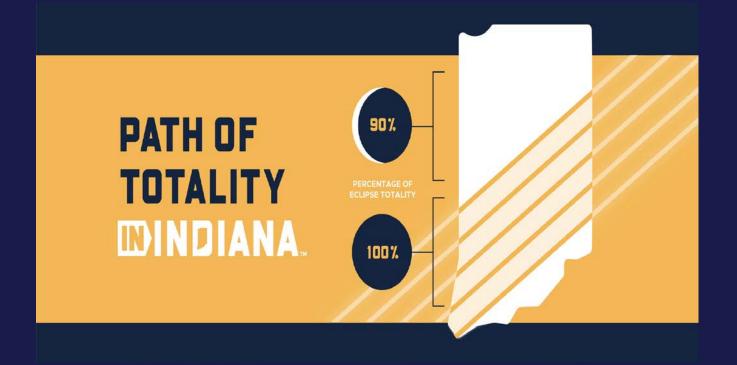
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES



Prepared by: Monroe County Emergency Management Agency



Overview:

On Monday, April 8, 2024, Monroe County and the entire state of Indiana will experience a total solar eclipse.

Due to its rarity, several people don't know what happens during a total solar eclipse.

A total solar eclipse is a very rare event that occurs when the moon passes between the sun and earth. This causes a complete blockage of the sun. When the eclipse takes place, the sky will become dark, like the time of dawn.

Why is the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse raising a lot of publicity and concern?

For the April 8th solar eclipse, Monroe County lies within the path of totality, which is where the full eclipse experience can be seen. Within the path of totality, viewers will see the sun's corona (outer atmosphere), which usually can't be seen due to the brightness of the sun.

The eclipse will start to cover Monroe County at approximately 3:04 in the afternoon on Monday, April 8th, and the totality duration will last for approximately 4 minutes and 2 seconds.

Time Duration of Totality in Indiana Video: https://youtu.be/qZRvspi6vLQ

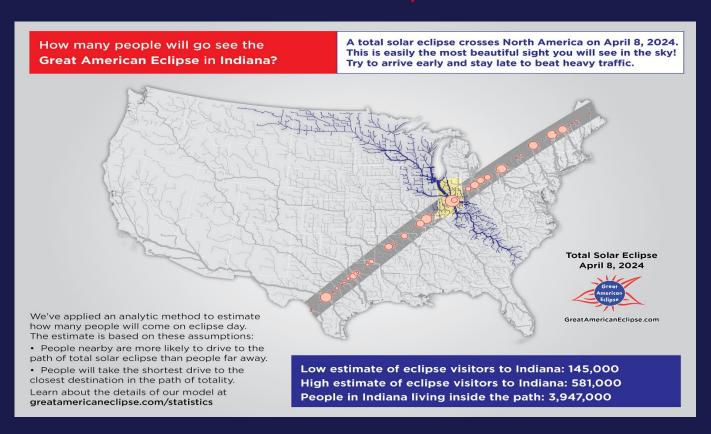
This event is causing a lot of publicity and concern due to the county being within the center of the totality path, which could bring several thousand visitors from other counties in Indiana and other states to see the eclipse in its full effect. A large influx of visitors during a short period of time has the potential to cause issues around Monroe County and surrounding areas during and after the eclipse.

Complications with travel and over-exhausted use of critical infrastructure such as communications (cell & internet service) and fuel are likely to occur during and after the event, as these have been challenges and issues that other jurisdictions around the United States have documented in After-Action reports after the August 21, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse. Heavy traffic congestion, long travel delays, and fuel shortages were all issues that were seen and are issues that could take place on April 8, 2024.

Now is the time to start preparing and planning within your organization.

How could the complications and issues caused by the eclipse impact the operations of your Business?

Local businesses can experience both positive and negative effects from a total solar eclipse. The increase in visitors coming to the area could increase sales and productivity for your business. The eclipse can also help with your business marketing, as several visitors may come from different states and other areas not familiar with Monroe County. As these effects can be seen as positives for businesses, it's important to not overlook the factors that could impact or cause interruptions in your operations on Monday, April 8, 2024. If traffic is heavily congested and there are long travel delays, customers may not be able to get to your business. Keep in mind that if the roads are backed up, your customers who are present during the time of the eclipse and after may not be able to leave your business or areas within close proximity for a period of time, which could cause interferences such as overcrowding or being requested for unusual accommodations. Cell towers and internet services could be overwhelmed due to more people being on their phones and the internet during the day. This could cause interruptions if you rely on cell phones for communications within your business. Your business could also face complications if you rely on the internet for your operations. These are a few interruptions that could occur on the day of the eclipse, according to other jurisdictions that have experienced a total solar eclipse. Always keep in mind that a large increase in visitors could mean that thefts and other criminal activities may also increase.



Encouragements to think about prior to April 8th that may help lower stress and complications:

complications:	
Possible Issue	Encouraged Solution
Delivery delays could slow down the receiving of products and supplies that your business needs for operations due to the demand and travel congestion caused by the eclipse. Businesses could also face supply or product shortages due to the increase in visitors. If you don't receive or schedule deliveries on Mondays, your delivery schedule should be	A late delivery could cause a business loss of revenue, a loss of customers, and major stress. The following are possible solutions that businesses could do to help ensure that deliveries can get there on time: - Think about scheduling deliveries in advance of Monday, April 8th, to ensure that your deliveries may be received on time. Deliveries could come in on or before Friday, April 5th, or the day after the eclipse for the next week's supply instead of coming in on Monday, April 8th.
able to operate as normal.	 Demand may be high due to the increase in visitors. Plan ahead for the quantities that you may need to order.
Staffing problems/Employees not being able to get to work	Encouraging businesses to have a staffing plan in place for the eclipse day to help ensure that your business can remain
The eclipse will take place during the afternoon of Monday, April 8th. The approximate time will be 3:04 PM, and the effects will last for 4 minutes and 2 seconds.	staffed throughout your normal hours without overwhelming your staff and management team.
Once the eclipse is over, everyone will try to leave at the same time, which could start causing major travel interruptions.	The following are possible solutions that individual businesses could utilize during April 8, 2024 to help with staff concerns: - Utilization of a skeleton crew or
If your business has a shift change around or after 3 PM, your employees may have issues getting to work or leaving work on time due to the travel issues. Long travel delays may be a possibility for several hours.	 employees willing to work over for the afternoon to have in place if needed. Bringing your afternoon shift employees in prior to the start of the eclipse. Offer accommodations for the employees who are scheduled to come in after 3 PM that day. Also, keep in
In 2017, some jurisdictions that were within the path of totality expressed that school buses didn't get finished dropping off students until 8:00 in the evening.	mind about the employees that may not be able to leave after their assigned shift.
Both Monroe County public school systems will be closed on April 8th.	

References

- "After Action Report August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse." Colorado Department of Transportation.
- "Kentucky: Lessons Learned from 2017 Solar Eclipse." Kentucky: Lessons Learned from 2017 Solar Eclipse | National Operations Center of Excellence, transportationops.org/case-studies/kentucky-lessons-learned-2017-solar-eclipse. Accessed 21 Nov. 2023.
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