



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE GUIDANCE FOR EMS ORGANIZATIONS

As the Total Solar Eclipse approaches on April 8, 2024, EMS organizations need to finalize their preparedness plans for the event.

The eclipse will bring hundreds of thousands of people into Indiana, crowding communities and roadways. While the counties along the path of totality will experience the biggest surge in population, all Indiana counties will be affected in some way.

ECLIPSE GUIDANCE

- Contact local county emergency management agencies to be included in county planning efforts.
- Engage alternative methods of getting personnel and equipment to the scene (golf carts, all-terrain vehicle, bicycles).
- Coordinate routes from anticipated heavy crowds to local hospitals.
- Consider alternate transportation of many patients (buses).
- Evaluate alternate transport destinations.
- Evaluate your mutual aid agencies.
- Consider a patient collection site.
 - Organizations may not be able to transport each patient and will need to hold those patients with non life-threatening conditions.
- Consider funneling patients to ideal areas for crowd control and service delivery.
- Consider alternate dispatch procedures.
- Consider alternate protocols.
- Consider a reunification plan for those that have a family member transported.
- Discuss landing zone requirements and locations.
- Fuel all vehicles prior to the eclipse.
- Be prepared for a large increase in the volume of calls in the hours and days leading up to the eclipse.
- Anticipate increased volumes for the 24 hours after the eclipse.
- Anticipate increased calls for eye complaints and access to care issues from the previous day.
- Consider sub-stations in areas that will be drawing big crowds.
- Plan staff accordingly, anticipate call-ins, etc. (childcare for school cancellations).
- Anticipate certain types of responses and consider additional stocking of supplies for diabetic and overdose responses.

If you have questions, contact your local EMS district manager.