Eclipse Preparedness
Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

January 4, 2024

Facilitated by David Gerstner, Larry Cleek, and Tracy Clare

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Purpose

- Opportunity to evaluate concepts, plans, and capabilities
- Focus on preparedness, communications, supply chains, and recovery
  - And public information strategies
- **Many counties have already begun extensive planning and preparations**
  - **Opportunity to share ideas!**

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Housekeeping

- Exits
- Restroom locations
- Drinks, etc.
  - While working!

- Special thanks to the Dayton Children's Hospital Inspiration Center for hosting!

dayton children's

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Continuing Education

- **EMS CE provided by Kettering Health**
  - **Usable by nurses**
- **LE CE**
  - **Provided by Dayton MMRS**
  - **OPOTA: must be approved by your agency**

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PARTICIPANT SIGN-IN FORM

EVERY PARTICIPANT:
Please complete the **Sign-In** Form using the link or the QR Code.

Thank you for being involved!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EclipseSI

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Dayton MMRS

GDAHA Contract: planning, preparation, training/exercises, and response

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Collaboration is KEY!

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Prior Preparedness Efforts

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Exercise Objectives

- Assess plans and capabilities concerning the April 8, 2024 TSE
- Assess ability to establish and maintain communications
- Assess coordination with citizens, local businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies
- Examine ability to activate and monitor all systems
- Ensure effective safety measures
- Determine shortcomings in plans

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Exercise Guidelines

- TTX held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment
- Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected
- Decisions are not precedent-setting
- Exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present options and possible solutions
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions
- Problem-solving should be the focus
- There WILL not be time for all discussion points – TRIAGE!

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Participants

Players discuss what their responses would be to the situation presented based on expert knowledge of response procedures, current plans and procedures, and insights derived from training.

~~Observers~~ may support the group in developing responses to the situation, but they are primarily limited to observing the exercise. They are not participants in facilitated or moderated discussions.

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Facilitator Guide Form   Eclipse Preparedness TTX

FACILITATOR GUIDE FORM

Please complete the **FACILITATOR GUIDE FORM** using the link or the QR Code.
Thank you for being involved!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EclipseFG

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Facilitators

- Facilitator Guide has info other players don't see until later
- Do not share Guide with players!
- Keep the conversation going – do not let them bog down!
- Please take good notes!

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Solar Eclipse

- A Solar Eclipse occurs when the moon casts its shadow on the Earth as it passes between the Earth and the Sun
- A *Total Solar Eclipse* (TSE) occurs when the moon appears to totally obscure the sun
- During a total solar eclipse, we can see the sun's outer atmosphere (the corona)

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April 8, 2024

- 124-mile-wide band of Ohio will experience TSE
- Some other areas will experience a partial eclipse
- Last TSE in Ohio was in 1806
- Next TSE in Ohio not until 2099
- *www.eclipse.ohio.gov*

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Timing of the Event

CITY	County	When does the Partial Eclipse Begin	Time of Total Eclipse	DURATION
Eaton	Preble	13:52:49	15:08:28	3m 25s
Greenville	Darke	13:53:17	15:08:31	3m 55.9s
Celina	Mercer	13:53:57	15:09:02	3m 49.3s
Hamilton	Butler	13:52:30	15:09:09	1m 41.8s
Troy	Miami	13:53:52	15:09:16	3m 33.9s
Sidney	Shelby	13:54:14	15:09:23	3m 52.2s
Dayton	Montgomery	13:53:31	15:09:29	2m 42.4s
Franklin	Warren	13:53:06	15:09:34	1m 54.3s
Urbana	Champaign	13:54:38	15:10:11	3m 9.7s
Xenia	Greene	13:53:50	15:10:31	1m 17.8s
Springfield	Clark	13:54:19	15:10:15	2m 34.1s

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"Eye Can't See!"

- Looking directly at the sun, even for a short time can cause "Solar Retinopathy"
  - Occurs when excess sunlight enters the retina of the eye and burns it
  - Causes blind spots, blurry vision, headaches, or vision loss
- Use eclipse glasses marked as meeting the ISO 23423-3 standard
- Homemade glasses are not safe!
- Check expiration date on solar eclipse glasses!
- Do not remove the eclipse glasses while viewing
- Consider purchasing for your agency

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Module 1

Agency and Jurisdiction Preparedness

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2017 Event Hazards & Issues

- Some communities overwhelmed
- Heavy traffic conditions before and after event
- Travelers stopped on roadways
- Limited cell phone service due to heightened network use
- Heat, water, food, bathroom access limited
- EMS/Fire/LE access to locations limited
- Some areas impacted for up to two weeks

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Campground Issues

- Environmental Impacts
  - Soil erosion, litter, damage to plants and ecosystems
- Waste Management
  - Inadequate sanitation/toilet facilities and handwashing stations
  - Potential contamination of water sources and disease spread
- Fire Hazards
- Permitting and Regulations
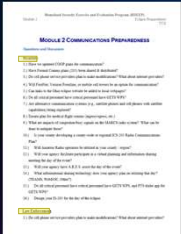- Access issues for visitors
- *Access issues for public safety*

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Leading up to Eclipse Day

- 5 Weeks Out – Transportation services (RTA, Greene CATS, others) predict limited staffing on Eclipse Day
- 3 Weeks Out - All hotels and campgrounds in the area are booked
- 2 Week Out – Activity locations fully booked
- 1 Week Out – Portable generators in the region are all rented or reserved
- 1 Week Out - Unexpected heatwave hits the region

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Eclipse TTX Process Overview

- Each Module contains discipline-specific questions
  - Some questions duplicated in multiple disciplines; others are not
- Discussions at each table must focus on questions specific to your discipline
- Full group will come back together for further discussion

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❑ **Are city officials communicating with area businesses?**

❑ Are city officials communicating with local pharmacies and fuel centers about supply chain issues?

❑ Is your child's daycare or school prepared to hold your child later than normal in case of significant traffic congestion if you cannot get there on time?

❑ Suggest working with insurance/tow companies to provide roadside assistance to minimize stranded driver calls

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❑ What are agencies planning for regarding childcare if school hours are altered (school closed, early release, children held over)?

❑ **Has there been a public service announcement effort from your agency to local citizens explaining the significance of April 8th?**

❑ Will there be a public campaign to have your jurisdiction and visitors sign up for mass notification system messages?

❑ Will there be challenges related to the interoperability of communications between agencies and disciplines?

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○ Do you anticipate communication challenges in the days leading up to eclipse events?

○ Does your dispatch have call-stacking procedures that all agencies have agreed to?

○ Are site/locations of events being identified, recorded, and shared? Who is recording and sharing the information?

○ Are your dispatchers knowledgeable about www.what3words.com, and are they planning to use it?

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○ What mechanisms are in place to communicate detours?

○ What processes are in place to provide situational updates to emergency personnel and other critical stakeholders during the response to a multi-jurisdictional incident?

○ Discuss the major emergency routes in the areas of operations for the Total Solar Eclipse (TSE) event

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○ Can pharmacies, urgent cares, etc. hold extended hours?

○ Eye injuries – what protocols do we need to stock up on?

○ Have you planned for supply chain, pharmaceutical & blood shortages?

○ How can we better plan emergency ingress/egress routes for first responders?

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○ Have you ordered PPE glasses?

○ In the event of heavy traffic on major roadways, what alternate routes are available to assist visitors in reaching their destinations?

○ What assistance can parks/rec provide? What about your public works departments, engineer's office, ODOT garage, etc.?

○ What efforts, if any, have been made between EMA, local tourism office, chamber of commerce, and other entities on developing a list of event observation sites for government services to be aware of?

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○ For special events, are food vendors periodically inspected to ensure compliance?

○ Has your agency pre-designated a representative should an EOC be activated?

○ Has messaging made it to nursing homes & citizen centers about being prepared for confusion/sundowners' symptoms?

○ Have nursing homes purchased the proper eyewear for residents?

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○ Are LE sharing instructions for if public trespasses on private property for viewing?

○ What are potential medical assistance needs?

○ How would you coordinate across counties to alleviate traffic congestion for special events?

○ If outside of familiar mutual aid assistance is coming from other jurisdictions, do you have a way to log and track their resources and use? What is your plan to enable communications with those responders?

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Slide 31

- Have you been in communication with private ambulance companies for assistance?

- How do you ensure responders are able to access incident sites given extreme traffic conditions?

- How does your agency/organization coordinate emergency preparedness and response efforts with other local, state, and federal agencies/organizations?

- What, if any, procedures are in place for local police departments to request assistance from state police and other local departments for traffic management and crowd control operations?

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Module 2

Communications Preparedness

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Slide 33

Communications

- Numerous reports in 2017 of overwhelmed/malfunctioning cell and radio networks
- State will have an ICS-205 Comm Plan
  - Zone 1 – XECOMM 1, XECOMM 2, XLECOMM 1, XLECOMM 2
    - Darke, Shelby, Auglaize
  - Zone 2 – XECOMM 5, XECOMM 6, XLECOMM 5, XLECOMM 6
    - Preble, Montgomery, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Logan
- How many Comm-Ls in our region?
- Make and SHARE your Local ICS-205 Comm Plan
  - Tower loading an issue, especially if ambulances can't "call" hospitals, moves more traffic to MARCS

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Communications

- Do all critical personnel have GETS/WPS, and PTS dialer app for GETS/WPS?
- Promote agencies acquiring GETS/WPS cards
  - Make sure phones are in WPS
  - Review FirstNet & Verizon Frontline setup
  - Get PTS Dialer

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Communications Training

- Have you considered additional training for your personnel?
  - Most of our radios have a LOT of talk groups
    - Do people know how to get to ones that are not often used (e.g., ECOMMs and many others)?
  - Communicating with agencies you don't usually (e.g., LE & PH, Hospitals and Public Works/Transportation, EMS & EMA)
  - Using GETS, WPS, PTS Dialer App

2024 Solar Eclipse COMM Map

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Communications Training

- Have you considered additional training for your personnel?
  - Use of MCI TGs
  - Verizon Frontline &/or FirstNet
  - Juvare
    - Hospital Diversion
    - EMResource
    - EMTrack
  - Locate and Test (batteries?) all equipment
- Your IS-205 or other Comm Plan

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- Can links to the Ohio eclipse website be added to local webpages?

- Has messaging started with local entity social media?

- How can we push non-emergency lines to the public?

- Is there an automated general information line that can be shared with the public?

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- Have you updated COOP plans for communication?

- Do cell phone service providers plan to make modifications? What about internet providers?

- Are alternative communication systems (e.g., satellite phones and cell phones with satellite capabilities) being explored?

- Will FirstNet, Verizon Frontline, or mobile cell towers be an option for communication?

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- Will Amateur Radio operators be utilized in your county/region?
  - Frequent reporting of traffic status

- Will your agency have A.R.E.S. assist the day of the event?

- What information sharing technology does your agency plan on utilizing that day? (TEAMS, WebEOC, other?)

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- What are impacts of congestion/busy signals on the MARCS radio system? What can be done to mitigate those?

- Will your agency facilitate/participate in a virtual planning and information sharing meeting the day of the event?

- Ensure plan for medical flight comms (ingress/egress, etc.)

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- If outside of familiar mutual aid assistance is coming from other jurisdictions, do you have a way to log and track their resources and use?
  - What is your plan to enable communications with those responders?

- Is your county developing a county-wide or regional ICS-205 Radio Communications Plan?

- Design your IS-205 for the day of the eclipse

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Module 3

Eclipse Day Activities

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Leading up to Eclipse Day

- ○ **3 Days Before – Several daycares in your area cancel services on Eclipse Day**
- ○ **Eclipse Day – Thick cloud cover in other parts of Ohio and Indiana cause a last-minute traffic surge**

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- ○ Will your department have a Department Operations Center (DOC) or will the Jurisdiction/County EOC be activated?
- ○ Will your facility have a Hospital Incident Command Center (HICS)?
- ○ Can MRC be activated to assist?
- ○ If your EOC is activated on some level, what agency/discipline representatives do you plan to be there?

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- ○ During the chaos with the TSE, how will you manage a swatting incident?
- ○ Are multiple mass gathering event medical teams feasible? How many can we field? What would be the ideal locations in the region for limited numbers of such teams?
- ○ Ensure plan for medical flight comms (priorities, ingress/egress, etc.)

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- ○ Will an event Incident Command Post be activated? How do you manage multiple simultaneous events and incident locations?
- ○ Will agencies upstaff on Eclipse Day?
- ○ Will Fire & EMS stage equipment in areas other than their stations?

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- ○ Will your agency host a potluck or other event for your employees to have food throughout the day?
- ○ Are city jails planning for influx of inmates?
- ○ Are there designated resources to assist with responder canteening?

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- ○ Are there other volunteer groups that could assist?
- ○ Do dispatch centers have call-stacking procedures for Eclipse Day?
- ○ If outside of familiar mutual aid assistance is coming from other jurisdictions, do you have a way to log and track their resources and use?
- ○ What are hospitals doing regarding elective surgeries during the event: postponing or business as usual?

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○ What are impacts of cellular SMS/text messaging slow-downs or disruptions? What can be done to mitigate those?

○ What are your other providers (Primary Care Physicians (PCP), Imaging, etc.) doing regarding regular appointments: postponing or business as usual?

○ What plans are in place for COVID or other disease contact tracing?

○ What preparations are in place by EMS, LE, and RTF against the potential for a mass attack at an eclipse event?

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○ Will your community have a welcome or reception tent for festival goers? Who can staff this to ensure public safety is represented?

○ What plans are in place for campground water/waste to have a higher usage volume?

○ What plans are in place for citizens who are in unauthorized areas for viewing/camping?

○ What communications will be made to festival sponsor(s) should weather forecasts be unfavorable? What about campgrounds and other locations?

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Thank you for your participation!

Total Solar Eclipse:
April 8th, 2024

Visit *www.eclipse.ohio.gov* for more information!

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Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

Participant Feedback Form   Eclipse Preparedness TTX

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM

Please complete the **Feedback** Form using the link or the QR Code. This is **required** to receive EMS or nursing Continuing Education.

Thank you for being involved!

EMS CE provided by Kettering Health

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EclipsePFF

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