

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Solar Eclipse | Be Responsible, Resourceful and Resilient



A total solar eclipse will be occurring in Oregon on August 21, 2017 and North Central Oregon has the best chance of clear skies and view. County officials are expecting approximately 200,000 visitors to begin arriving in Central Oregon four to six days before the solar eclipse taxing our supplies, services and infrastructure. Planning and preparing for the unexpected will help residents experience this event with patience and resilience.

Points to Consider for Preparation:

Eclipse glasses- Many stores have special eclipse-viewing glasses that block harmful light that damage your vision. *Regular sunglasses will not protect eyes from permanent damage.* Look for the ISO 12312-2 international standard on eclipse glasses (<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>).

Traffic- Heavy congestion is expected which may considerably lengthen drive times. Consider limiting driving several days before, during and after August 21, 2017. If you must travel, keep an emergency kit in your car with food, water, medications, toilet paper, etc. Also, don't drive distracted: put down your devices and pay attention to the road.

Fuel- Fuel up the car and keep it full. With extra cars on the roads, there is a potential for shortages of gasoline.

Cash- ATMs may be overwhelmed. Keep some cash on hand.

Stock up on food and supplies- Travelers will be expecting to buy food, bottled water and other supplies. This could cause shortages. Store enough food, personal hygiene items, medications, first aid and other supplies for your family and pets for 10 days to 2 weeks.

See these OSU publications to help with planning:

Food Storage for Emergencies, SP 50-833

Water Storage for Emergencies, SP 50-835

Both can be found on-line at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/food-storage>.

Fire- Fire danger will be high. Take steps to ensure your home and property have defensible spaces. Remind visitors of basic wild fire safety, such as not driving or parking on dry grass and no campfires or open flames.

Communication- Prepare a back-up communication plan with your family. Cell towers may become overwhelmed.

Emergency Services- With the large number of people expected in our region, first responders and medical personnel may be taxed. Have a comprehensive first-aid kit on hand and be prepared to take care of minor injuries or incidents. If you must call for help, know that longer waits will be likely. Avoid risky behaviors during this time.

Water and Energy- With the additional strain on infrastructures, help conserve by being mindful of yard watering and unplug electrical appliances when not in use.

Public Safety- Lock your vehicles and homes, and do not store valuables in your car unattended.

Questions?

Contact the Emergency Manager at your local county Sheriff's office:

Deschutes County: 541-550-4888
<https://sheriff.deschutes.org/divisions/special-services/emergency-management/>

Crook County: 541-550-4888
<http://sheriff.co.crook.or.us/Divisions/Emergency-Management/>

Jefferson County: 541-550-4888
<http://www.co.jefferson.or.us/sheriff/Home>



The path of totality through Oregon communities. Image courtesy of NASA

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