



POLK COUNTY FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ECLIPSE F.A.C.S.

Polk County Extension Office-Family and Consumer Science

4.8.24

As the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse rapidly approaches, we would like to share this Family Preparedness Plan for residents in Polk County, Arkansas. We will be sharing other Eclipse related information put out by our state office as it becomes available on our county Facebook page: UADA Polk County Cooperative Extension

1. Stay Informed:

- Follow official sources for updates on the eclipse, such as the Polk County Office of Emergency Management and local news and radio channels.
- Stay connected through social media and sign up for Code Red emergency alerts.

Sources to follow on social media to stay up to date on local news during the event:

- Brandon Ellison, Polk County Judge Office/County Road, Mena, Arkansas (Facebook)
- Scott Sawyer, Polk County Sheriff's Department (Facebook)
- City of Mena Arkansas, Seth Smith, Mayor (Facebook)
- Know how to get in touch with Rural Fire Departments in your area of the county.

2. Plan for Travel and Traffic:

- Treat this event like an ice storm. If you do have to travel, plan your travel in advance, consider the expected influx of visitors to the area.
- Consider alternate or non-conventional routes not found on google or apple maps.
 - Be aware of potential traffic congestion and allow extra time for your journey.
 - Follow designated routes and instructions from law enforcement.

3. Supplies:

- Stock up (for at least a week) on essential supplies like food, water, batteries, and cash.
- Purchase extra items from now until April to cut down on last minute unexpected expenses.
- Consider having prescriptions refilled early if possible-call your pharmacy now to discuss this.
 - Supply shortages will not end directly after the event but will likely last for days following.
- Consider any specific needs of family members such as infants, elderly, or individuals with medical conditions, especially those that are diabetic or require oxygen.
- If you have an infant on formula, make sure to have extra on hand for during and after the eclipse.
 - Have a first aid kit, flashlight, and portable phone charger on hand.
- Have enough gas for at least a week after the event just in case supplies are stretched.

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4. Have a Communication Plan:

- Establish a communication plan with your family and decide on a meeting point in case you get separated.
 - Keep cell phones fully charged and have a backup power source.
- Landlines will possibly be the best option during the event due to the amount of people and lack of coverage.
 - Share contact information with trusted neighbors or friends.

5. Know Your Emergency Contacts:

- Save important phone numbers, including local emergency services, on your phones.
- Keep a **physical list** of emergency contacts in case of power outages or phone failures.

6. Be Weather Aware:

- Stay updated on the weather forecast leading up to the eclipse.
- Prepare for potential weather changes by having appropriate clothing and supplies.
 - Have a weather radio on hand.

7. Prepare for Proper Eye Safety:

- Never look directly at the sun during the eclipse without certified solar viewing glasses.
 - Purchase ISO 12312-2 compliant solar eclipse glasses from reputable vendors.
 - Teach children about the importance of eye safety during the event.

8. Take Care of Pets:

- Ensure your pets have identification tags and are kept in a safe, secure area during the eclipse.
 - Stock up on pet food, water, and any necessary medications.

9. Prepare for Visitors:

- If you do not want visitors on your property, make sure your property is properly marked and visible for individuals to see
 - Use purple paint and use signs placed not more than 100 feet apart and at each road entrance.
- The signs shall bear the words "POSTED" and/or "NO TRESPASSING" in letters at least 4 inches high. The signs shall be readily visible to any person approaching the property.

This information was revised with permission from the "Family Preparedness Plan for Residents in Yell County, Arkansas" written by Jonathan Wear, Office of Emergency Services-Yell County



Remember, this preparedness plan is a general guideline.

Adapt it to your family's specific needs and circumstances.

For more information, contact Bridgett Martin at the Polk County Extension Office at 479-394-6018