



SOLAR ECLIPSE PREPARATIONS

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ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 8, MUCH OF NEW YORK STATE WILL WITNESS A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, WHICH HAPPENS WHEN THE MOON PASSES BETWEEN THE SUN AND EARTH. THE SKY WILL DARKEN AS IF IT WERE DAWN OR DUSK.

Millions of visitors are expected, especially in areas where there will be periods of totality. Western New York planners are expecting nearly one million visitors and are planning for the eclipse like a blizzard event. Because most of those visitors will not be from the area, planners are expecting massive gridlock in the hours after totality. Most businesses are going to remote work and schools are closed.

Safety is the number-one priority when viewing a total solar eclipse. Except during the brief total phase of the eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun's face, it is not safe to look directly at the sun without specialized eye protection. Viewing any part of the bright sun through a camera lens, binoculars or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury.

When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse, which happens before and after totality, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses (eclipse glasses) or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses; regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the sun. Safe solar viewers are thousands of times darker and ought to comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

In reviewing information for safe eclipse-viewing glasses, NASA discusses how to safely view a solar eclipse. Some of those tips are shared below. A key link found on its website is to the American Astronomy Society, where details pertaining to safe viewing can be found. See it here: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/how-to-tell-if-viewers-are-safe>

Additionally, the website has a link to a list of trusted vendors that can supply those glasses. Please review the list here: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters>, and if purchasing glasses, we recommend selecting a listed provider. We also recommend speaking to a company representative and reviewing the ratings on the glasses to ensure they meet the requirements for safe viewing. Another tip is to buy early. Public interest will be high, and it is likely glasses will be in short supply as the event approaches.

NYSIR RISK MANAGEMENT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES REGARDING GLASSES AND THE ECLIPSE. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- Only purchase eclipse-viewing glasses that meet the ISO 12312-2 standard. Additional information on safe solar viewers is available here: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters>
- Always inspect your eclipse glasses before use; if torn, scratched or otherwise damaged, discard them.
- Do NOT look at the sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses - the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.
- Closely supervise students viewing the eclipse to ensure they are wearing their protective glasses properly.

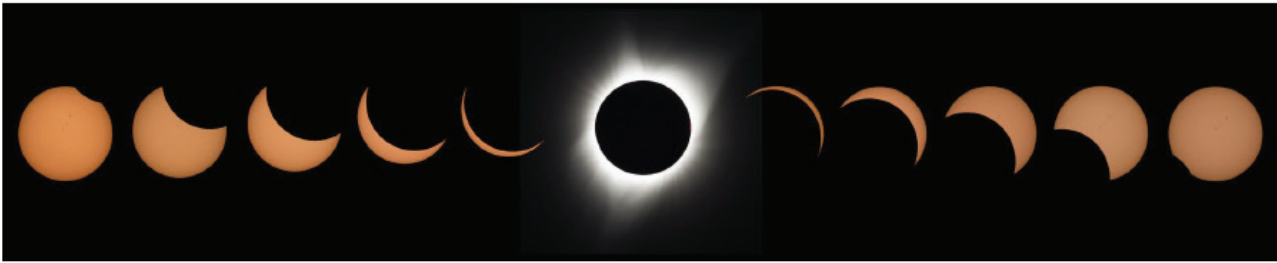


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HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT SAFETY GUIDELINES FROM NASA TO FOLLOW DURING A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE:

- View the sun through eclipse glasses during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.
- You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the moon completely obscures the sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. (You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the sun through eclipse glasses.)
- As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright sun reappear after totality, immediately put on your eclipse glasses again.



SKIN SAFETY

During the partial phases of a total eclipse, the sun will be very bright. If you are watching the entire eclipse, you may be in direct sunlight for hours. Remember to use sunscreen, a hat and protective clothing to prevent skin damage. Additionally, it is important to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids before, during and after the event to help prevent cramps or heat exhaustion.

Additional safety tips from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can be found here:
<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/tips-stay-safe-sun-sunscreen-sunglasses>

TRAFFIC SAFETY

There are 29 counties in New York that will experience totality. The event, and the dusk-like conditions approximately 40 minutes before and after, increases the potential for accidents involving motorists driving on unfamiliar streets and roads. That also increases the potential for car-pedestrian accidents. Traffic congestion and limited visibility also could hinder first responders getting to emergencies in a timely fashion. Emergency planners in many communities are preparing for the eclipse in the same manner that they plan for severe winter storms.

ECLIPSE SIMULATOR

NYSIR was provided with a simulator of what can be expected during the eclipse. While this is geared toward Western New York, it's useful for all New York residents. Try the simulation here:
https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse-simulator/2024/index.html?city_id=28665

OTHER TIPS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has issued safety information and viewing guidance related to the upcoming solar eclipse. Find this information here: <https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/3/dec-issues-public-safety-information-and-viewing-guidance-ahead-of-2024-solar-eclipse>

Enjoy the unique experience, but please do so safely and responsibly!