2024 Total Solar Eclipse

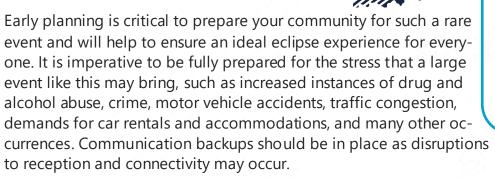


November 2023

Public Safety Planning

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will pass over Indiana, creating darkness as the earth, the moon, and the sun form a straight line. This unique event is expected to result in mass gather-

ings throughout the state with several counties experiencing darkness for an excess of 3 minutes beginning at about 2 p.m. on the west side of the state. Some of Indiana's most rural communities will experience an influx of tourists, traffic and congestion that will require planning, but can also serve as a great opportunity to engage with residents and visitors.



Fast Facts

- The Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) has produced a flyer to address these issues.: https://www.ioa.org/docs/
 Indiana_Optometry_Solar_E clipse_Flyer_v3.1.pdf
- A list of approved sellers can be found at the American Astronomical Society: https://eclipse.aas.org/ resources

Safe Eclipse Viewing

Organizing a number of comfortable eclipse viewing areas can help to create interaction and a sense of community. When planning for your viewing locations, consider accommodations for EMS, restrooms and waste, water, maintenance, ATMS, parking on site or offsite with shuttles, temporary and mobile food vendors, as well as accessible eclipse glasses for attendees.

The Total Solar Eclipse is a rare opportunity for cities, towns, and counties to welcome thousands of visitors to their communities. A well-equipped plan helps to ensure your community has a great eclipse experience.

When viewing a total solar eclipse, safety is first priority. Education on total solar eclipse eye safety is imperative to prevent injuries to eclipse viewers. It is never safe to look directly at the sun during an eclipse without specialized eye protection. Doing so may cause short or long term severe eye damage, including distorted or a loss of vision.

- Looking at the sun through a camera lens, telescope, or any optical device without proper solar filters is <u>not</u> safe and will cause immediate serious eye injury.
- Do not use eclipse glasses while looking through a camera lens, telescope, or any optical device.
- Approved eclipse glasses are the only safe way to view the solar eclipse. Avoid unapproved or counterfeit eclipse glasses due to safety ineffectiveness. Regular sunglasses are not safe for viewing the partial phases of a total solar eclipse.

Traffic and Travel Considerations

A major planning factor for the total solar eclipse will be the number of visitors traveling to Indiana by car.

Though the exact number of actual visitors expected is unknown, prepare for an influx of traffic and congestion before and especially after the eclipse which may cause significant bottlenecks and result in ambulance and other emergency service disruptions.

Plan for disruptions of transportation reliant critical services such as dialysis and home health as well as delivery delays of supplies which may be critical to healthcare operational functions. It will be beneficial to also take into account an increase of motor vehicle 145,000 to 581,000

eclipse visitors are expected in Indiana

Consider how your plans will be communicated with long-distance travelers.

and boat accidents as well as disabled vehicles on the road. Planning ahead for traffic control in areas where congestion and jams are prone to happen and alerting communities to avoid non-emergency travel when possible are considerations that can make a major difference. Messaging about not leaving children or pets unattended in cars is also encouraged.

Medical Considerations

When planning for a medical surge, consider the following:

- Eye injuries/damage from viewing of the sun without proper eyewear; affects may occur 12-24 hrs after the event
- Overdoses, assess Narcan availability
- Excessive 911 calls
- Reschedule dialysis and other related non-emergency medical procedures to a different day, if appropriate
- Order medical supplies, blood, tissue, hospital cafeteria food, etc. early and delivered early to avoid issues
- Food safety inspections increased temporary food vendors

- Emergency department and EMS staffing
- Increased number of health related issues due to the potential of large crowds
- Staffing/shift adjustments for a few days
- Staffing respite space especially for longer shifts
- Increased need for Medivac may be required due to ground transportation delays
- Identify a helipad location in each county in your planning efforts
- Heat related injuries such as heatstroke and dehydration

Online Resources



Eclipse Basics



Path of Totality



Eve Safety



K-12 Booklist



Travel Tips

For additional information on the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse (TSE):

