

## Total Solar Eclipse in Oregon: Monday, August 21, 2017

**Anticipated Community Impact Days:**  
Thursday, 08/17 – Tuesday, 08/22

**Eclipse Begins:** 9:04am

**Total Eclipse Occurs:** 10:15 – 10:25am

**Total Darkness:** 1 minute 58 seconds

### Hood River County Contact Info:

Website: [HoodRiverSheriff.com](http://HoodRiverSheriff.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hrcso/>

911 Dispatch non-emergency reporting line  
Hood River County Sheriff's Office  
Emergency Management/disaster preparedness

(541) 386-2711  
(541) 386-2098  
(541) 386-1213

## Why prepare for a solar eclipse?

The total solar eclipse August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 is a special day in the history of Oregon. Eclipse chasers from around the country and world are coming to experience it. **ODOT is estimating 1 million extra visitors to our state for this event**, driving to communities from western Oregon to our eastern state boundary.

**Expect significantly increased traffic on Interstate 84 and OR Highway 35 and 26 from Thursday August 17 to Tuesday August 22.** Tourism surveys indicate the clear majority of these travelers are coming from 2-12 hours away, meaning roads across the state will be impacted as tourists visit Madras, Baker City, Bend, Prineville, Corvallis, Warm Springs, Salem, Lincoln City, and communities in between for eclipse viewing. The eclipse will be visible from approximately 10:15 – 10:25am on Monday August 21.

August 21 is already peak summer tourism season in Hood River – the significant increase in travelers will likely mean longer wait time at gas stations and stores – and longer travel times. In the event of car accidents or other emergencies, travel will be more challenging. People may pull off the road to camp, run out of gas and our risks increase during peak wildfire season.

Let's all be prepared for the unknown. Hood River County has worked with the State Fire Marshall's Office, Office of Emergency Management, ODOT and OR Health Authority, as well as local fire and law enforcement agencies and public safety partners to develop contingency plans in case problems escalate. Statewide, we may be tapped out of emergency resources.

The eclipse represents both increased opportunity and challenges. Be ready; be patient; be safe; plan ahead and enjoy this unique celestial experience!



## What is it- when is it?

On Monday, August 21, 2017, all of North America will be treated to an eclipse of the sun. This path, where the moon will completely cover the sun and the sun's atmosphere (corona) - can be seen, from Lincoln County, OR in the west, to Charleston, South Carolina in the east. Observers outside this path will still see a partial solar eclipse where the moon covers part of the sun's disk.

The solar eclipse will occur Monday, Aug. 21, 2017. The timing of the eclipse differs slightly depending on where you're viewing it, but the partial eclipse will begin shortly after 9 a.m. in Oregon, reaching totality between 10:15 and 10:25 AM.

To see the eclipse path, view NASA's video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX7AxZhPrqU>.

Never look directly at the sun without appropriate protection. Source: NASA <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

## Tips for residents

### Anticipated Community Impact Days – solar eclipse in Oregon:

Thursday, 08/17 – Tuesday, 08/22; Sunday-Tuesday = greatest impact  
Monday 8/21 9-10:30am is the eclipse;

- Traffic will be especially heavy and if emergencies occur, freeways and highways may be further impacted. During the train derailment, we saw how freeway closures impact traffic in town.
  - Plan important appointments outside the peak eclipse impact days.
  - Allow for extra time to get where you need to go.
  - Roads, freeway and highways will be impacted, particularly Sunday-Tuesday.
  - For road conditions call 511 or visit [Tripcheck.com](http://Tripcheck.com)
- Expect longer lines for fuel, restaurants and stores. Supplies may be limited due to high demand and longer travel times for resupply trucks. Stock up early!
- Fuel shortages may occur across the state, particularly off Interstate 84 and environs.
  - GAS UP all of your vehicles by Thursday August 17
- Cell service may be interrupted – this impacts not only your cell phone calls and texts but also business point of sale services reliant on wireless service.
  - Prepare a backup plan with neighbors, friends and family. Texting may be more reliable than calls
- Cash - ATM's and businesses' electronic money services may be impacted by increased travelers.
  - Have cash on hand - consider visiting your local bank or ATM before Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Know when it is appropriate to call 911 (true emergencies.)
  - The non-emergency Hood River County dispatch number is (541) 386-2711.
- The eclipse is a drill to check your family emergency kits and emergency plans.
  - Have extra food, water, medicine, and first aid for your family members and pets on hand.
  - Hood River County family preparedness 1-page checklist: <http://bit.ly/2weqIPh>

**If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.**

Sign up for Hood River County citizen alerts:

<http://www.hoodriversheriff.com/events/emergency-alerts>

Sign up now to get emergency alerts, such as evacuations, wildfire, power outages, weather, fire and law enforcement warnings. All Hood River public safety agencies in Hood River Cities and County, 911 and fire agencies use this one *Citizen Alert* system. This is used for urgent alerts only. We can't send messages to your

cell or email without you opting in. With your address, we can personalize a message for your specific area. You will receive time sensitive messages via phone, text or email.

## Tips for Businesses

- **Back-up Plans:** Prepare for an increase in customers; have needed supplies on hand early; and have back-up plans if staff is delayed due to traffic or resupply trucks are delayed.
- **Employee Preparedness:** Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas; have resources ready at home; day care needs are met, etc. by Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. Gas stations may be busy or waiting on resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work with excess traffic.
- **Cash/Financial Transactions:**
  - Be prepared for more cash transactions.
  - How does your credit/debit card machine access the internet? If you use cellular/wireless service for transactions, consider a back-up payment plan.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular service disruptions due to the increased demand. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your landline business phone if cell service is limited.
- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries; deliveries scheduled for Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> may be significantly delayed due to the overwhelming amount of vehicles trying to come in and leave Lincoln County. Consider rescheduling for Tuesday or order extra the week before.
- **Camping and restrooms:** Visitors may attempt to camp in unauthorized locations; public restrooms may be in short supply.
- **Weather:** If conditions are foggy on the coast, visitors may move further inland; there is no way to predict this, but monitoring the weather could be useful for your business. Extreme heat is also a major concern.

## Extreme Heat Safety

Heat is the number one weather-related killer in the United States resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year. The most vulnerable individuals are those who work or exercise outdoors, adults over 65, infants and children under 4, the homeless or poor, and people with a chronic medical condition.

### Cooling centers in Hood River:

**Hood River Senior Center**      2010 Sterling Place Hood River, OR 97031      541-386-2060  
[hrvac@gorge.net](mailto:hrvac@gorge.net)      Hoodriverseniorcenter.org      Hours: 9am-3pm Mon-Fri

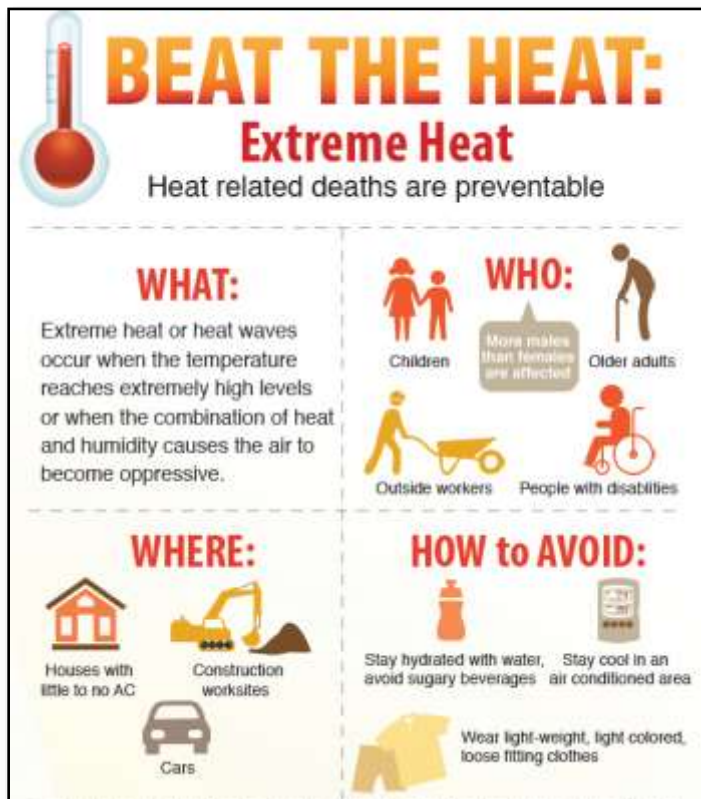
**Hood River County Library**      Hood River Library is open as a cooling shelter during regular open hours:  
Tuesday - Thursday: 10.00a – 7.00p      Friday: 10.00a – 6.00p      Saturday: 10.00a – 6.00p  
Closed Sundays and Mondays  
502 State St. Hood River, OR 97031      541-386-2535      [info@hoodriverlibrary.org](mailto:info@hoodriverlibrary.org)

## Cooling Shelters (cont.)

- *Try your local church during regular hours*
- *Visit your favorite restaurant or retail outlet*

## Reducing Heat-Related Illnesses During Extreme Heat:

- Stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay informed.
- Extremely high temperatures can affect your health, and heat-related illness is preventable.
- Those most at risk for heat-related illness include adults over 65, people who work outdoors, children under 4, and those with chronic illness.
- Drink plenty of fluids regardless of your level of activity even if you are not thirsty. Drink between 2-4 cups per hour while working outside. Avoid sugary, caffeinated, and alcoholic drinks.
- Limit sun exposure from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and try to schedule outdoor activities in the early morning or later evening.
- Dress yourself and your children in loose, light-weight, light-colored clothing that covers the skin. Wear sunglasses and wide-brimmed hat.



- Apply sunscreen with SPF 15 or more 10 minutes before going out; re-apply every two hours.

- Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car.

Check at least once a day on neighbors, family, and friends over 65 or living with chronic illness.

- Learn the symptoms of heat-related illness, and call 911 when there are signs of heat stroke

Source: *Center for Disease Control,*  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Wildfire Prevention and Safety

The total solar eclipse will take place at the peak of our local wildfire season; a real threat to homes, businesses and wildlife. Keep fire safety and prevention a top priority.

### Wildfire Prevention and Fire Response:

- During a wildfire, there are three levels of evacuation:
  - Level 1 – Ready: Pack your valuables.
  - Level 2 – Set: Monitor the news reports.
  - Level 3 – Go: An official notice from the sheriff's office or fire agency to evacuate.
- Know fire risks and respect fire restrictions, such as campfire bans.
- Avoid parking or driving on dry grass - vehicles with hot exhaust pipes parked off road can start a wildfire.
- Vehicles are required to have a shovel and fire extinguisher or at least a gallon of water in many areas.
- Do not use candles, fireworks, tiki torches, or other open flames outdoors.
  - Sky lanterns are illegal in Oregon airspace.
- Smoking materials:
  - Dispose of smoking materials in deep, sturdy ashtrays.
  - Make sure butts and ashes are extinguished by using water or sand.
  - Never discard butts on the ground or in vegetation.
  - Identify approved smoking areas in advance of your trip.

### Campfire Safety:

- Check to ensure if campfires are allowed where you plan to stay.
- Keep a shovel and water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers.
- Select a site away from grasses, shrubs, overhanging branches, and firewood.
- Existing fire pits in established campgrounds are best.
- Scrape away leaves and litter to bare soil, 10 feet on all sides of the fire pit.
- Circle your campfire pit with rocks. Keep your campfire small and add wood in small amounts. Don't use gasoline to start a fire.
- Never leave the campfire unattended.
- Before going to bed or leaving the campsite, drown the fire with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is out and it is cool to the touch.

### Limit Your Exposure To Smoke:

- Pay attention to local air quality reports
- If you are advised to stay indoors, keep indoor air as clean as possible
- Do not add to indoor pollution
- Do not rely on dust masks for protection

