Solar Eclipse Safety

April 8, 2024

As the moon aligns perfectly between Earth and the Sun, parts of Ontario will experience temporary darkness. Use the advice below to stay safe during the eclipse.

Warning!

Looking directly at the uncovered Sun without protection can cause retinal burns, blurred vision, or loss of eyesight. There are no pain sensors in your retinas to tell you that your eyes are being damaged. Once symptoms begin, the damage is usually too late to reverse.

Quick facts

1. The eclipse is expected to start just after 2:00 p.m. EDT with a full eclipse from approximately 3:20 p.m. and move eastward. The specific time and duration of the eclipse will depend on your location. Areas outside the path of totality will observe a partial solar eclipse.
2. Historically, eclipses have prompted mass movements of people to prime viewing areas.
3. Check your municipality's website for service changes and local closures.
4. For more information about viewing the eclipse in Ontario, visit Destination Ontario's website.

Travel tips

1. While driving, avoid looking at the eclipse. Keep your eyes on the road to safely operate your vehicle and avoid collisions.
2. Follow local directives and road signage as you travel on April 8. While travelling on highways, do not stop, take pictures, or get out of your car to view the eclipse.
3. Stay updated on road conditions before, during, and after the eclipse by visiting 511on.ca.
4. Expect increases in traffic and road congestion. Plan ahead, fill your gas tank, and have snacks, water, entertainment, and first-aid supplies on hand.
5. If travelling to view the eclipse, plan to arrive at your destination 24 to 48 hours ahead of time.

Eye safety

1. **It is not safe to look at the Sun without eye protection.** Looking at even a small sliver before or after the eclipse without eye protection can be harmful to your vision. Health impacts may include retinal burns, blurred vision, and loss of eyesight (immediate or delayed onset).
2. Glasses with specialized filters adhering to the **ISO 12312-2** international standard can be worn to prevent eye damage. Glasses should be inspected for wrinkles or scratches ahead of use and should not be used if damaged.
3. If appropriate eye protection is not available, alternative viewing strategies should be considered, such as an eclipse box or a live stream.

Visit the Canadian Space Agency's website for more information.

Ontario