

SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFETY

A partial eclipse occurs when the moon partially covers the sun, leading to a reduction in sunlight but not complete darkness. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely covers the sun, resulting in a period of darkness.

Risks - Eye Safety

- It is not safe to look at the sun without proper eye protection for any length of time, especially during an eclipse, as it can cause permanent damage to the eyes. Sunglasses are never safe for observing the sun safely, even during an eclipse.
- Even a brief glance at the partially eclipsed sun can lead to a burn of the central retina of the eyes (called a solar retinopathy), causing some permanent damage to the reading vision or other kind of impairment of the vision.
- Short-term symptoms from looking directly at the sun without appropriate protection include light sensitivity occurring within 24 hours of exposure. The damage caused is not painful. There might be some vague discomfort persisting for several hours or days. The central vision is blurred and is accompanied by the appearance of dark or yellow spots impacting vision. This damage to the retina can result in a blind spots in the central vision that are often permanent. If you experience any of these effects, you need to follow up with an eye care provider for further assessment as soon as possible.



Protecting Your Eyes

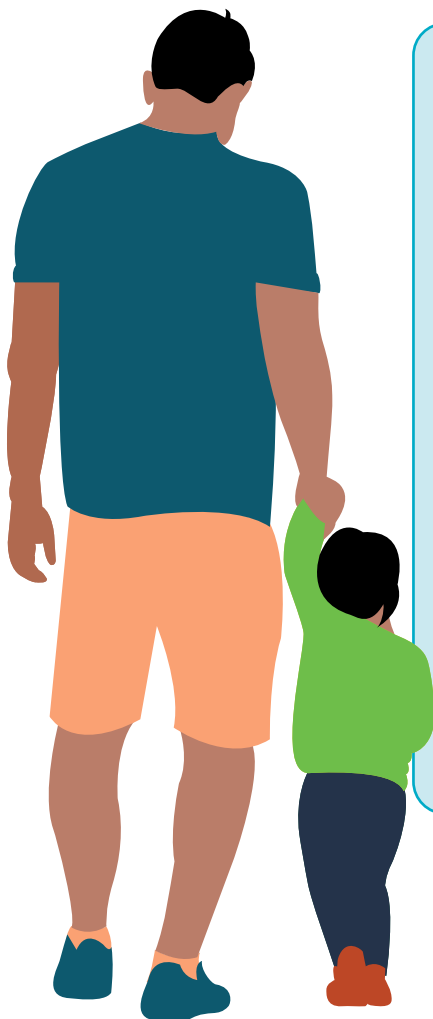
To observe the eclipse safely, it is most important to carefully follow important measures:

- For absolute safety, consider indirect observation methods, such as using special eclipse **projectors**, watching the eclipse on **websites** broadcasting the event live, or watching the **shadows**, to minimize direct exposure to the sun's rays. These measures are especially recommended for **children**; they are at the **greatest risk** during an eclipse.
- While this is not recommended, if you opt for direct observation, always protect your eyes by using specifically identified **solar eclipse glasses** that comply with the **international ISO 12312-2 standard**. These glasses will provide adequate protection against harmful solar radiation only if used properly.
- Never observe or photograph the eclipse through a lens (e.g., cell phone, binoculars, telescope) without a suitable **solar filter**.

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Driving Safety During a Solar Eclipse

- There are risks associated with driving during the eclipse. Changes in light conditions may cause distractions and potential traffic congestion, especially during peak viewing times. It is important for drivers to remain alert and avoid stopping to watch the eclipse.
- Avoid looking at the sun directly while in or on a motor vehicle. Car windows and windshields, even tinted, do not provide adequate protection for observing the eclipse.
- Do **not** try to wear recommended eclipse viewing glasses (**ISO 12312-2 standard**) while driving because the view through them is extremely limited.



Who is at Greatest Risk?

- Children are at the highest risk of eye damage during an eclipse. While most intrigued and curious about the phenomenon, they may be less aware of the dangers of a solar eclipse and require very close supervision to ensure they use proper methods of viewing.
- Individuals with cognitive disorders or physical disabilities may have difficulty understanding or adopting all safety guidelines, making it essential to provide extra supervision and/or support.
- Those who work outdoors may be more likely to be exposed to the damaging effects of a solar eclipse if they cannot easily follow the recommended eye safety protective measures.
- Other vulnerable populations who are less likely to be reached by public communications, such as visitors, newcomers, or unhoused people may also require additional support and outreach efforts to ensure they are informed about the risks and provided with appropriate resources for safe observation.