

August 16, 2017

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Robert J. Kretzmer  
Director, Property & Liability

SUBJECT: Solar Eclipse

On Monday, August 21, 2017, students will have the opportunity to view the much anticipated solar eclipse. Below are several precautions that we are highlighting from the safety posting by NASA that can be located at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

- ***Children should be closely supervised at all times by a responsible adult who has been briefed on the safety requirements associated with the viewing of a solar eclipse.***
- The only safe way to view the “uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special purpose solar filters, such as ‘eclipse glasses’ or hand-held solar viewers.”
- Ordinary sunglasses are not safe for looking at the sun.
- Interested eclipse observers should refer to the American Astronomical Society’s (AAS) list of Reputable Vendors of Solar Filters and Viewers. This listing can be found at <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>
- Observers should inspect their solar viewers to determine if they are scratched or damaged and discard them if this is the case.
- Cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the sun.
- After looking at the sun, turn away, and then remove your glasses or viewer.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed sun or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
- Outside the path of totality, you must *always* use a safe solar filter to view the sun directly.
- Eclipse glasses or viewers should be compliant with the ISO 12312-2 safety standard.
- For additional information, please see the attached article from the American Astronomical Society’s website entitled “*How to Tell If Your Eclipse Glasses or Handheld Solar Viewers Are Safe*” Interestingly, the article points out that one way to tell if your solar viewer is not safe is that “You shouldn’t be able to see anything through a safe solar filter except the Sun itself or something comparably bright, ...”

## Alternative to Eclipse Glass Viewing

Please visit the <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/projection> for an alternative that does not involve the purchase of eclipse glasses for viewing the eclipse in a safe cost effective manner. NASA has posted the following on its website at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety> as an example of an alternative safe method to view the partial eclipse.

*“An alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed sun is pinhole projection. For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other, creating a waffle pattern. With your back to the sun, look at your hands’ shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse. Or just look at the shadow of a leafy tree during the partial eclipse; you’ll see the ground dappled with crescent Suns projected by the tiny spaces between the leaves.”*

As always, should you wish to speak to a Safety & Loss Specialist to discuss the solar eclipse event in more detail please telephone 661-636-4604.

RJK