

2024 Total Solar Eclipse Questions, Answers and Common Sense

The Question: When is the eclipse happening?

The Answers: Monday, April 08, 2024, from 2PM to 4PM.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, Vermilion Township will be in the path of totality of the solar eclipse. The partial eclipse will begin at 2 PM, and the totality event will begin at 3:12 (+45 seconds) PM and end at 3:16: (+43 seconds) PM, an estimated four minutes in duration, with the partial eclipse ending at 4:30 PM

The Question: What is a solar eclipse and what is the difference between the Centerline Path and the Path of Totality?

The Answer: The Path of Totality is about sixty miles wide from either side of the Centerline Path.

The Question: So where is the exact Centerline Path going to travel?

The Answer: Vermilion Township is in the band of totality and the actual Centerline Path enters Vermilion Township at State Route 60 at exactly the point where the Welcome to Vermilion Township sign is posted along the northbound side of the roadway. The sign is about a mile south of the intersection of Route 60 and Mason Road. Locals are familiar with this intersection as the place where the Country Breeze Store and Smokin' Joe's Pizza are located. The Centerline Path will then travel in a north-east direction towards and directly over Mill Hollow towards Lake Erie at Avon Point and beyond.

The Question: So, does it matter at all where I watch the event from?

The Answer: Areas within the path of totality will experience a different view and lesser duration based on how far an observer is from the Centerline Path. Areas on the centerline will experience the longest duration of the event. Several areas in Erie County are on the Centerline Path of totality including Vermilion and Berlin townships. Within about two miles of the Centerline Path of totality there will not be a noticeable difference in the duration of the event. The length of the event diminishes about three or four seconds for every mile away from Centerline Path.

(An example; If you were at the Holland Bond VFW Post on Poorman Road watching the event, it would be only five to ten seconds shorter in duration,)

Common Sense Precautions:

The population of the greater Erie County area could expand from 70,000 residents to up to 300,000 residents and tourist guests. That is a possible increase of 400%! This means four times the normal demand for cellphone service, gasoline, food and even emergency services.

Please remember that public parking must be in designated parking areas only DO NOT park on the sides of the road in the right-of-way. No parking on grass or other unpaved areas not designated for parking. Do not park on private property you do not own, unless you are an invited guest.

Vermilion Township Fire Department & First Responders will be stationed and on duty throughout the eclipse event for prompt response.

While the Total Solar Eclipse event will occur on Monday, April 8th, it is likely that many visitors will come in over the weekend and stay in the area. This may cause some issues if it is a clear and sunny day. Some examples are;

Difficulty accessing fuel, gasoline, supplies and even emergency services due to traffic issues.

Longer wait times for food delivery services due to traffic issues and increased orders.

Increased traffic and possible lines at gas stations and fast-food establishments.

Increased wait times for services such as hospitals, sit down restaurants and other public venues.

Possible loss of cellular telephone signal due to system overload, remember that a 400% increase in population also means an equal increase in the number of cellphones using the same towers to communicate.

Erie County Sheriff's telephone number for non-emergencies is:

419-625-7951

Township residents can prepare prior to the event by using the following tips:

- Stock up on food and drinks you need for the days prior to the event.
- Avoid scheduling appointments on Monday, April 8th that require traveling.
- Fill up the gas tanks on your vehicles a few days before the Monday event.
- Avoid travel over the weekend and if you must be out driving, remember to watch out for those drivers who are not familiar with the area. Expect the unexpected! It will seem like everyone is driving like a tourist because a large majority of the drivers on the roads will literally be tourists.

Eclipse Safe Viewing Tips and Personal Safety:

- If you can stay home. Breakout the BBQ grill, invite some good friends over or plan some family activities, remember schools across Erie County are closed that day and this is truly a once in a lifetime event.
- If you travel, make sure to have plenty of fuel in your vehicle and a fully charged cellphone.
- Only use eclipse glasses which are ISO 12312-2 certified.
- Take the time to explain to smaller children what will be happening.
- **KEEP AN EYE ON SMALLER CHILDREN**, make sure they are wearing Eclipse Glasses when looking at the sun both before and after the Totality Event. Also be watchful that little ones do not wander off unexpectedly. Four minutes is a long time and with everyone watching towards the skies the unexpected can happen in a moment. Watching the eclipse is always going to be secondary to keeping our children safe from harm!
- When watching the event in a crowd or public place, secure your purse, wallet or cell phone. If it gets stolen there will likely be no eyewitnesses, because everyone except the thief was busy looking up. Situational awareness is key.

Area Events and Local Law Enforcement Contact Information:

Erie County Fairgrounds - Solar Eclipse Camping

Erie County Metro Parks - Total Solar Eclipse

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