Solar Eclipse

On August 21st, 2017, a total solar eclipse will occur in the U.S. along a path from Oregon to South Carolina. Oregon Emergency Management expects as many as one million visitors in our State several days prior to the eclipse and several days following the eclipse. Since North Central Oregon has the best chance of clear skies and a clear view, we expect many of the visitors will be in our area or traveling through our area.

What local residents should consider before August 21st, 2017:

**FOOD/SUPPLIES** - Travelers that did not plan, may arrive with little or no food, bottled water, and other supplies. Especially in smaller rural communities, you should consider stocking up with groceries and other needed supplies in the weeks leading up to the event.

**FUEL** - With all the added vehicles in our State, fuel supplies may be taxed. Be sure to fuel up your vehicles prior to their arrival.

**CASH** - Keep some cash on hand, just in case the ATM’s get overwhelmed.

**TRAFFIC** - Traffic will likely be a real problem. To help reduce congestion, consider not traveling several days before and several days after August 21st, 2017. If you do travel, be prepared for the likelihood of prolonged travel time. Have a supply of non-perishable food, water, medications, etc. in your car.

**COMMUNICATION** - Does your family have a back-up communication plan, in case the cell towers are overwhelmed?

**FIRE** - This event is happening during fire season. Help prevent human-caused wildfires by reminding guests of basic wildfire safety, such as; no parking or driving on dry grass, no campfires or other open flames, etc. And, as always, take steps to be sure your home/property is prepared with adequate defensible space.

**HOSPITALS & EMS** - Rural hospitals, clinics, and EMS, have limited ability to respond to the large increase of people expected. Please be as prepared as possible to take care of minor injuries/incidents by having a first-aid kit and being aware that if you need help, you may have a longer wait than normal.

**911** - Dispatch centers may be overwhelmed with calls. Please only call 911 for a true emergency. Check social media and/or call the info hotline at 541-506-2792 for general information and updates.

**IMMUNIZATIONS** - Many visitors will arrive from all over the country and other nations. This is a good time to be sure you and your family are up-to-date on your immunizations.

**TRESPASSING** - Hotels & campsites have been booked for months. Visitors that arrive without a plan, may find themselves without a place to stay. Land owners should post “No Trespassing” signs to avoid uninvited visitors camping on their property. Please include a phone number, where law enforcement can reach you, if needed.

**ECLIPSE GLASSES** - To watch the eclipse safely, you will need eclipse-viewing glasses to block harmful light from damaging your vision. Regular sunglasses will NOT work. Be sure your eclipse glasses meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

Please have patience with each other and our visitors!

Created by Wasco County Solar Eclipse 2017 Planning Committee
For additional info. visit Wasco County Sheriff’s Office FB page OR call the Info-line at 541-506-2792