

Solar Eclipse 2024: How should you prepare?

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. On this date, people within a 124-mile-wide band in Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. On average, one happens somewhere on the Earth only once every 1.5 years. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in 2099.

According to Wood County EMA Director Jeff Klein, Wood and Hancock counties will both see an increase in travelers visiting to view the eclipse. Klein wants to help residents in Ohio to be prepared for cell service to be down and very heavy traffic delays in our area. Hancock-Wood Electric is taking every precaution to make sure we are prepared for a power outage during the eclipse event. Depending on the location of an outage or the actual issue, members could expect longer outage times on this day. Our office building will be closed on April 8, but employees will be working and available at 800-445-4840 if you need assistance with bill payments, to report an outage, or any other questions.

Safety tips to keep in mind include:

- Cell reception may be down; make sure you have another way to contact family and friends.
- Expect heavy traffic delays, especially on highways.
- Try to delay leaving your home on April 8 for appointments or errands.
- Have proper food supplies to avoid the need to travel that day; expect restaurants to have long waits.
- Have gas in your car prior to April 8 to avoid needing to stop at fueling stations, which could be busy.
- If you have a well, be sure to stock up on water in case of extended power outages.

For more information about the solar eclipse and additional safety precautions visit <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>



**Free
eclipse glasses**
(while supplies last)

Members can stop by our office and receive a limit of two pairs of solar eclipse glasses while supplies last.