

COMPANY SAFETY MEETING

SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFETY

As you might be aware, we're soon going to experience an eclipse. While it's a fascinating natural phenomenon, it's crucial to understand how to view it safely to prevent any eye injuries.

Understand the Risk

Looking directly at the sun, even during an eclipse, can cause severe eye damage or even permanent blindness. This condition, known as solar retinopathy, results from photochemical and thermal damage to the retina. The risk is significant because the reduction in sunlight during an eclipse can cause the pupils to dilate, allowing more harmful rays to enter the eye.

Use Proper Eclipse Glasses

Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not sufficient to protect your eyes. You must use ISO 12312-2 compliant eclipse glasses. These glasses are specifically designed to block harmful rays. Before using, inspect them for any damage, scratches, or punctures that can compromise their effectiveness.

Viewing Techniques and Safety Guidelines to follow during a Total Solar Eclipse:

- View the Sun through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer 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 or a solar viewer.)
- As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright Sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun.

Skin Safety

Even during a partial or annular eclipse, or during the partial phases of a total eclipse, the Sun will be very bright. If you are watching an entire eclipse, you may be in direct sunlight for hours. Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing to prevent skin damage.

Do Not Look Directly at the Sun Without Protection

Even during the partial phases of the eclipse, do not look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. The only time you can safely look at the sun without protection is during the brief total phase of the eclipse, when the sun's bright face is completely covered by the moon.

Do Not Use Optical Devices Without Filters

Never look at the sun through a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury.

Enjoying an eclipse is a rare opportunity, but it's essential to prioritize our safety. Make sure to follow these guidelines to protect your eyesight. If anyone has questions about how to view the eclipse safely or needs assistance obtaining eclipse glasses, please don't hesitate to ask. Safety first, always.



Image: This composite image of eleven pictures shows the progression of a total solar eclipse over Madras, Oregon, on Aug. 21, 2017. NASA/Aubrey Gemignani