

SAFETY ALERT: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE AUGUST 21, 2017 TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR SAFE VIEWING

The total solar eclipse is set to appear on August 21, 2017 between 9:00 am and 11:30 am Pacific Standard Time. With the recent Amazon recall of counterfeit solar eclipse glasses, it is very important that you ensure the glasses you are using and providing to students meet the ISO 12312-2 International Organization for Standardization safety standards to protect your eyes while looking at the eclipse. They should have this information indicated directly on the eyewear.



There have been instances where vendors copy the ISO logo and put it on their products even if their eclipse glasses or viewers have not been properly tested. This means that just seeing the ISO logo or a label claiming ISO 12312-2 certification may not suffice. You need to ensure the product comes from a reputable manufacturer or one of their authorized dealers.

If you have not purchased eclipse viewers yet, be sure to purchase a pair from one of the manufacturers or vendors that have been approved by the American Astronomical Society (AAS). The following links provide information on how to tell if your eclipse glasses are safe and reputable vendors from the AAS:

<https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/iso-certification>

<https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOUR SOLAR VIEWER IS SAFE?

You can tell it is safe if you are not able to see anything except the sun. The light from a halogen light bulb, a bright-white LED flashlight (including the one on your smartphone) should be very dim. If you glance at the sun through your solar filter and find it uncomfortably bright, out of focus, and/or surrounded by a bright haze, the eyewear is not safe.

There are many resources available that address this topic, but three reputable ones are the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Safety Council, and the last one which both of these refer to, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We strongly encourage you to refer to these resources before making plans to view the eclipse, but some of the key safety points include:

1. Never look directly into the sun without proper eye protection/solar filters.

2. Make sure solar viewing eyewear/filters meet the ISO 12312-2 international safety standard (should be indicated directly on the eyewear).
3. Consider various “indirect viewing” options for experiencing the eclipse that avoid direct viewing entirely.

The links below provide a wealth of information and student-related activities for learning about the eclipse and the safety concerns of doing so:

NASA:

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-101>

NASA Eclipse Safety:

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

NASA Eclipse Activity Guide (provides various age-appropriate activities regarding learning about and viewing the eclipse):

https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/NASA_Eclipse_Activity_Guide.pdf

National Safety Council:

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/How-to-Watch-a-Solar-Eclipse.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/solar-eclipse-safety/>

Should you have any questions regarding this Bulletin or need any assistance, please contact your Keenan Loss Control Consultant at www.keenan.com or info@keenan.com.

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