

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Today, we want to discuss an important topic that affects our safety as construction workers—solar eclipses. An eclipse is a natural phenomenon where the sun is obscured by the moon, creating a unique visual event. However, it's crucial to understand the risks associated with viewing an eclipse.

Dangers of Viewing the Sun During an Eclipse:

1. **Eye Safety:** Looking directly at the sun during an eclipse, even for a brief moment, can cause serious eye damage or permanent vision loss due to the intensity of the sun's rays. The sun's UV radiation can burn the retinas of our eyes without us realizing it, leading to immediate or delayed symptoms.
2. **Protective Eyewear:** Ordinary sunglasses are not sufficient protection for viewing an eclipse. Specialized solar viewing glasses or handheld solar viewers certified to meet the ISO 12312-2 international safety standard are necessary to safely observe the sun during an eclipse. Never use improvised or homemade filters.
3. **Awareness and Caution:** Remind fellow workers to avoid looking directly at the sun, even during partial phases of the eclipse. Use designated solar viewing glasses if needed, but ensure they meet safety standards.

Increased Traffic Hazards:

1. **Distractions:** An eclipse can be a significant distraction for motorists and pedestrians. Increased traffic volume or sudden stops may occur during these events.
2. **Worksite Vigilance:** Stop all vehicular movement around construction sites during an eclipse. Ensure all workers are visible and wearing appropriate safety gear. And it would be wise during the event today to take your lunch break during the eclipse.
3. **Traffic Control:** If working near roadways, stop working during the eclipse and move your teams away from traffic.

General Safety Reminders:

1. **Be Informed:** Be aware of the timing and duration of the eclipse in your area. Stay updated on safety guidelines provided by local authorities or health agencies.
2. **Communication:** Discuss eclipse safety measures during pre-shift meetings and toolbox talks. Encourage open dialogue about concerns and observations.
3. **Emergency Preparedness:** Have a plan in place for responding to any accidents or incidents related to eclipse viewing or increased traffic risks.

Conclusion: Remember, our safety is a top priority on the construction site. While eclipses are fascinating events, they pose unique risks that require careful attention. Let's prioritize eye safety

and remain vigilant around increased traffic during these occurrences. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to ask. Stay safe!

Discussion Points:

- How can we ensure everyone on site has access to proper eye protection during an eclipse?
- What additional precautions should we take to mitigate traffic-related risks during this event?
- Does everyone understand the importance of not looking directly at the sun without proper eye protection?

Thank you for your attention and commitment to safety!

Path of the Eclipse:

