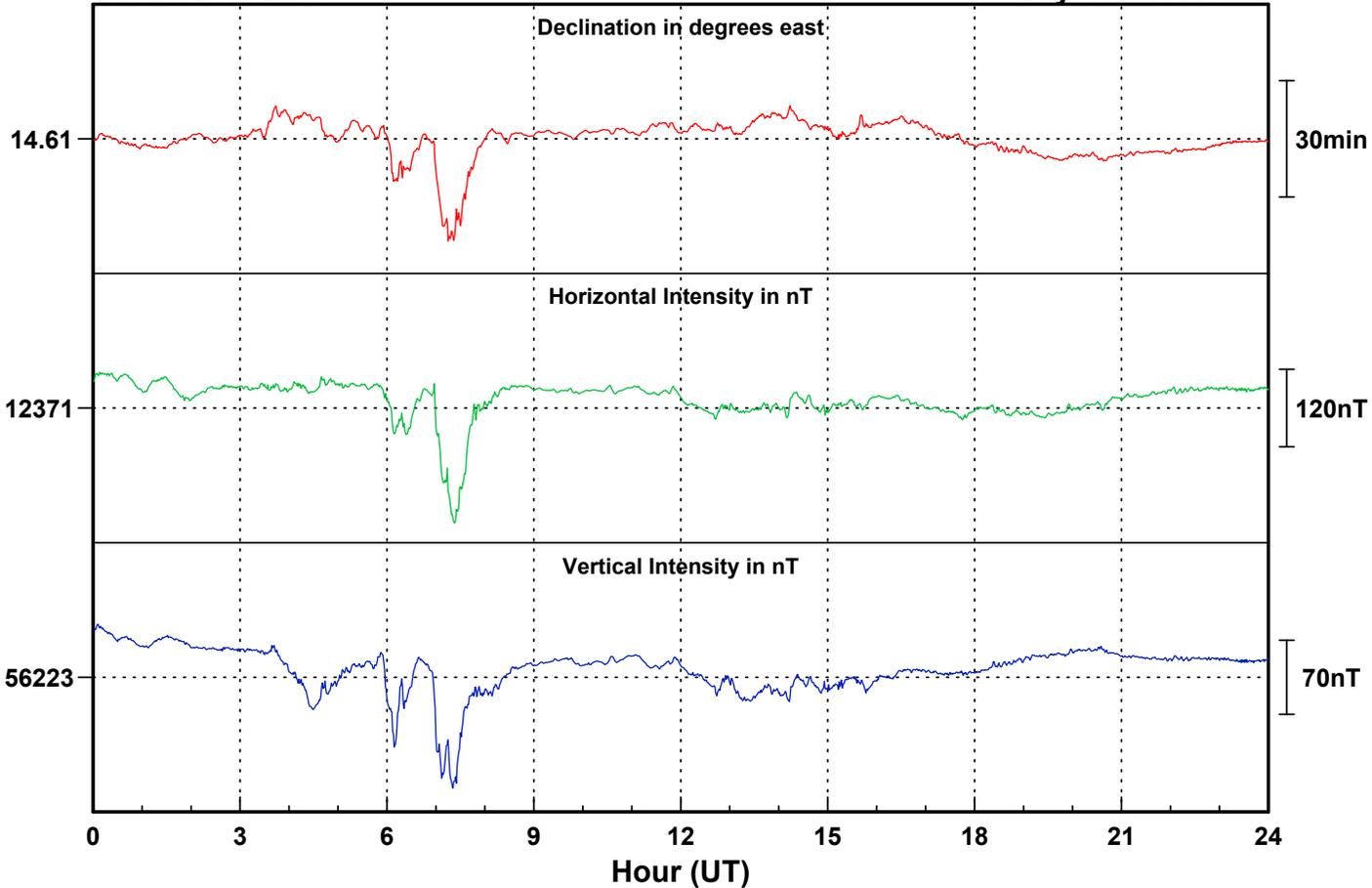
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 091



Date: 02-04-2017

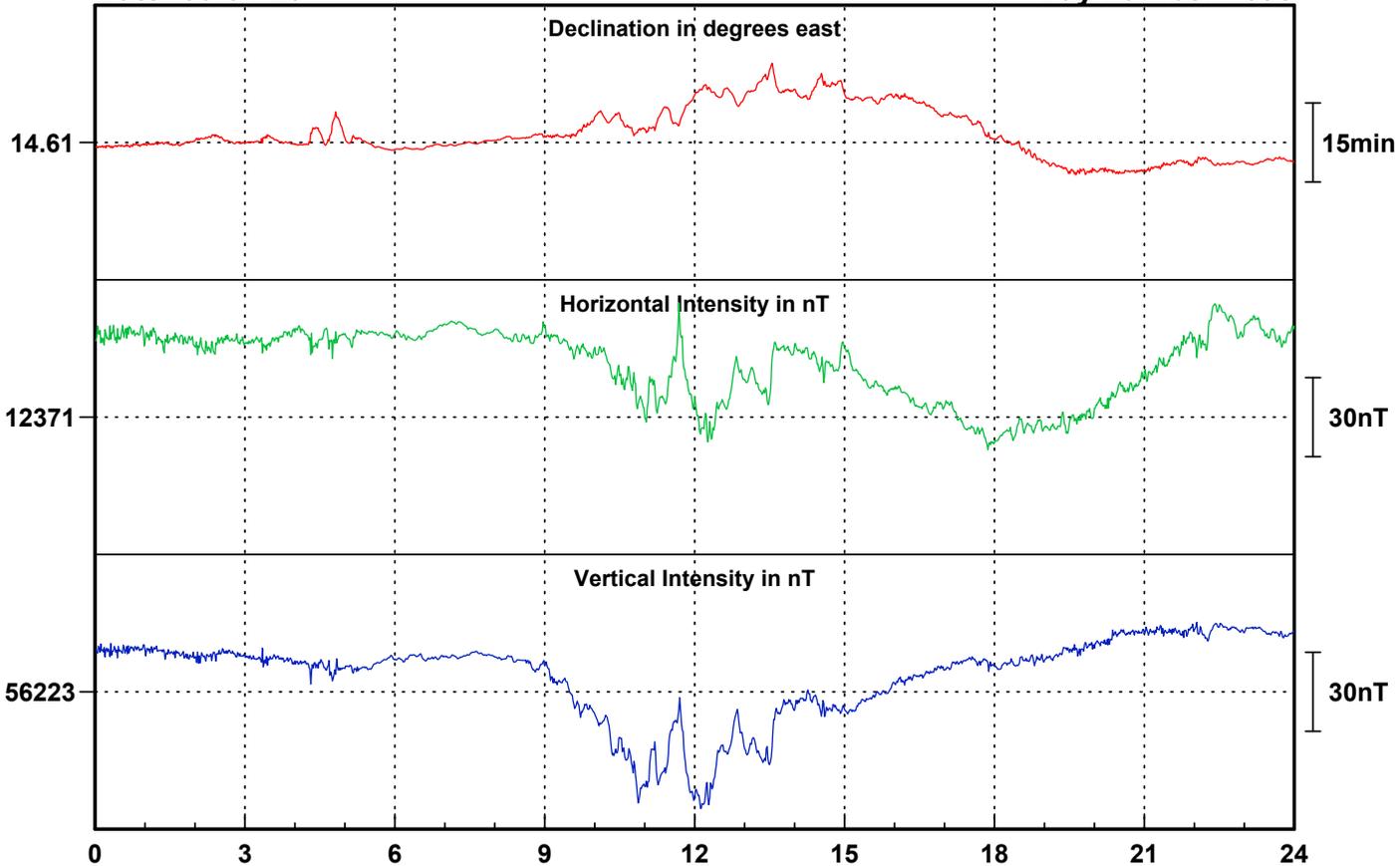
Day number: 092



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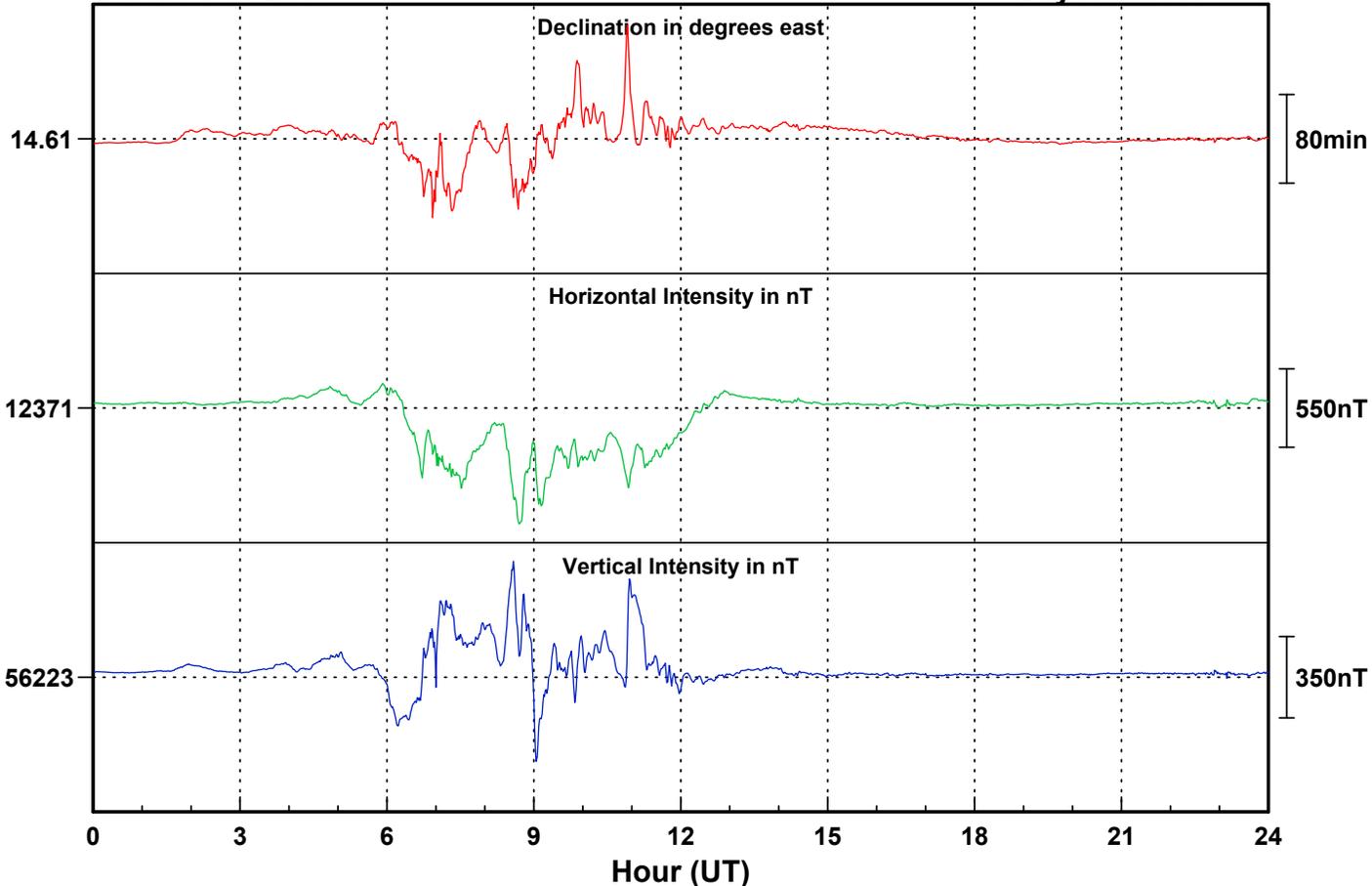
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 093



Date: 04-04-2017

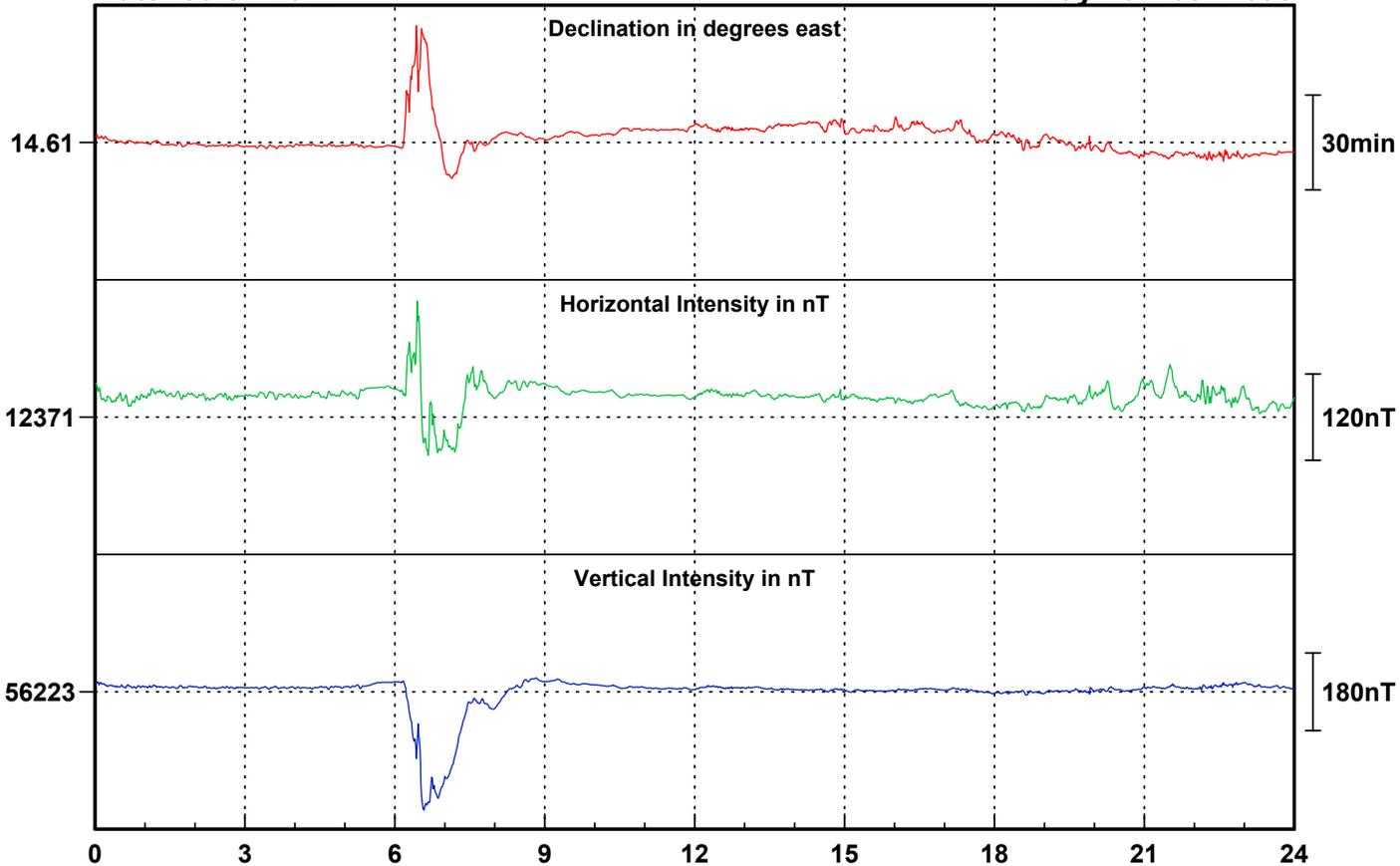
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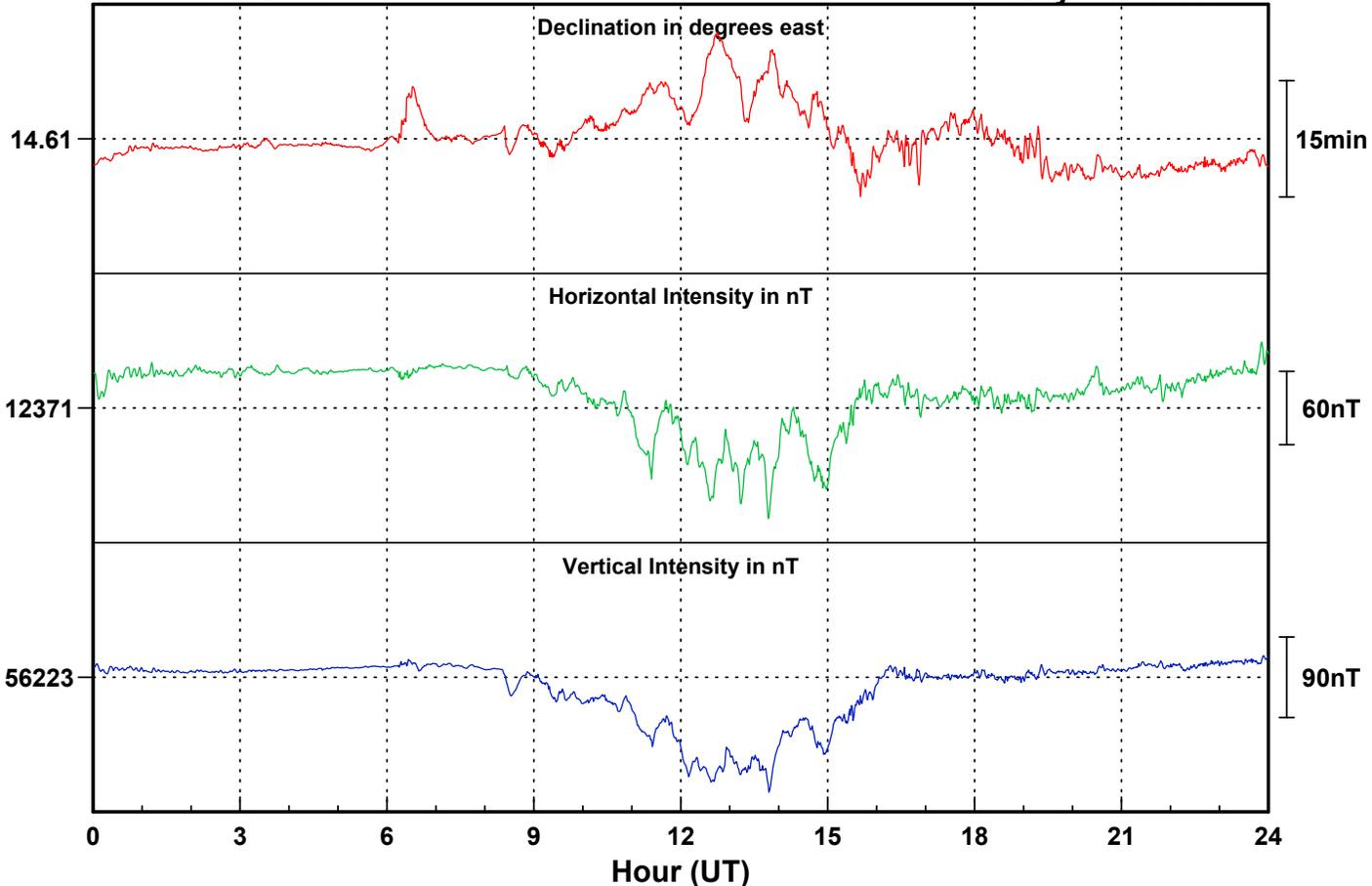
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 095



Date: 06-04-2017

Day number: 096

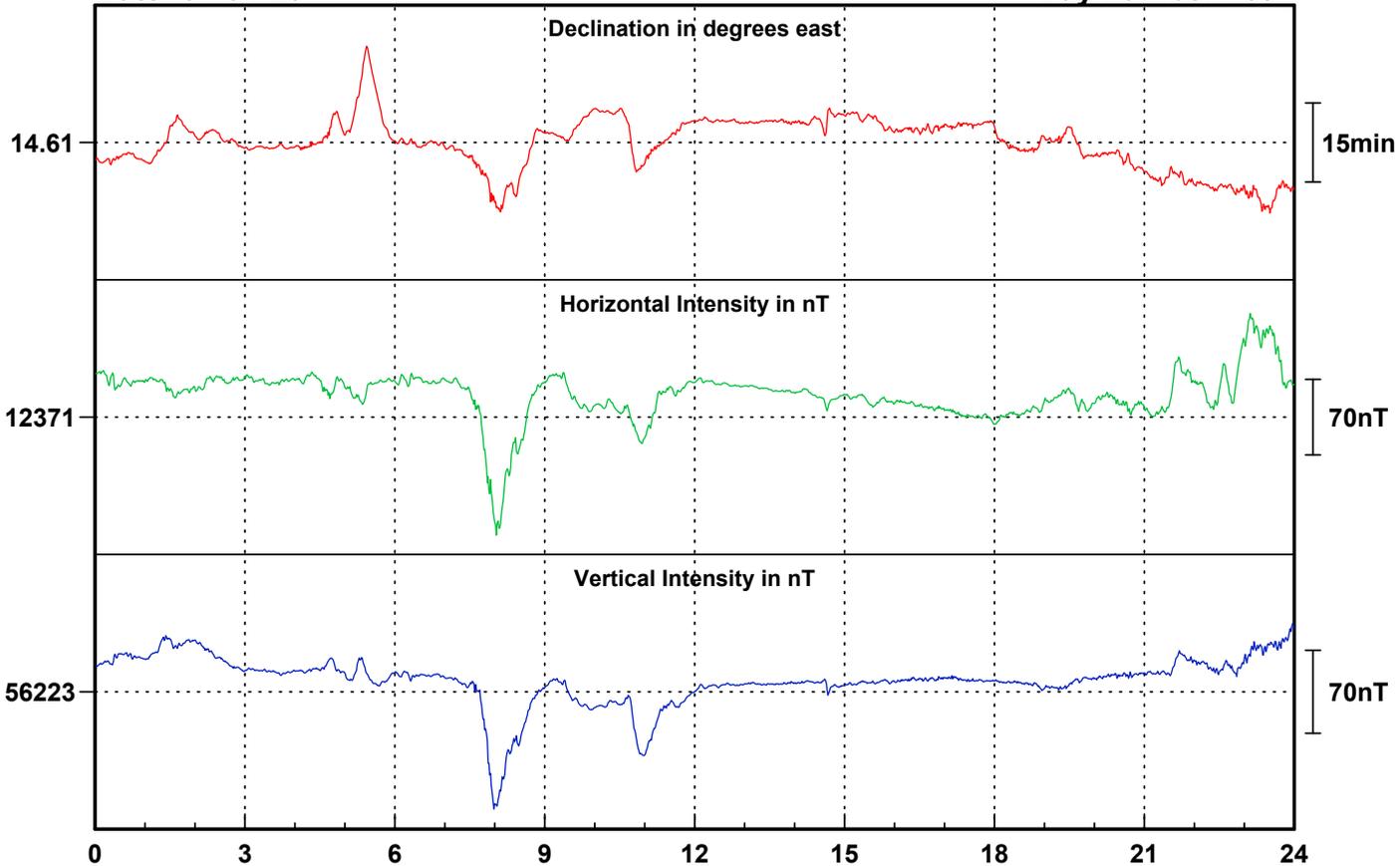


Hour (UT)

Date: 07-04-2017

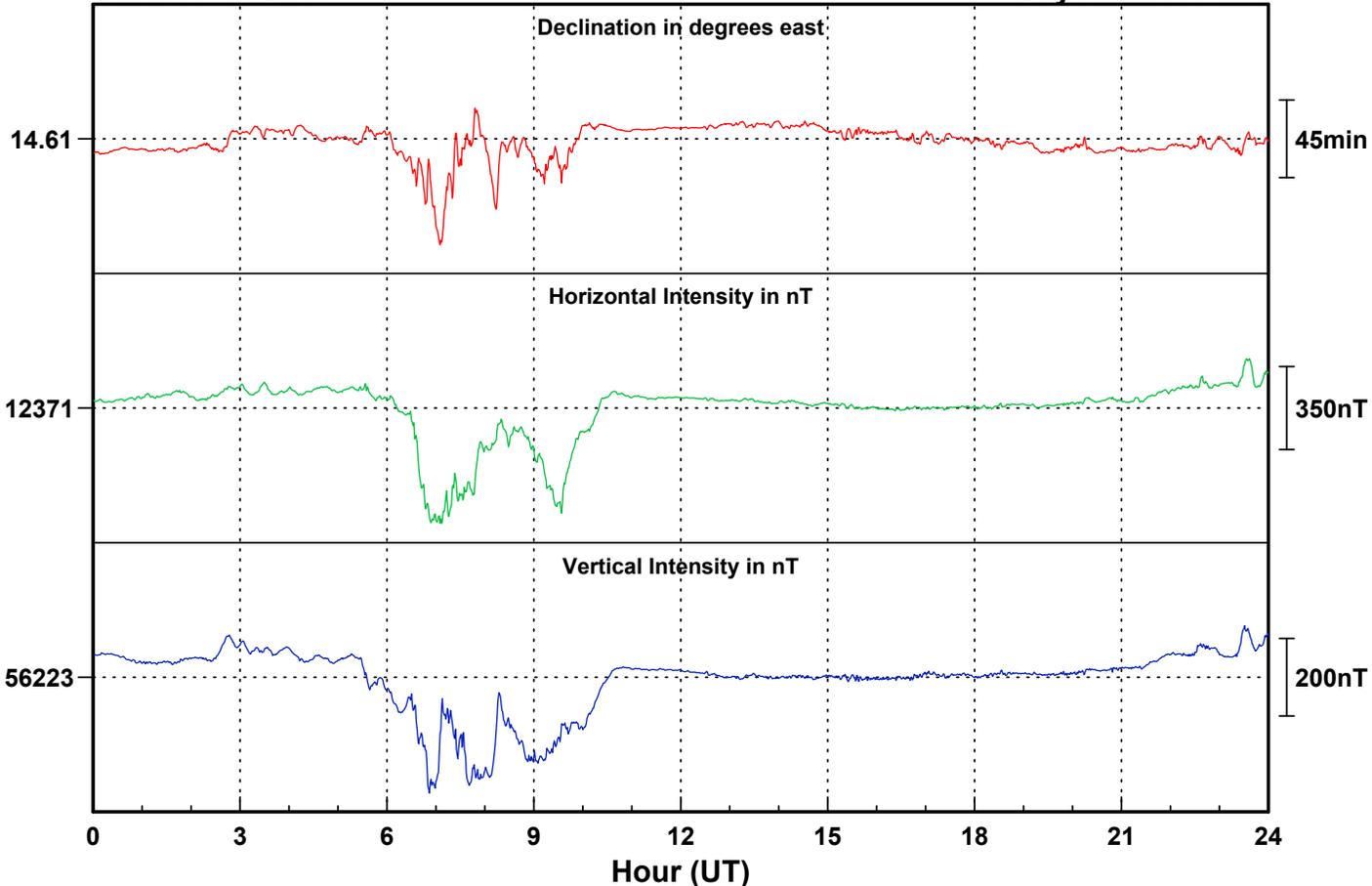
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 097



Date: 08-04-2017

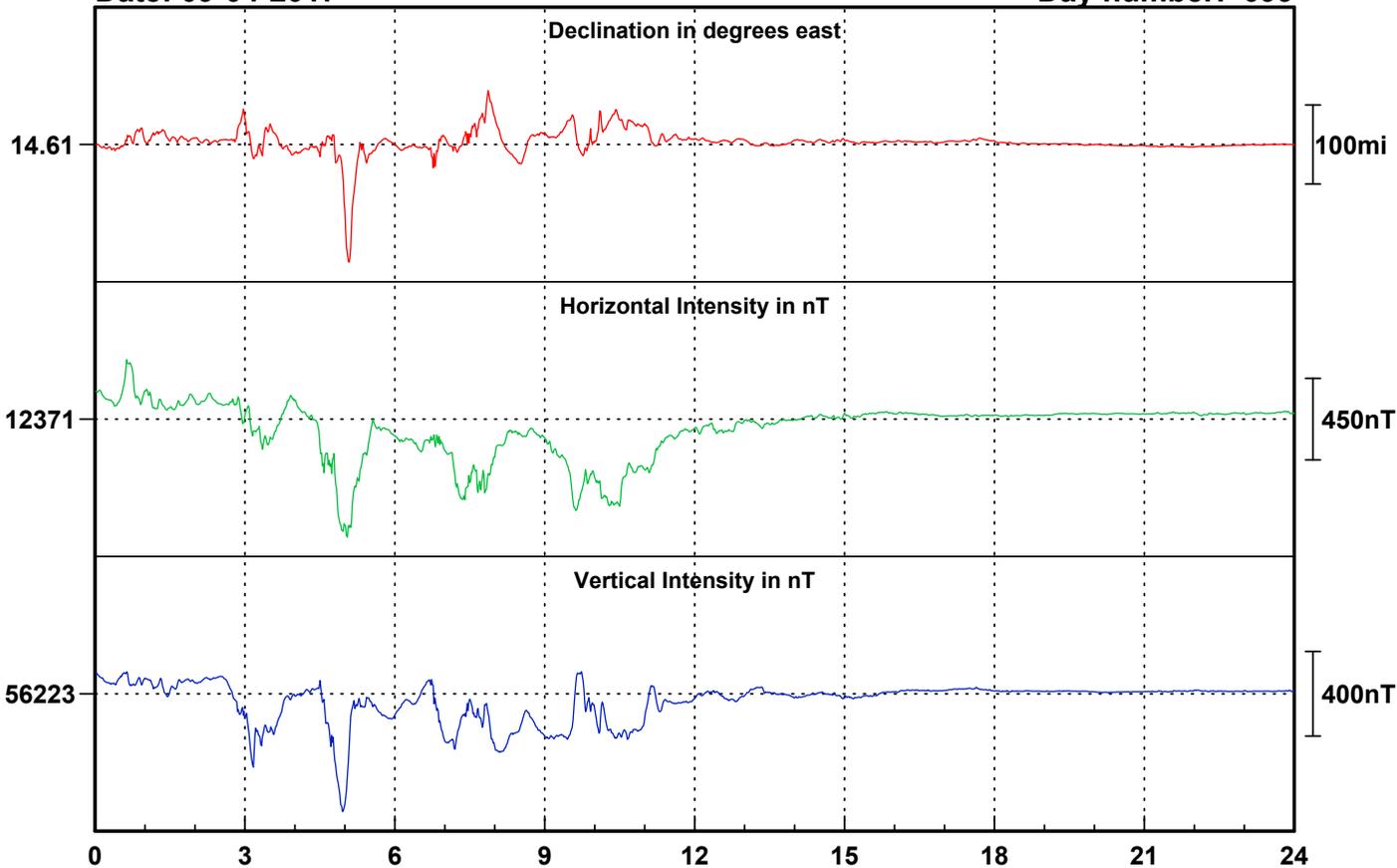
Day number: 098



Date: 09-04-2017

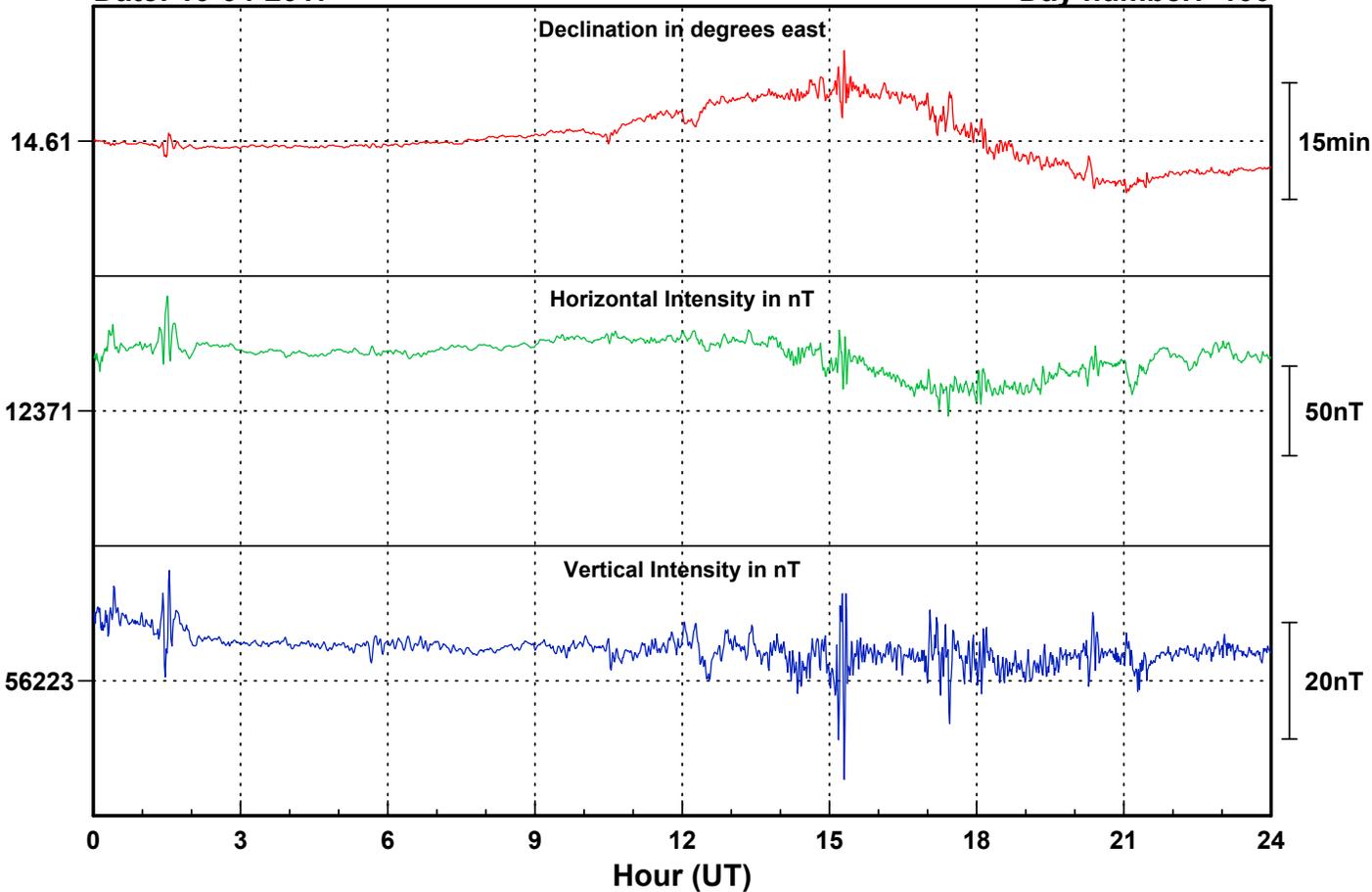
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 099



Date: 10-04-2017

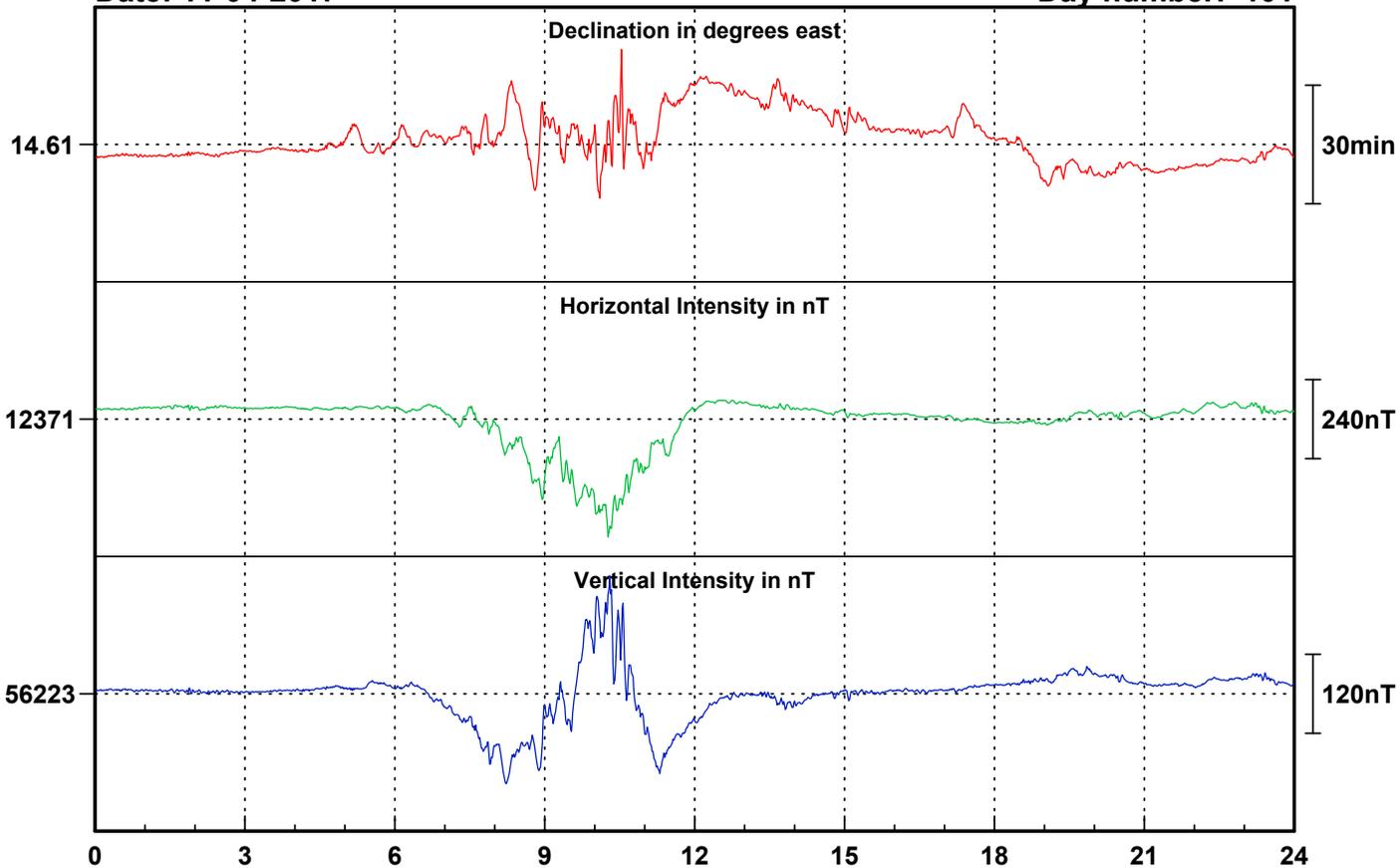
Day number: 100



Date: 11-04-2017

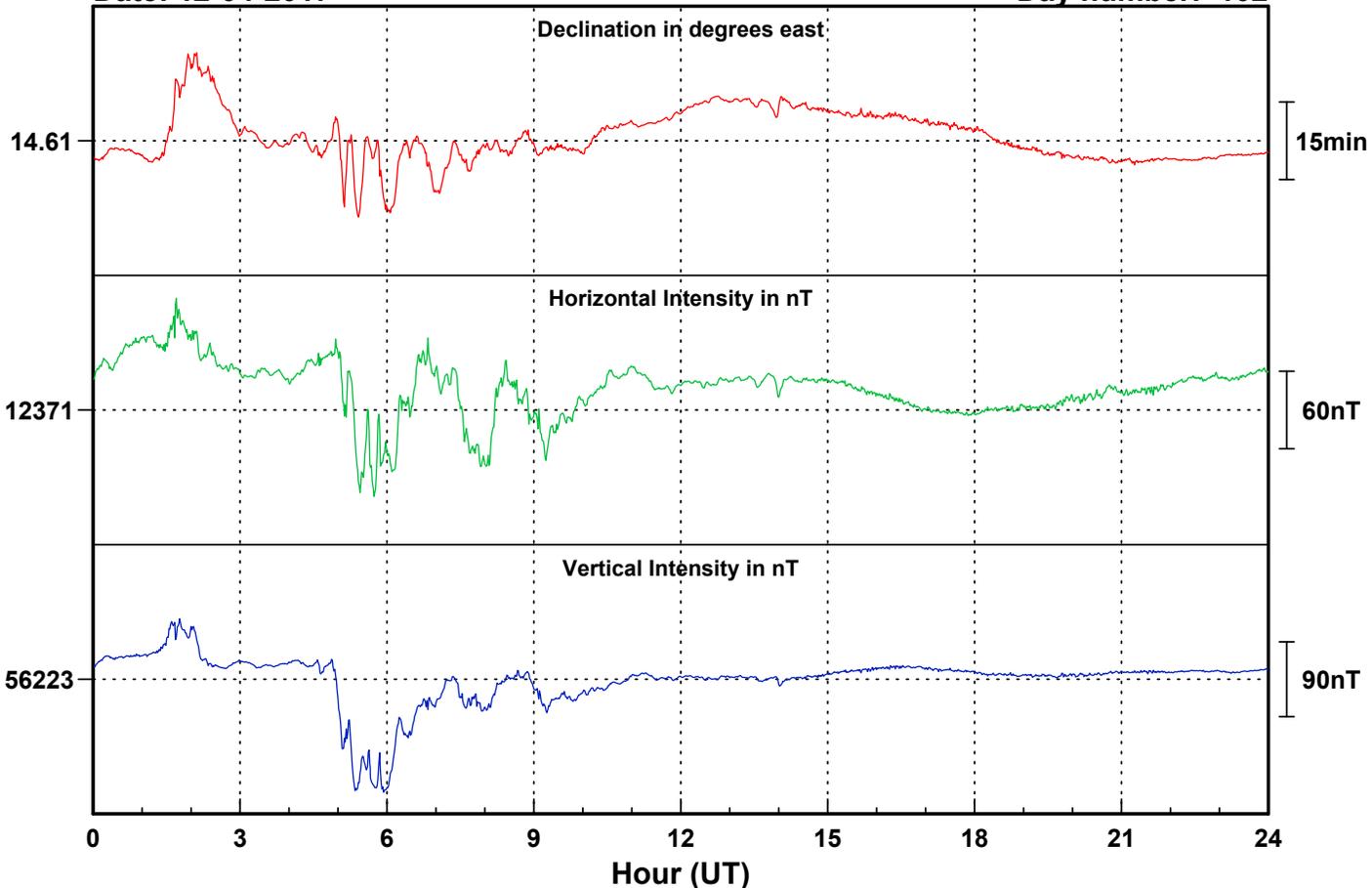
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 101



Date: 12-04-2017

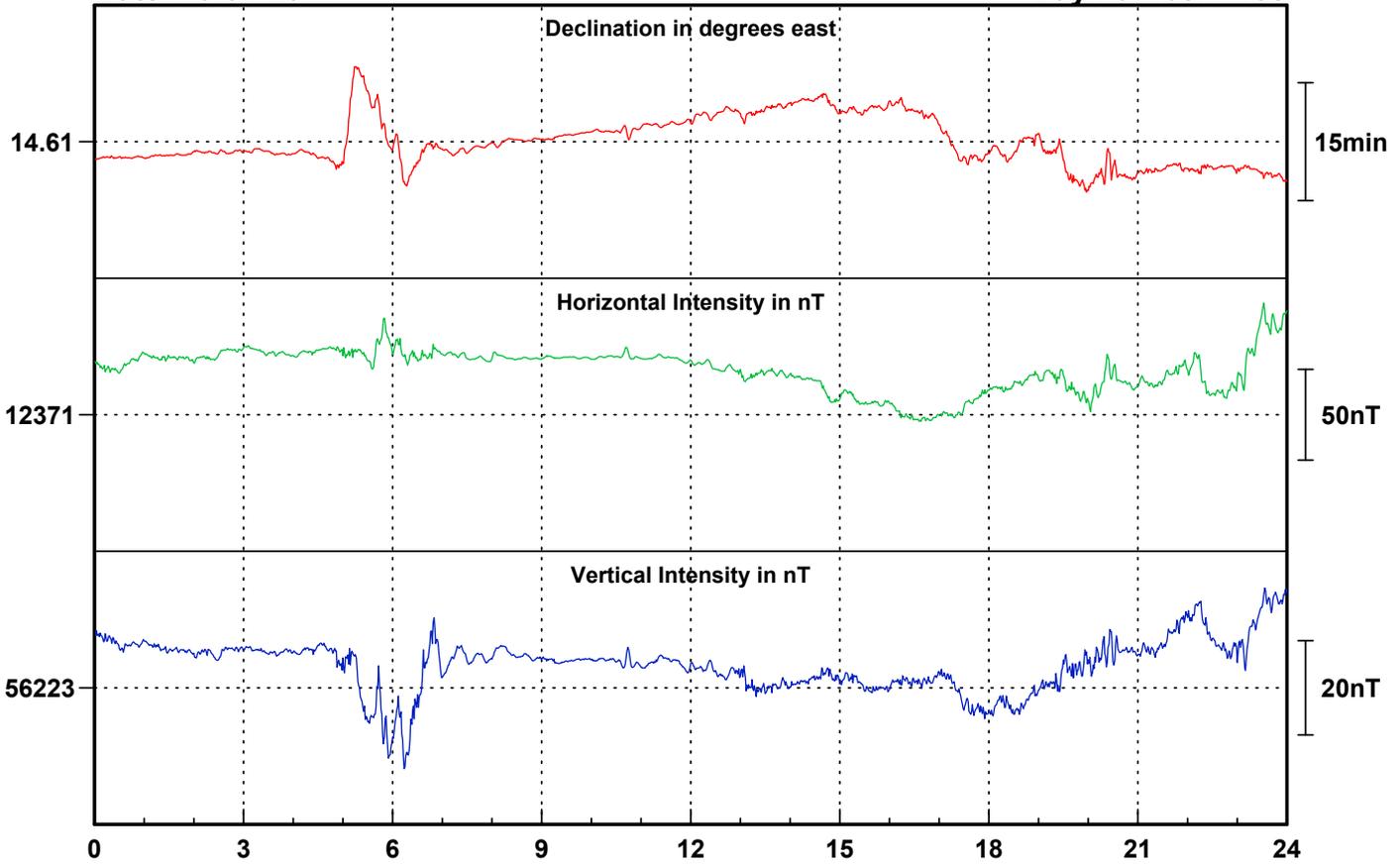
Day number: 102



Date: 13-04-2017

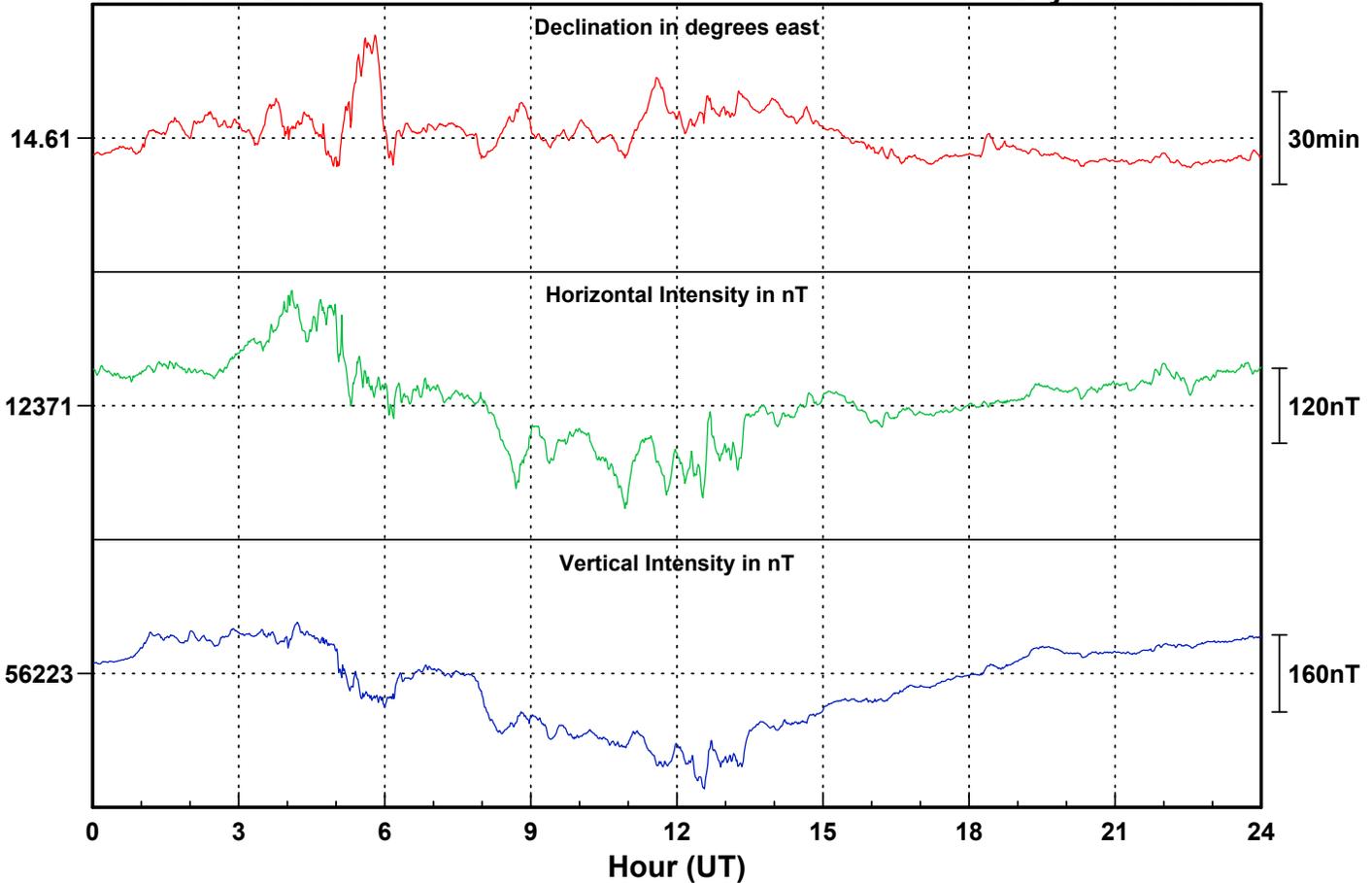
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 103



Date: 14-04-2017

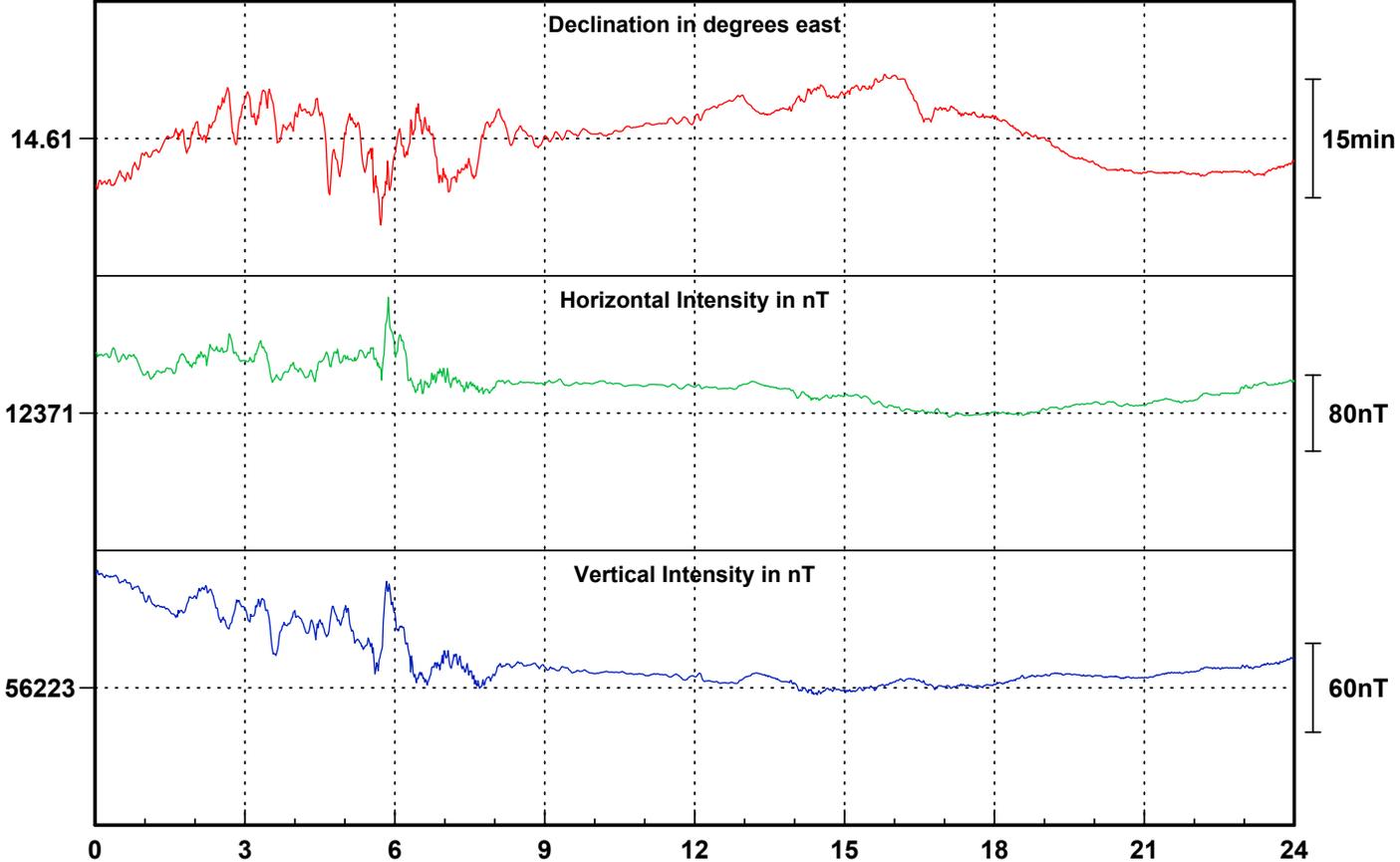
Day number: 104



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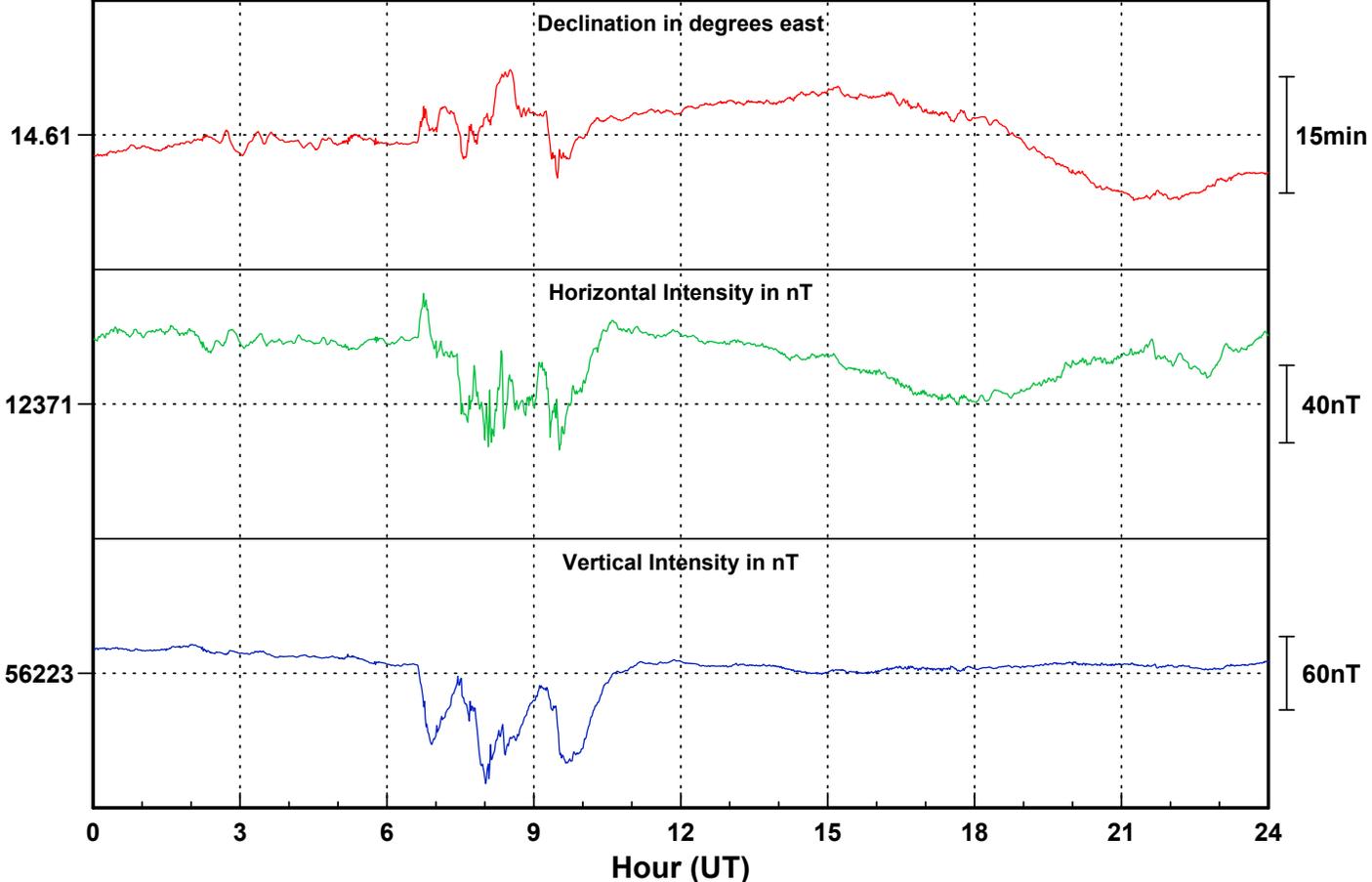
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 105



Date: 16-04-2017

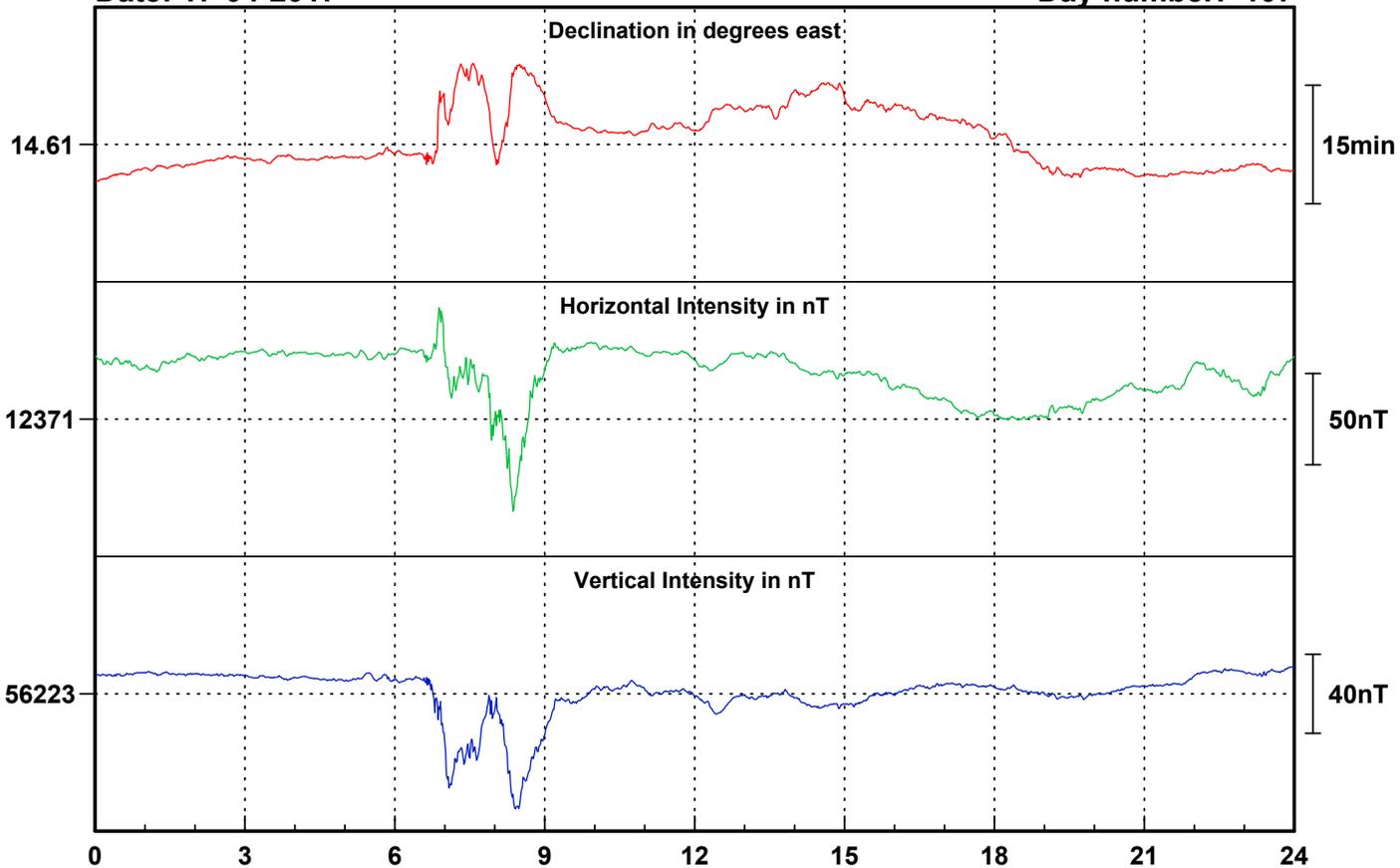
Day number: 106



Date: 17-04-2017

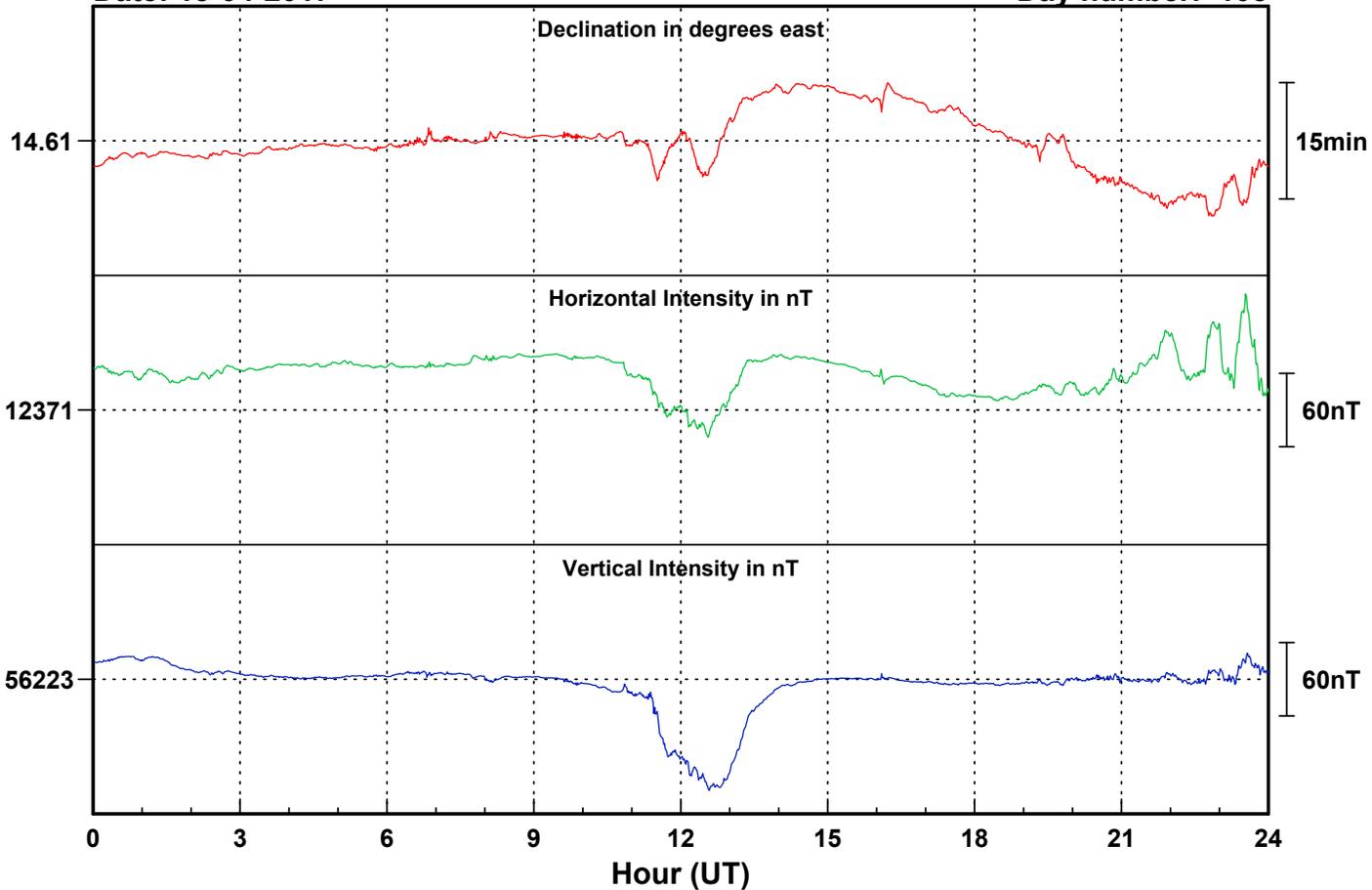
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 107



Date: 18-04-2017

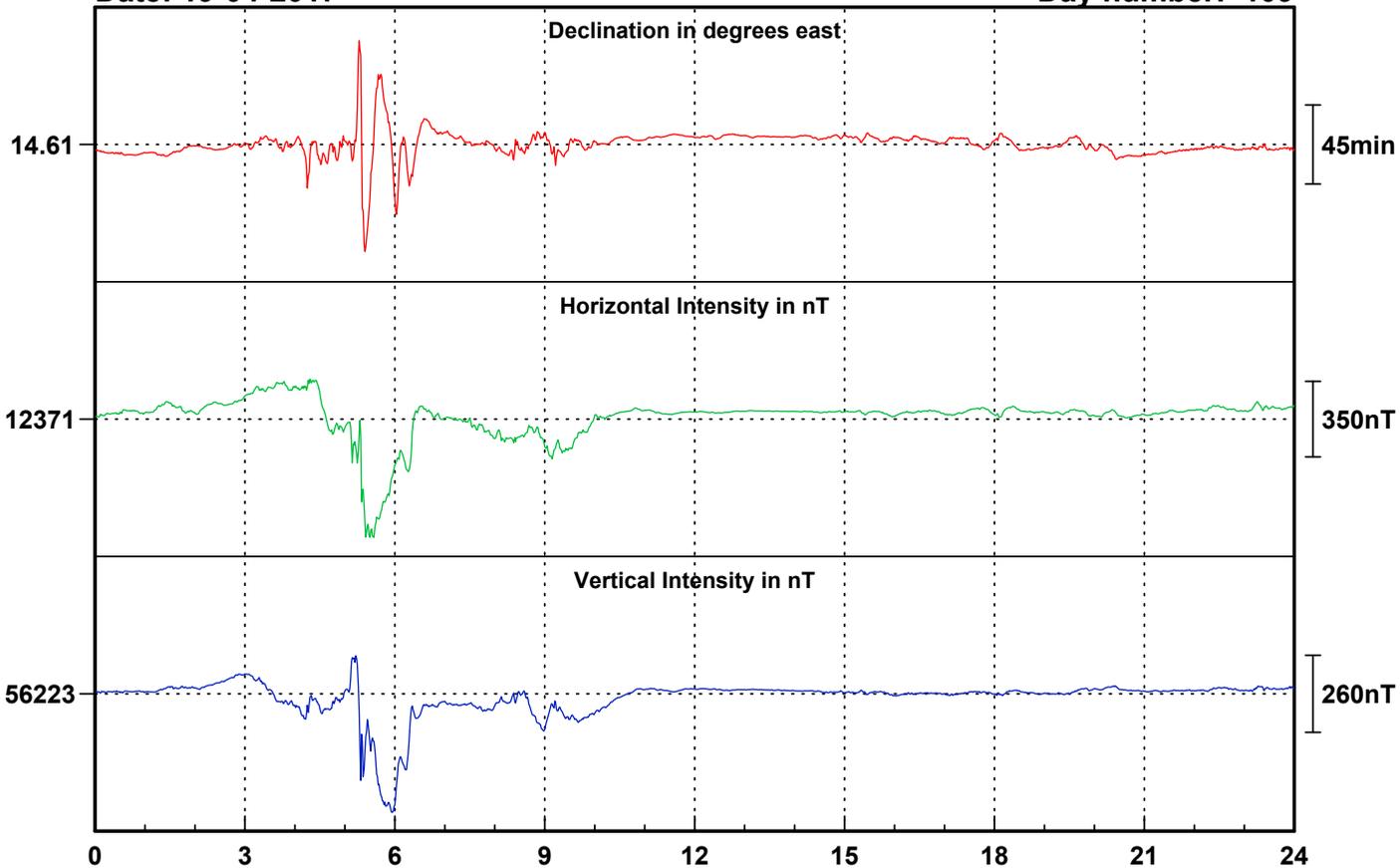
Day number: 108



Date: 19-04-2017

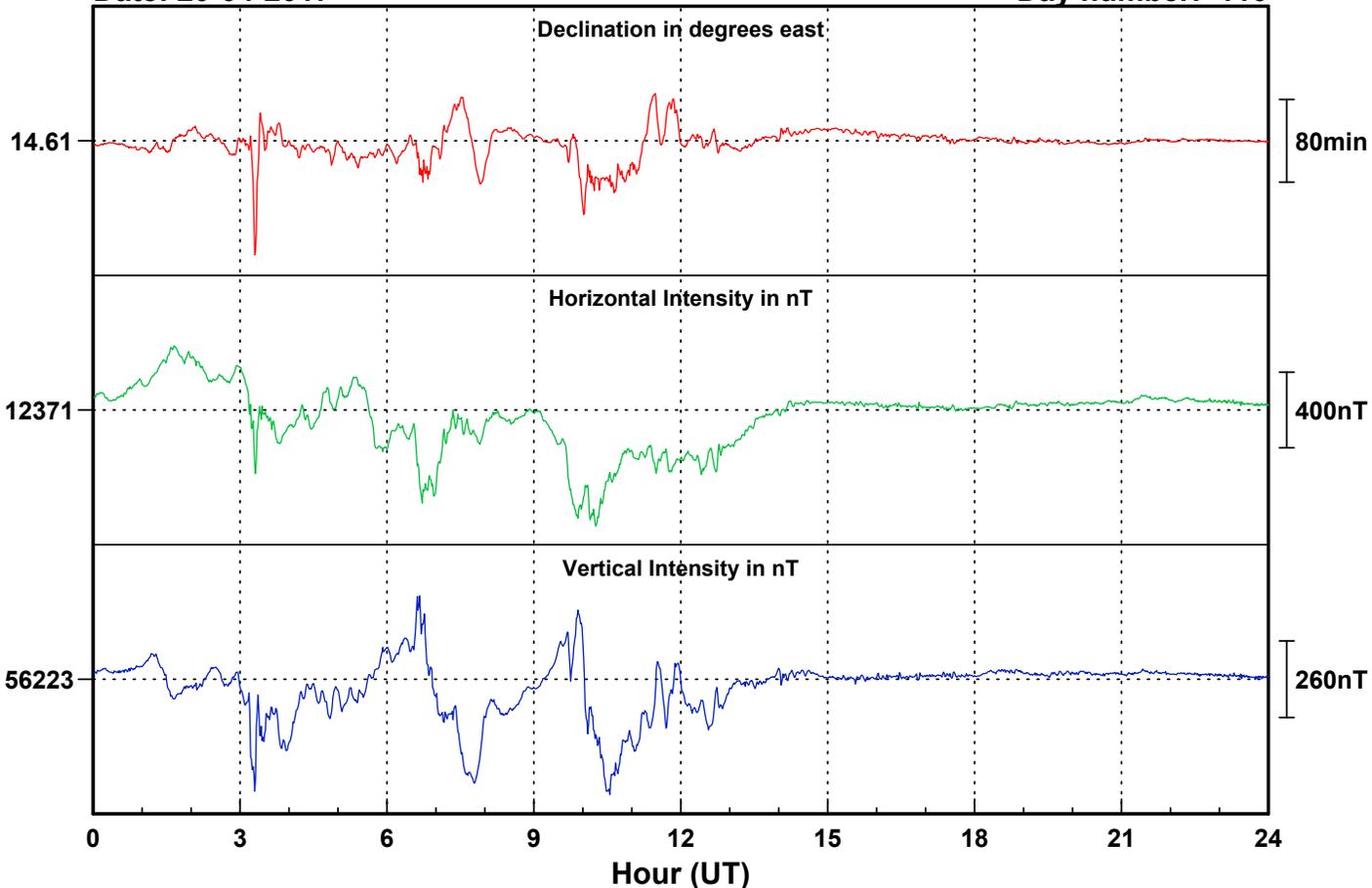
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 109



Date: 20-04-2017

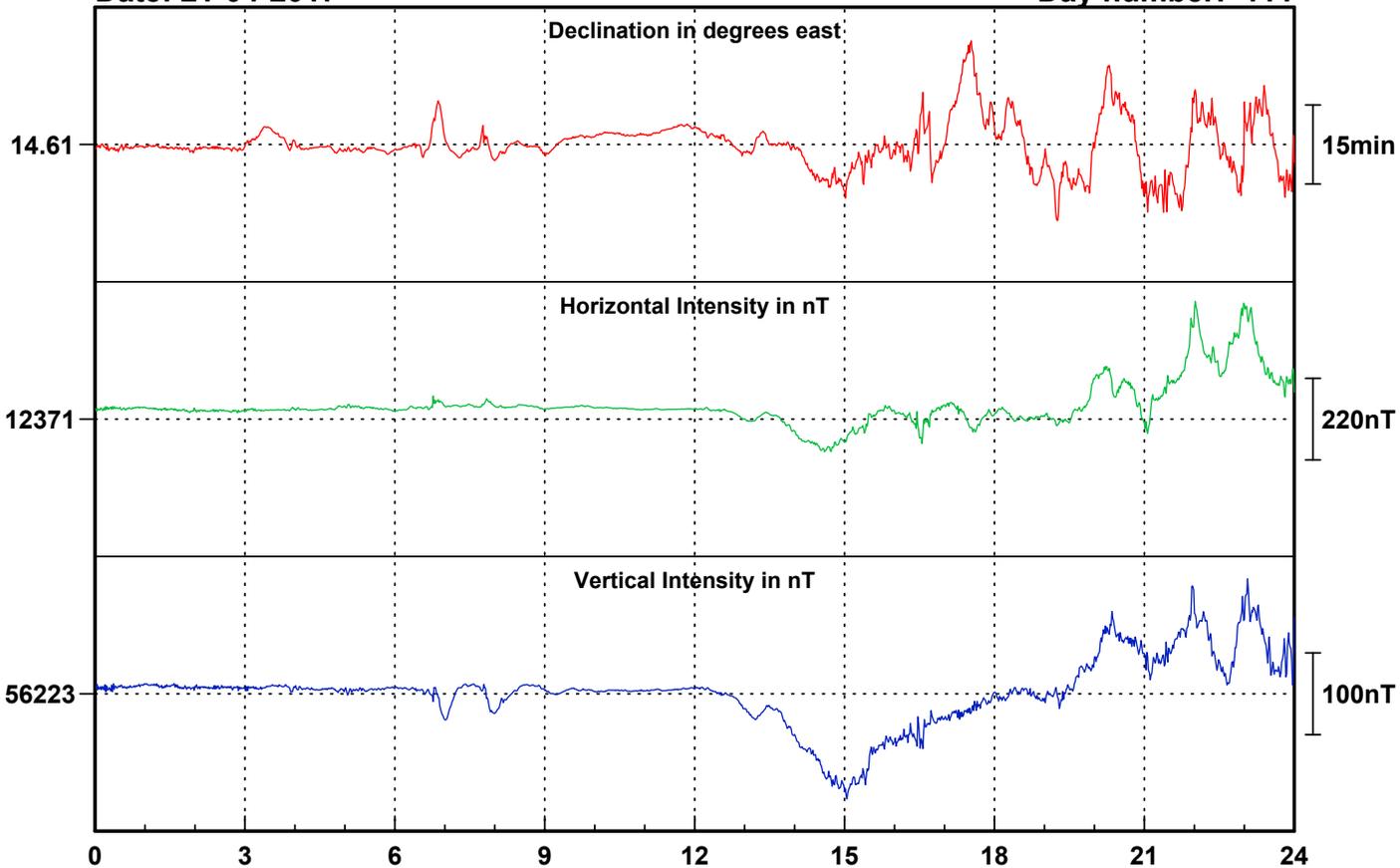
Day number: 110



Date: 21-04-2017

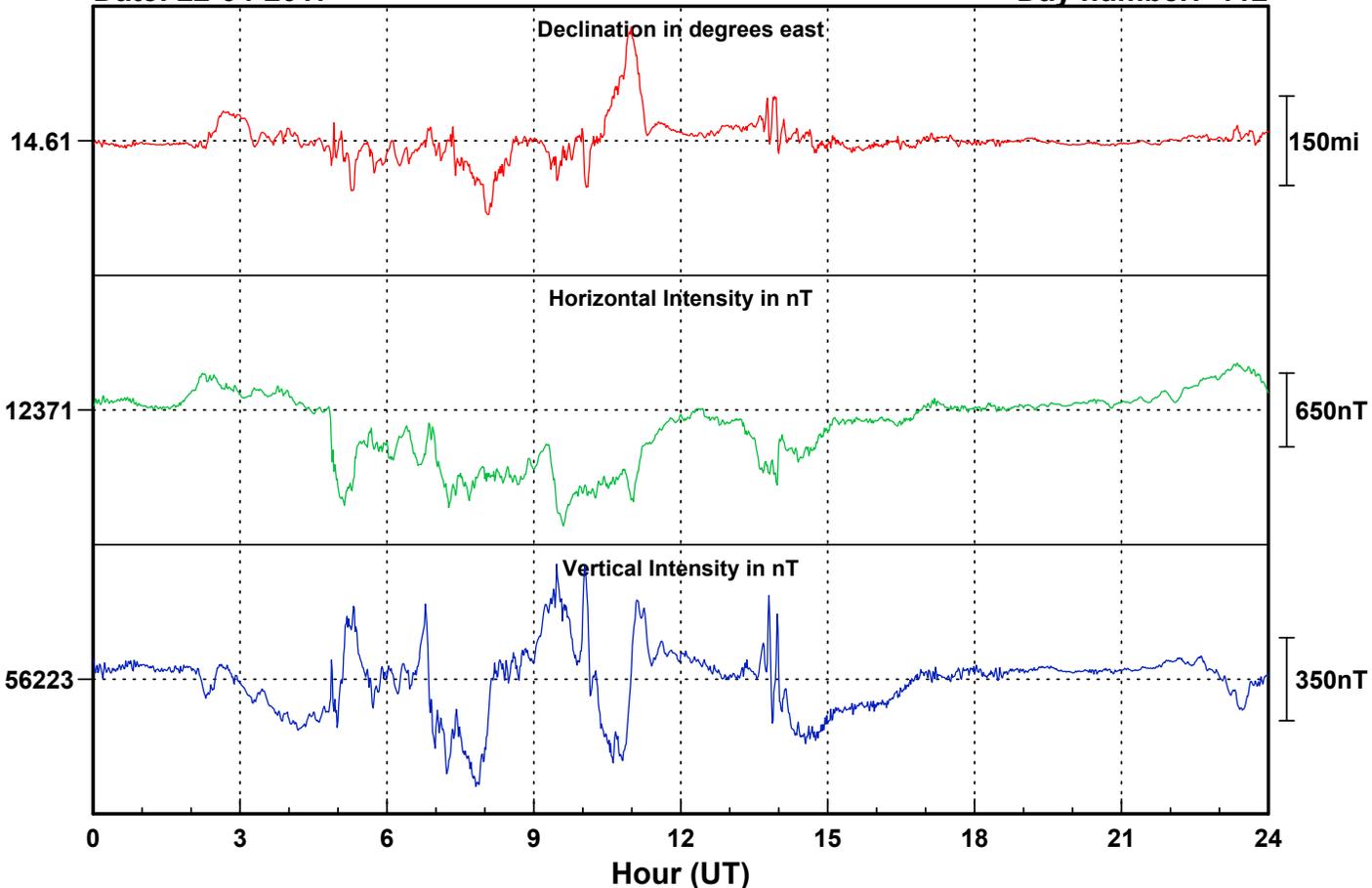
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 111



Date: 22-04-2017

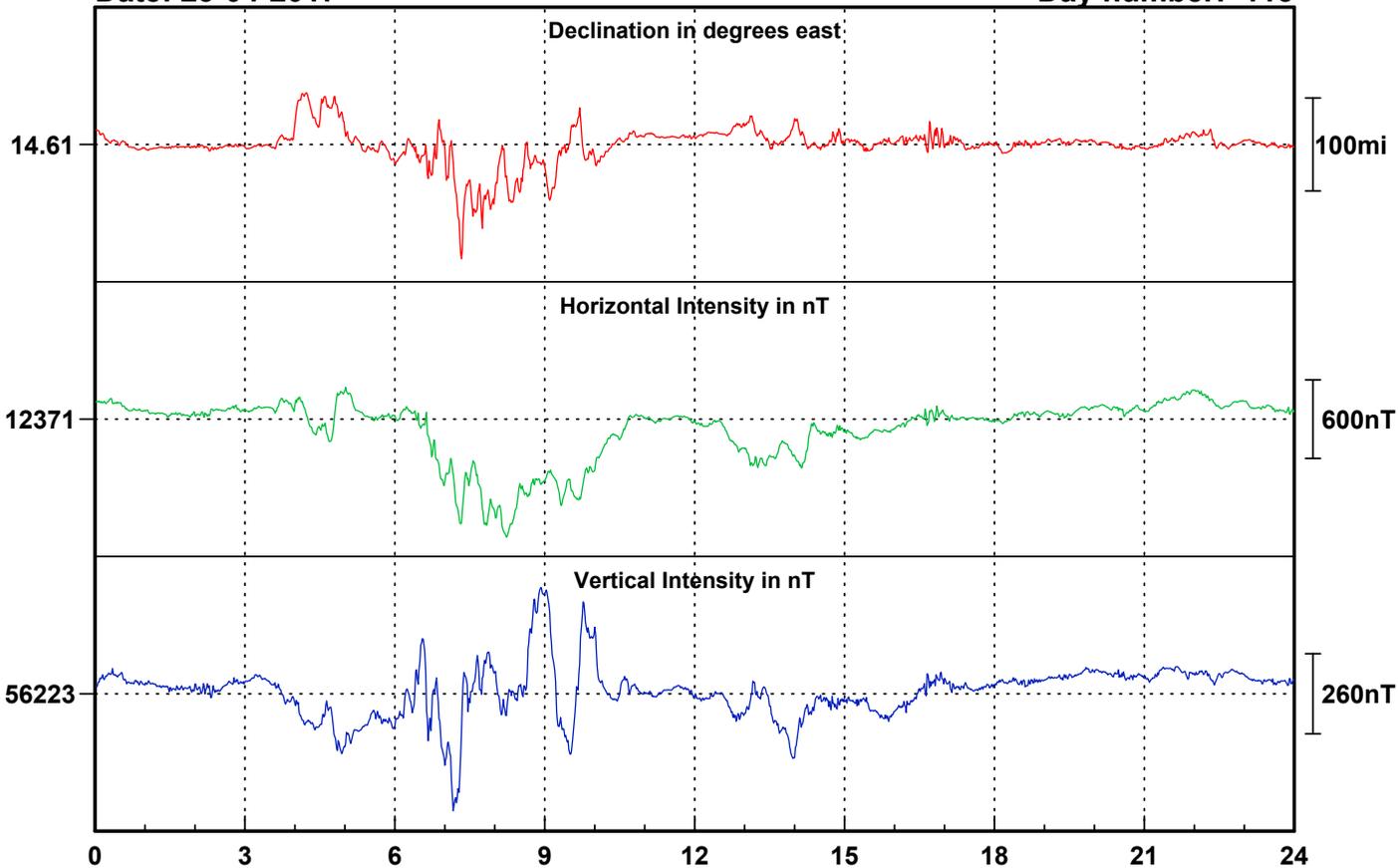
Day number: 112



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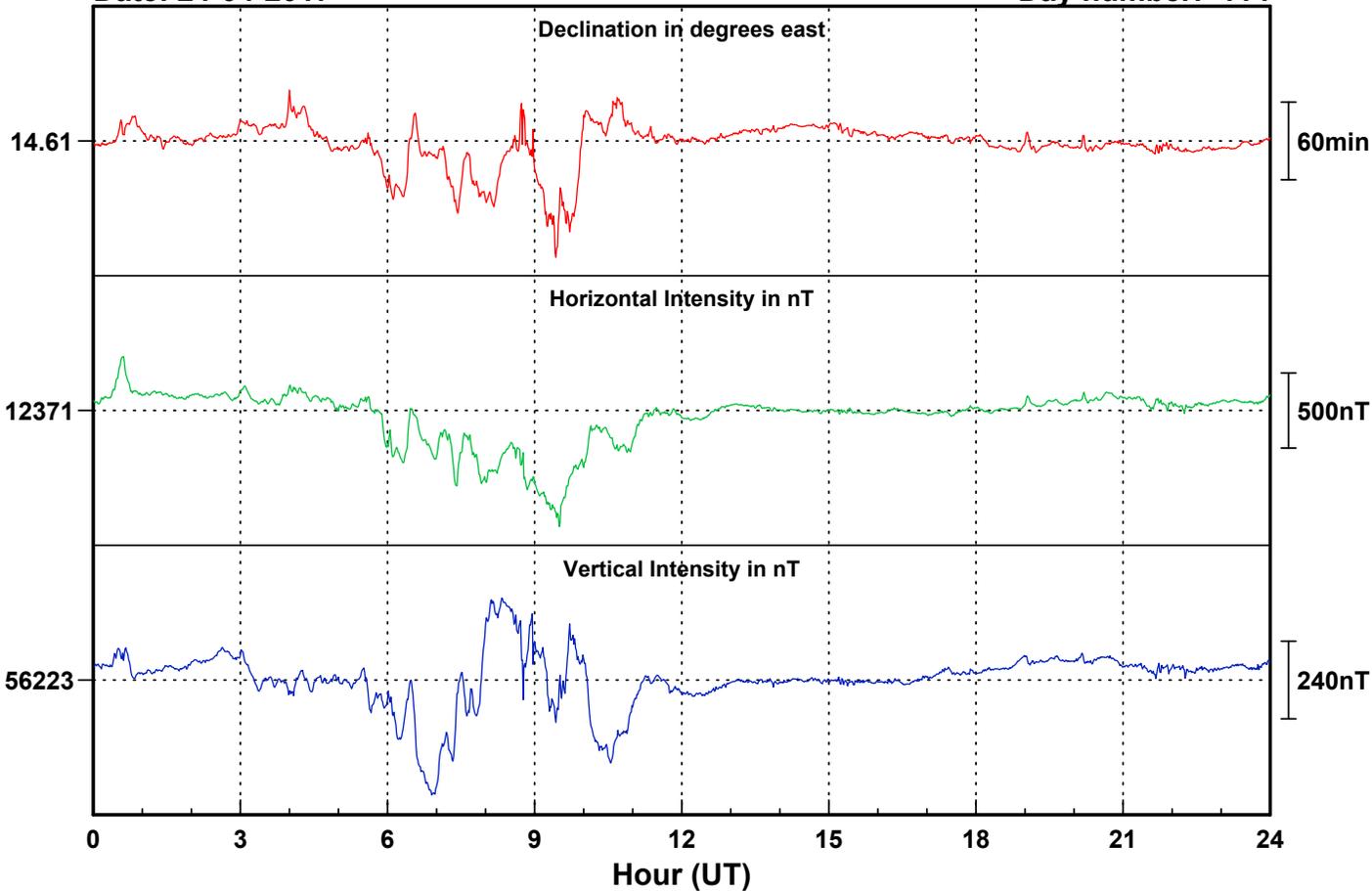
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 113



Date: 24-04-2017

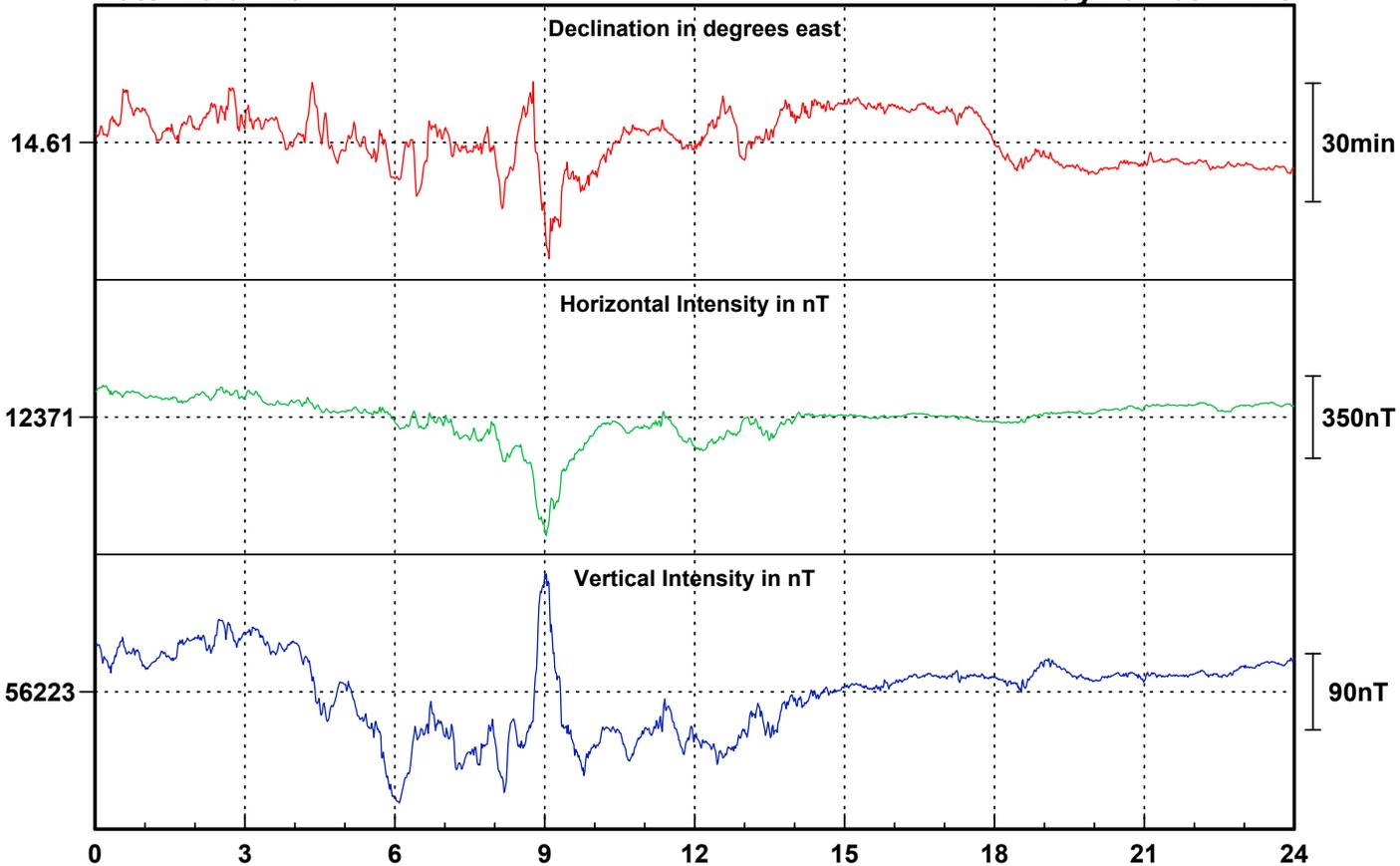
Day number: 114



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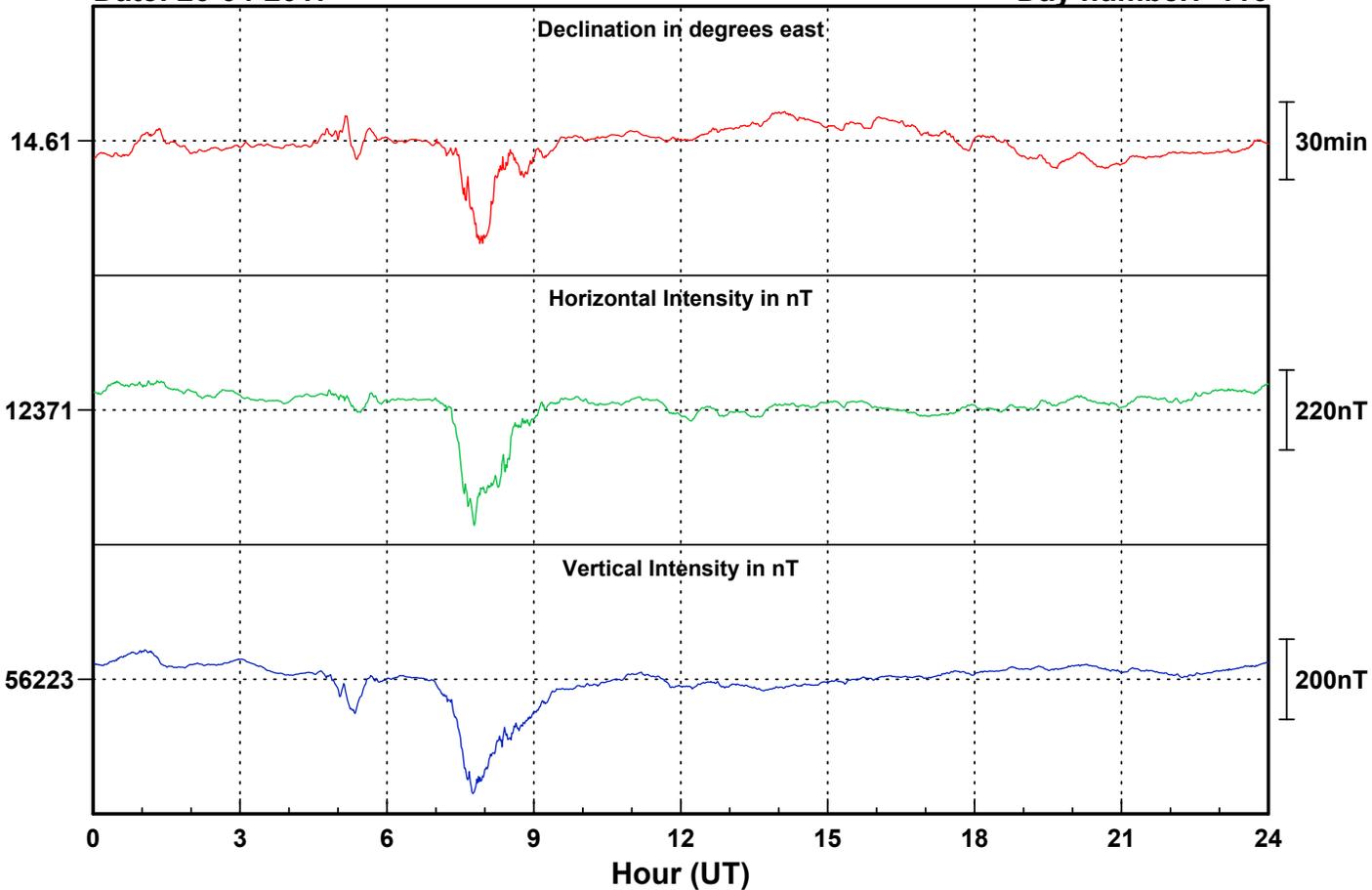
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 115



Date: 26-04-2017

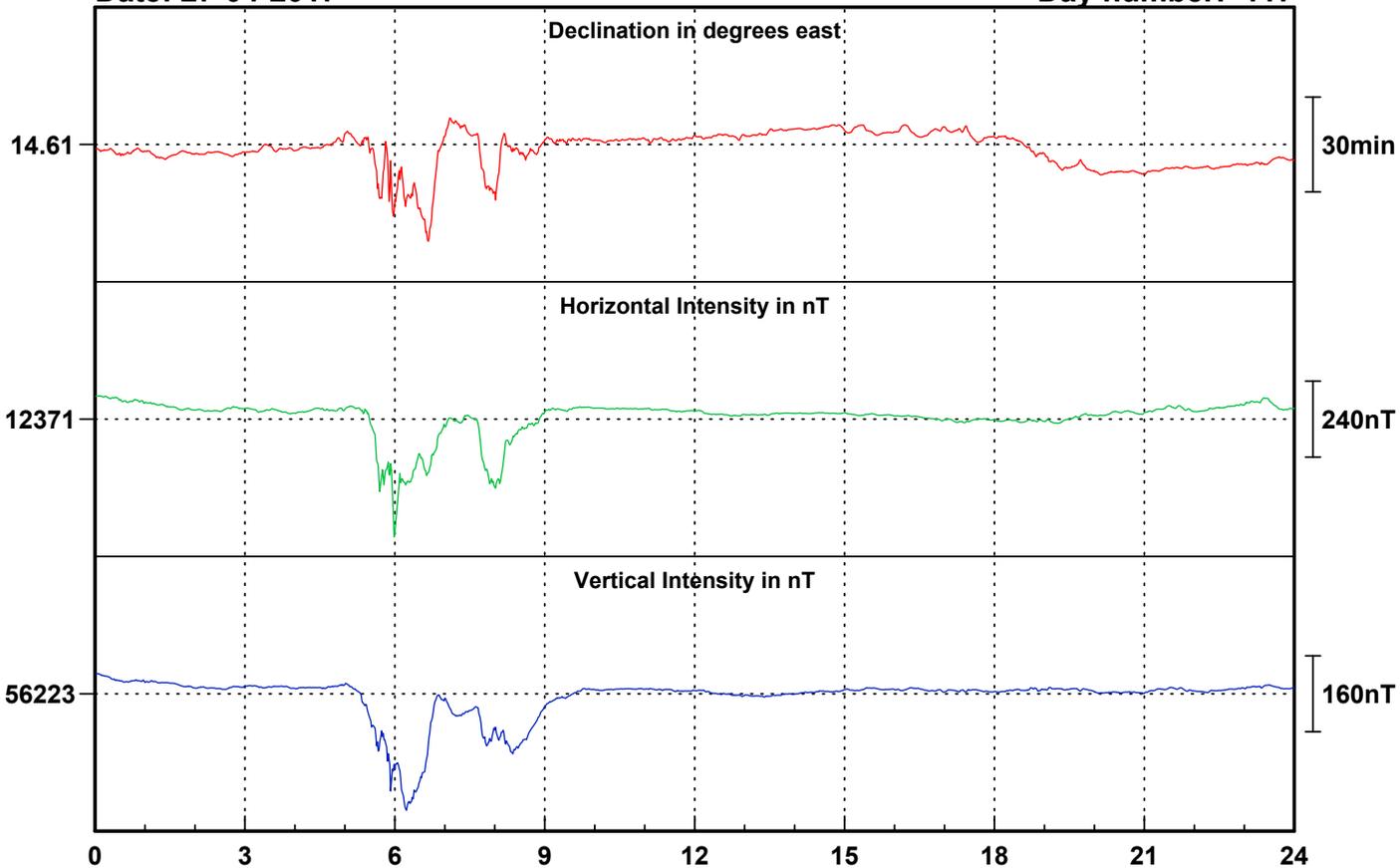
Day number: 116



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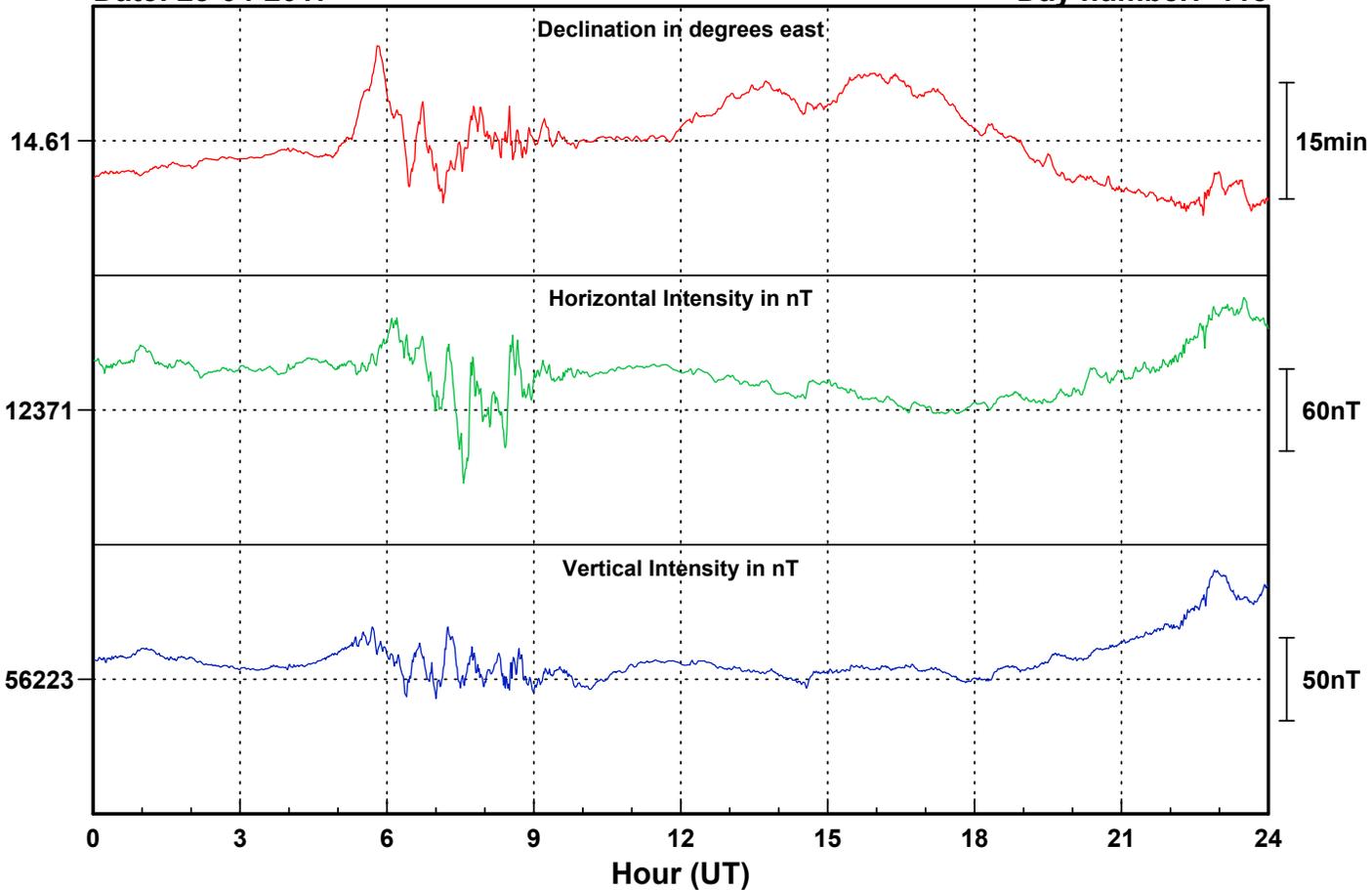
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 117



Date: 28-04-2017

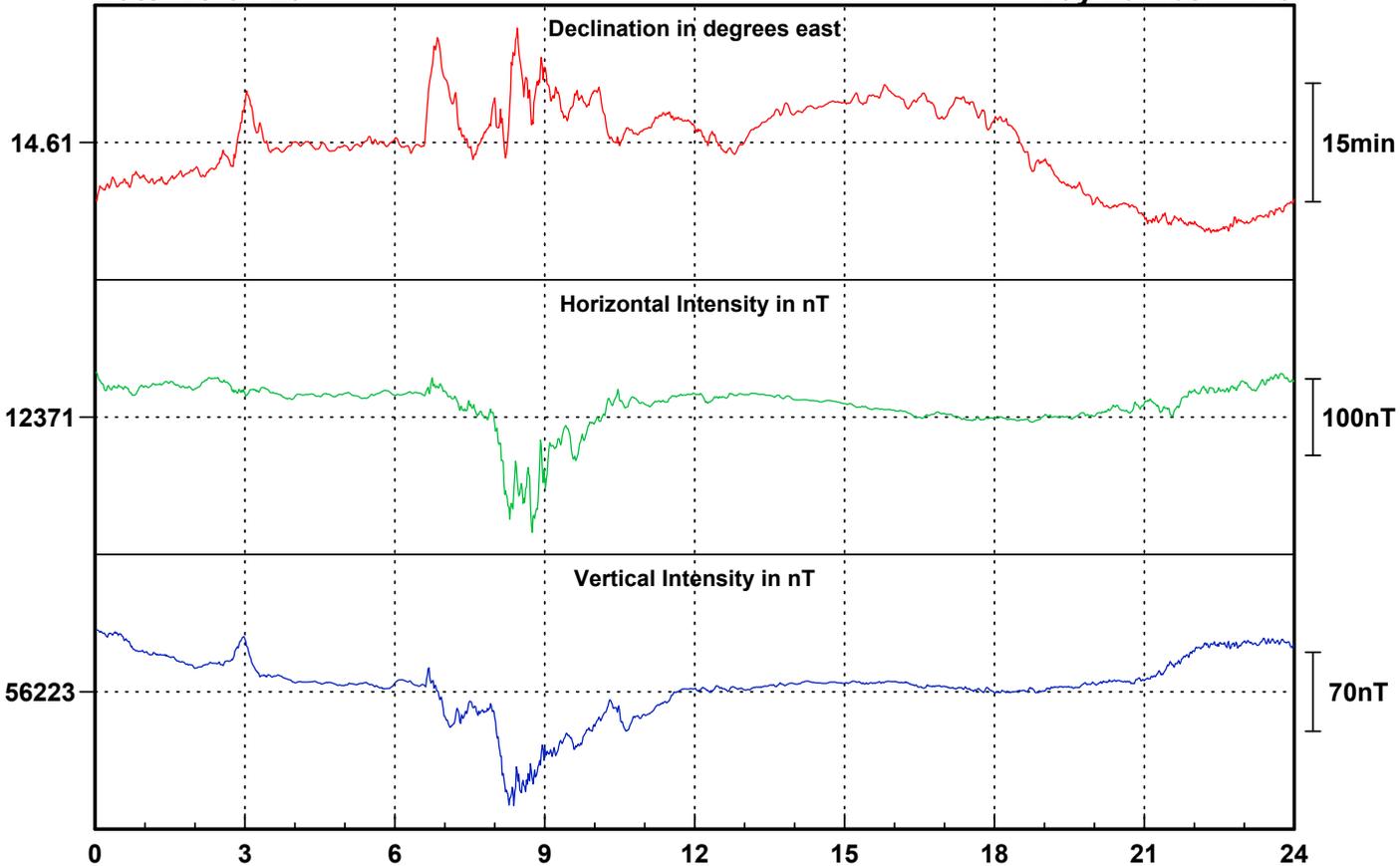
Day number: 118



Date: 29-04-2017

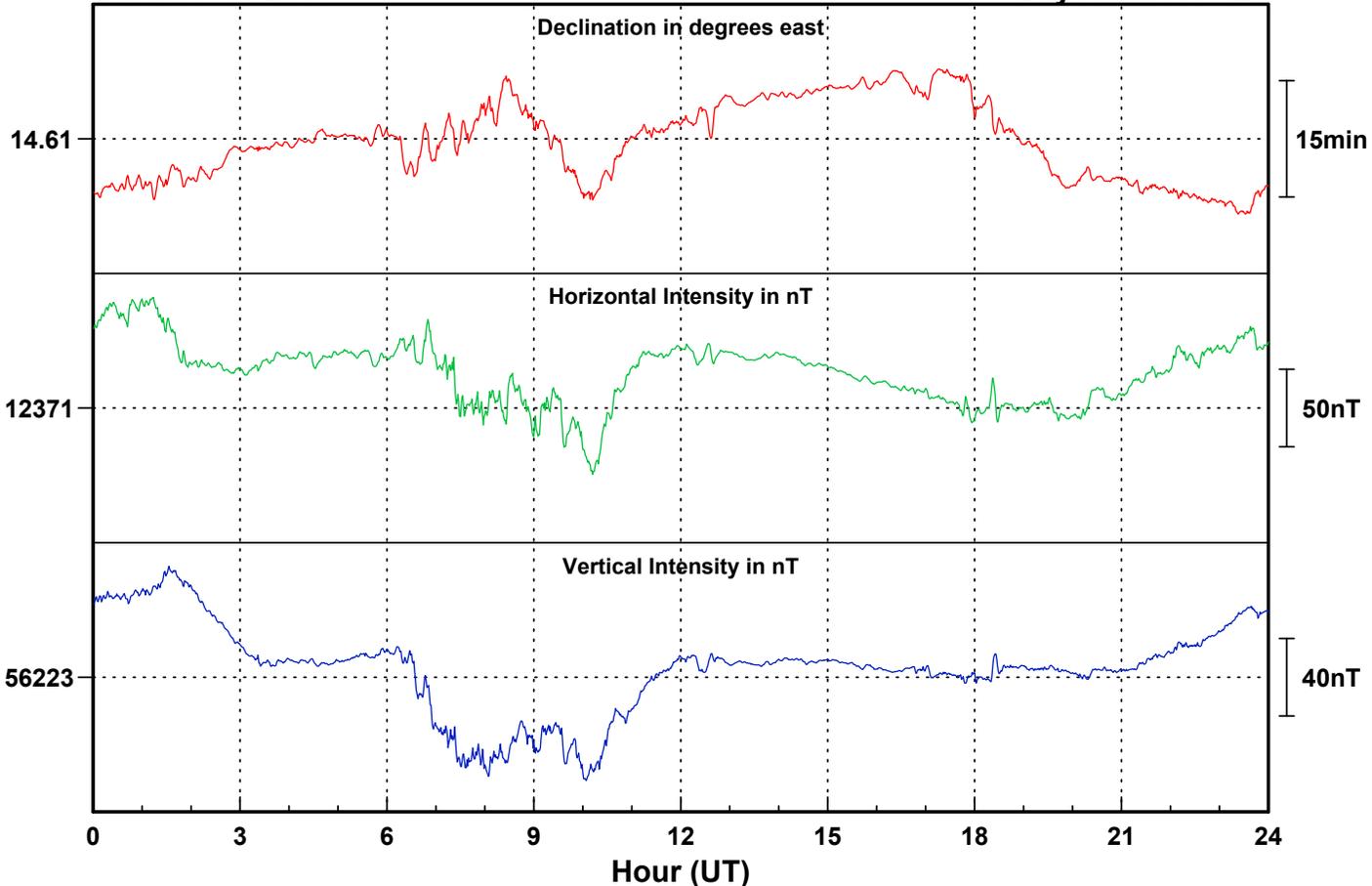
# Fort McMurray

Day number: 119

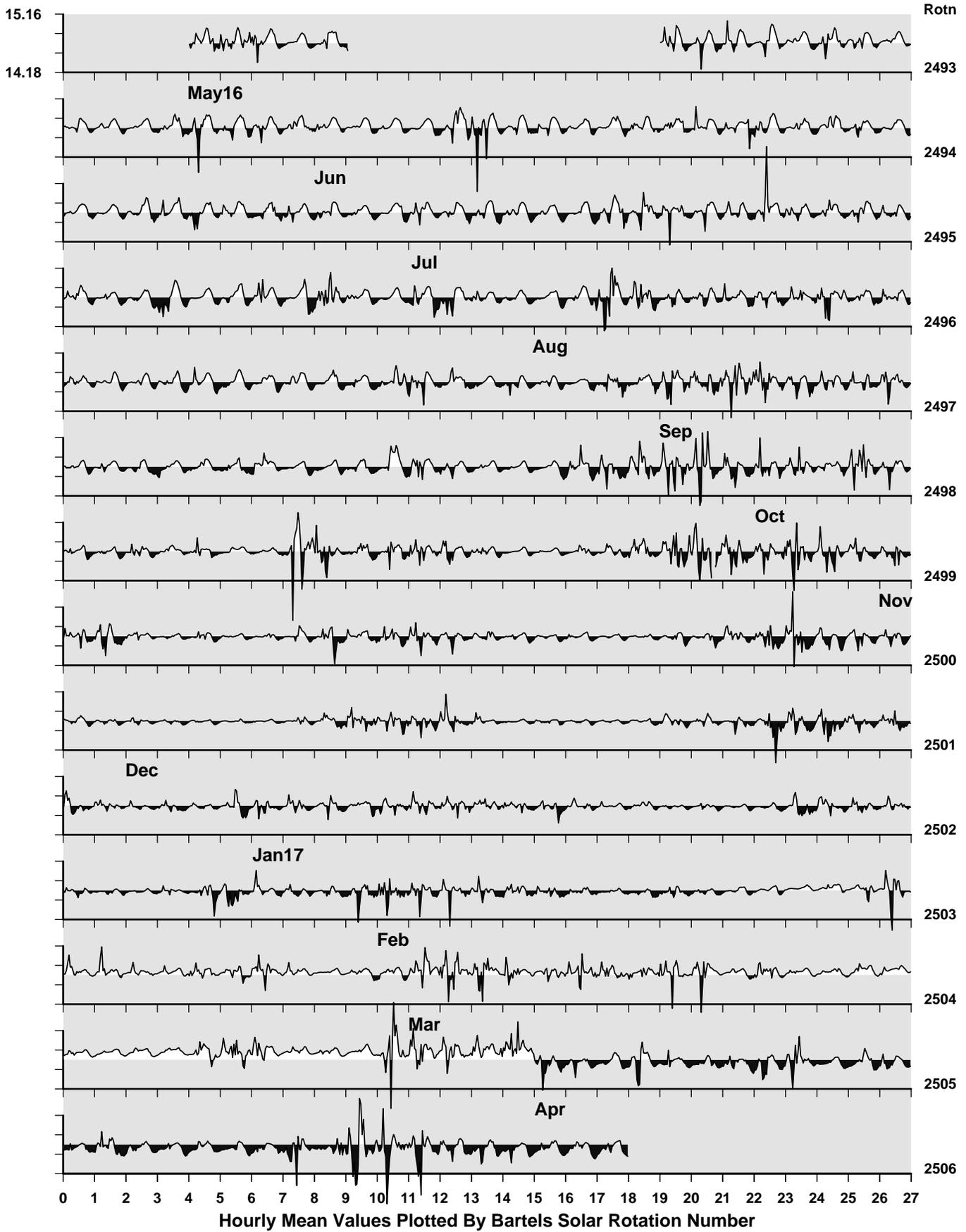


Date: 30-04-2017

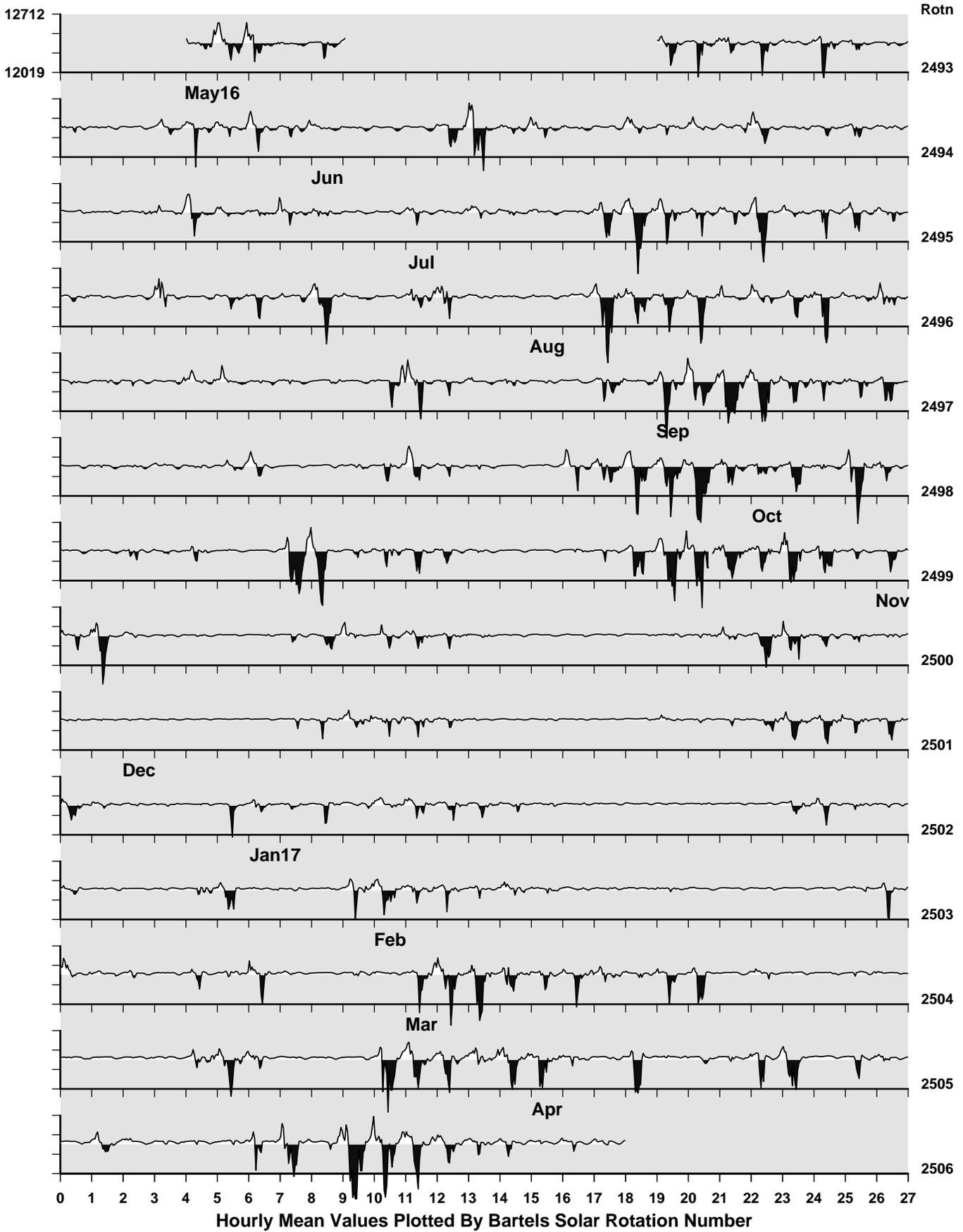
Day number: 120



# Fort McMurray Observatory: Declination (degrees)

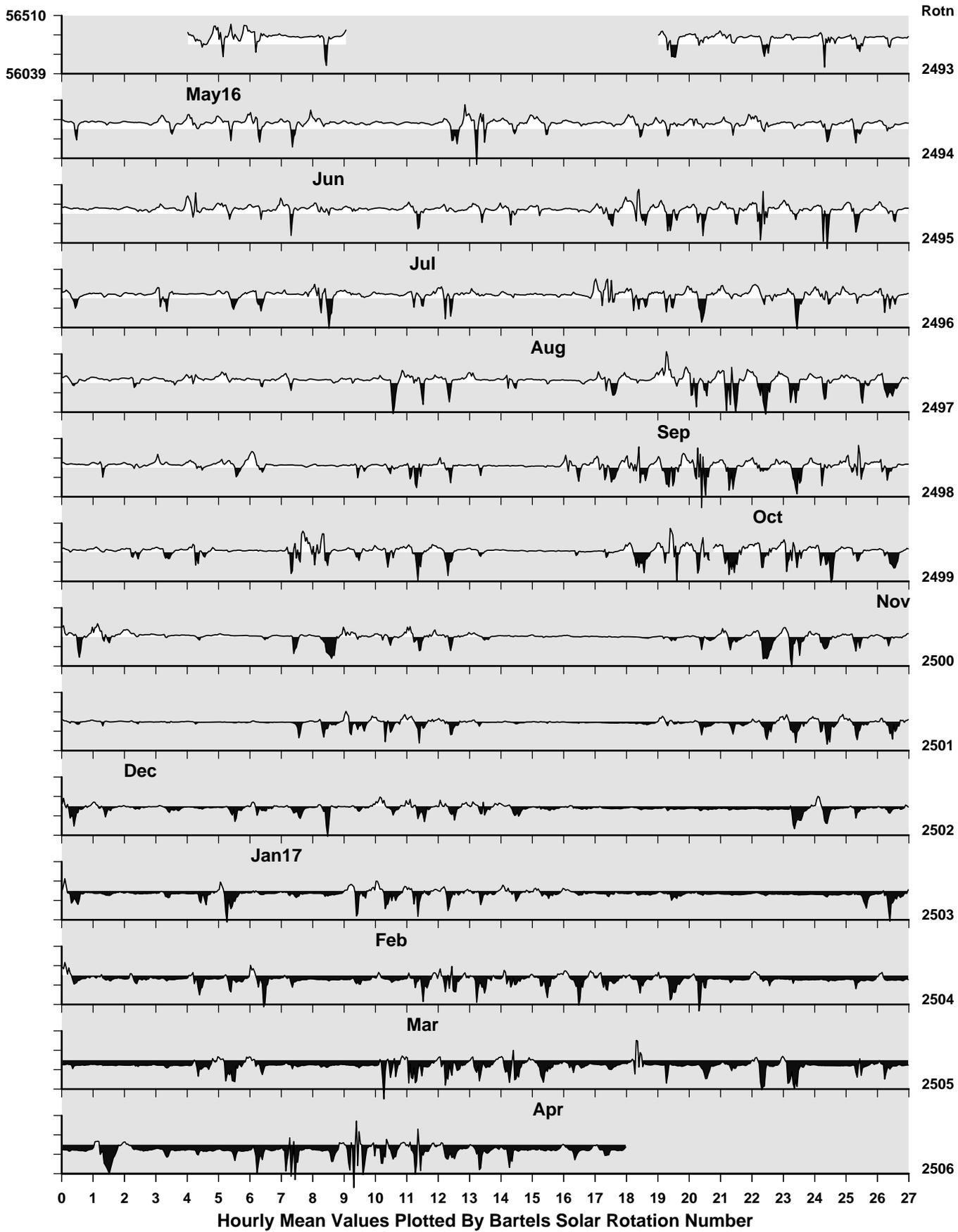


# Fort McMurray Observatory: Horizontal Intensity fhT<sub>L</sub>



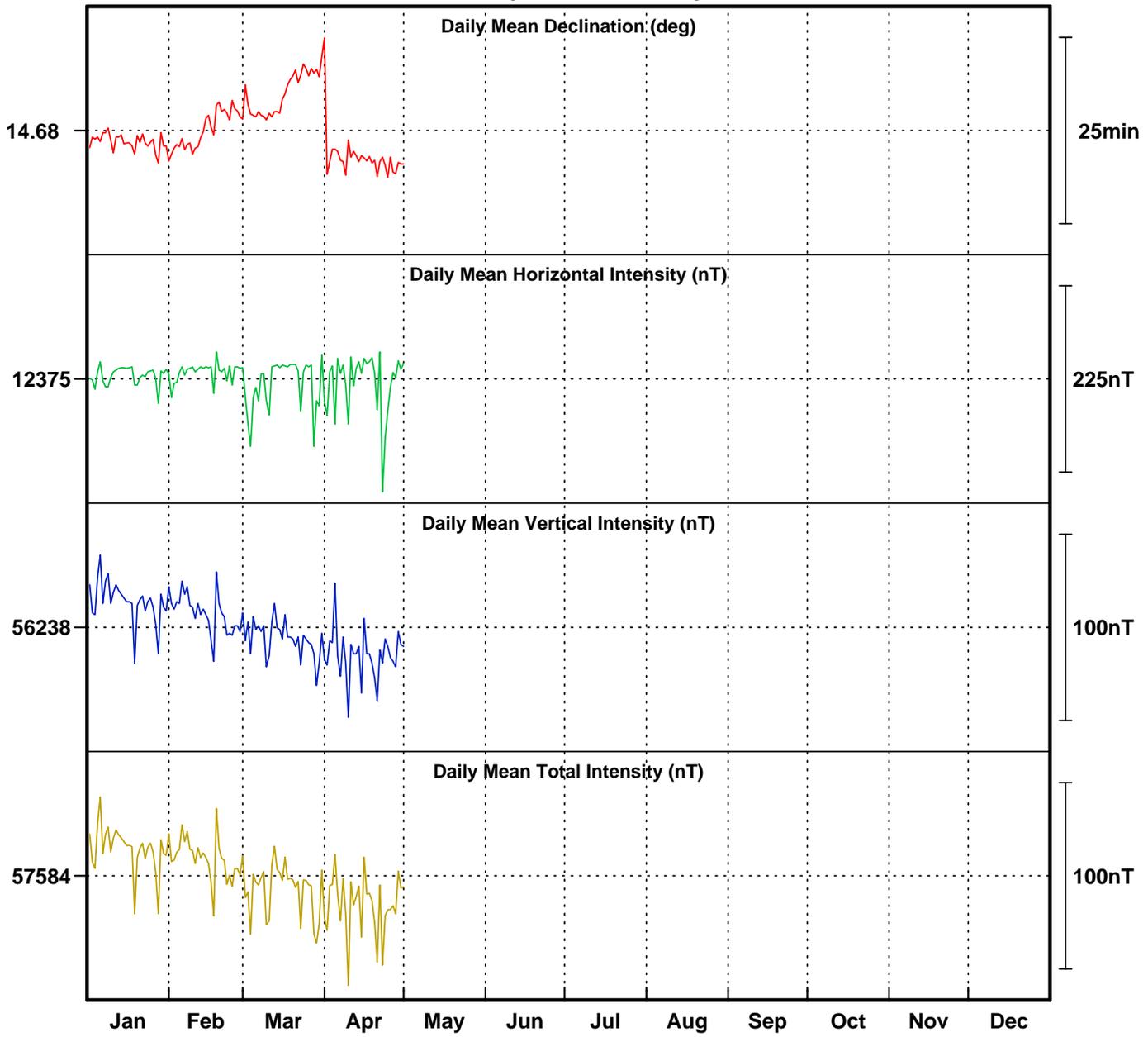
Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

# Fort McMurray Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

# Fort McMurray Observatory 2017



### Monthly Mean Values for Fort McMurray Observatory 2017

Month	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>F</i>
January	14° 39.0′	12379 nT	77° 35.3′	11977 nT	3131 nT	56252 nT	57598 nT
February	14° 40.8′	12384 nT	77° 35.0′	11979 nT	3138 nT	56246 nT	57593 nT
March	14° 45.9′	12368 nT	77° 35.7′	11960 nT	3152 nT	56232 nT	57576 nT
April	14° 36.5′	12371 nT	77° 35.5′	11971 nT	3120 nT	56223 nT	57568 nT

#### Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.