

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 gatherings 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.



Early planning is critical to prepare your community for such a rare event and will help to ensure an ideal eclipse experience for everyone. It is imperative to be fully prepared for the stress that a large event like this may bring, such as increased instances of drug and alcohol abuse, crime, motor vehicle accidents, traffic congestion, demands for car rentals and accommodations, and many other occurrences. Communication backups should be in place as disruptions to reception and connectivity may occur.

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 **not** 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.

Fast Facts

- The Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) has produced a flyer to address these issues.: https://www.ioa.org/docs/Indiana_Optomtry_Solar_Eclipse_Flyer_v3.1.pdf
- A list of approved sellers can be found at the American Astronomical Society: <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources>

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 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.

145,000 to 581,000 eclipse visitors are expected in Indiana

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

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

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
WHAT IT IS & WHEN IT WILL OCCUR

WHAT IS A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?
A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on Earth and blocking out the Sun's light. This event can only be seen from a narrow path across Earth's surface.

WHEN WILL THE ECLIPSE OCCUR?
The total solar eclipse will occur on Tuesday, April 8, 2024, at 12:08 PM EDT. The eclipse will be visible from a narrow path across the United States, including Indiana.

[eclipse2024.gov](#)

[Eclipse Basics](#)

PATH OF TOTALITY
ECLIPSE OBSERVATION TIMES ACROSS INDIANA

HOW LONG WILL TOTALITY LAST?

TOTALITY DURATIONS IN SELECT CITIES

City	Duration (min)
Indianapolis	2:00
Bloomington	2:00
Fort Wayne	2:00
South Bend	2:00
Ellettsville	2:00
Terre Haute	2:00
Madison	2:00
Greensburg	2:00
Ellettsville	2:00
Terre Haute	2:00
Madison	2:00
Greensburg	2:00

[eclipse2024.gov](#)

[Path of Totality](#)

EYE SAFETY
ECLIPSE: HOW TO VIEW THE ECLIPSE SAFELY

PROPER EYE PROTECTION

NOT SAFE: Looking at the Sun through sunglasses, a camera, binoculars, or a telescope.

SAFE: Looking at the Sun through a certified solar filter.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

[eclipse2024.gov](#)

[Eye Safety](#)

EDUCATIONAL BOOKLIST
ECLIPSE: THE SUN AND THE MOON SYSTEM

GRADES K-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

Grades 9-12

[eclipse2024.gov](#)

[K-12 Booklist](#)

TRAVEL PREPAREDNESS
TIPS FOR THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

BEFORE THE ECLIPSE: PLAN AHEAD

- Plan your travel route and timing.
- Check road conditions and traffic.
- Pack extra food and water.
- Bring a first aid kit.
- Have a backup plan.

[eclipse2024.gov](#)

[Travel Tips](#)

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

[in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/](https://www.in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/)

