

Monroe County agencies prepare for 2024 total solar eclipse

March 13, 2024

For Immediate Release:

Monroe County, Indiana – The total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the Indiana population. Agencies around Monroe County have come together to form a Joint Information Center to help prepare the public for the event.

Representatives from the following agencies are part of the Joint Information Center: City of Bloomington, Indiana University, Ivy Tech Community College, Visit Bloomington, Monroe Fire Protection District, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Hoosier National Forest, IU Health Bloomington, Monroe Hospital, Monroe Convention Center, Monroe County Health Department, and the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency.

Monroe County is within the path of totality, which is the area that will receive the full eclipse experience if weather conditions are clear. Leading experts estimate 200,000 to 300,000 visitors from Friday, April 5, to Monday, April 8.

Concerns from this population increase includes:

- Long travel delays lasting up to several hours
- Communication service complications due to overloaded cell towers
- Low fuel supply and grocery store stock

The Joint Information Center encourages residents and visitors to consider these tips to prepare for the eclipse:

- If viewing the eclipse, wear the proper eyeglasses. [Click here to find a valid vendor for glasses.](#)
- Have a full tank of fuel in your vehicle prior to traveling to your eclipse viewing location.
- Fully charge your electric vehicle prior to traveling. [Click here for a map of charging stations.](#)
- Have an emergency supply kit in your vehicle with essential supplies, medications, and enough non-perishable food and bottled water for each occupant to get through at least a 12-hour period.
- Try to limit cell phone usage to texting when possible to help prevent overwhelming the towers.

For more preparedness and eclipse information, check out the following trusted websites:

- Monroe County Emergency Management: https://bit.ly/mocoemergencymanagement_eclipse.
- Indiana University: <https://eclipse.iu.edu/index.html>.
- Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/places-to-go/events/2024-solar-eclipse/>.
- Hoosier National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hoosier/learning/nature-science/?cid=fseprd1101633>.
- Events and visitors: <https://www.visitbloomington.com/2024-solar-eclipse/>.

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