



GUIDANCE REGARDING ECLIPSE RUMORS

Emergency Management Agencies

As excitement builds for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, it is important to monitor the public reaction to the event. Concerns and rumors already are spreading on social media. While IDHS and emergency management agencies (EMAs) cannot respond to every rumor, it is okay to clarify concerns and squash rumors deemed to be untrue.

Response guidance to rumors identified so far:

- **Concern/rumor:** Cell phones will not work during the eclipse.
 - Answer: Cell phone usage could be impacted by the influx of crowds. Verizon and AT&T have addressed those needs in preparation for the event. There may be some isolated slowdowns in congested areas, but those should be temporary.
 - The public can get prepared for this by:
 - Printing directions to and from their location so they do not need to rely on their phone's GPS.
 - Telling family members where they plan to be. Be aware, heavy traffic could slow down arrival times.
 - Having a way to charge cell phones in case the battery dies faster during congested periods.
- **Concern/rumor:** Power blackouts will occur during the eclipse.
 - Answer: There are no expected impacts to the power grid. Utility companies will be monitoring their equipment like a normal business day.
- **Concern/rumor:** National elections will be affected by the eclipse.
 - Answer: In Indiana, the eclipse will have no effect on the May primary or the November general election. The elections will proceed as planned.

Stressing preparedness to the public will avoid potential issues on the day of the event. EMAs are free to use and share information from eclipse2024.in.gov.

IDHS thanks EMAs for their partnership during this historic event.