

## Newsletter Article

On Monday April 8, 2024, Bartholomew County will experience a Total Solar Eclipse along with a large portion of central Indiana. Total Solar Eclipses are rare events and tend to draw large numbers of people to the area they occur. Cities that have had total eclipses in the past experienced a surge in population (double) leading to traffic congestion and other local difficulties. Bartholomew County Emergency Management is reaching out to pass along some information that may help businesses mitigate complications that arise due to the eclipse next year.

In Indiana, eclipse viewing will begin with the partial eclipse segment at 1:50 p.m. The eclipse totality for Bartholomew County will occur around 3:06 p.m. and last until about 3:09 p.m. The final partial eclipse segment will end at 4:23 p.m. Past experience, from other cities, shows that immediately following the conclusion of the totality (about 3:09 p.m.), most people start to leave the area causing a great deal of traffic congestion. It is anticipated that traffic issues will have an impact on business deliveries, shipments, and/or shift changes occurring around that time.

Since the eclipse is on a Monday, the weekend leading up to the eclipse is predicted to have an increased population with many events being planned locally. Due to the increased number of visitors predicted, Emergency Management is encouraging businesses to be sure they are well supplied, stocked, and have adequate staffing in place to accommodate the potential influx of people. The population increase is expected to begin Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> and last through the eclipse on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>. The most difficult time of travel is expected on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> immediately following the totality of the eclipse. We encourage adequate supplies be obtained prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Some points of consideration for businesses:

-Are you adequately stocked? -

Are employees aware of increased travel time to/from work?

-Do you want to consider an alternate time for shift changes?

-If you deliver a good or service, how may traffic congestion effect your delivery times?

-Gas Stations, do you have extra fuel available or tanks topped off?

If anyone has questions or concerns about the eclipse don't hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office at 812-379-1680.