



Advisory # 2024-A-014

Subject: Total Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024

From: Governance, Corporate Safety & Security

Contact: Amber-Lee Jenkins, amber-lee.jenkins@gtaa.com

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Event Details:

A total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8th, 2024, is expected in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area. The eclipse will start at approximately 1350L with **totality at 1519L** and the event ending by 1643L. Toronto itself will be just outside of the path of totality. As this is a rare occurrence, understanding Solar Eclipse Safety is paramount for safe operations and preparedness. The following requirements will be implemented for the duration of the eclipse, and all airport workers must comply with these standards.

How to Protect Your Eyes During a Solar Eclipse

- 1. Never look at the sun** during the eclipse without special eye protections that blocks out most Ultraviolet (UV) and infrared radiation to protect from potential retinal injury. Special Solar-safe PPE eyewear can be purchased and need to comply with [ISO 12312-2 \(Filters for Direct Observation of the Sun\)](#) and meet the Transmission Requirements of this standard.
- 2.** While discouraged, if viewing the eclipse, always use eclipse glasses when any part of the Sun is visible. Direct viewing of the Sun can cause permanent damage if the proper precautions are not taken. Adequate eye protection specifically designed for viewing the Sun is essential and should be worn so that no harmful rays from the Sun can reach the eye.
- 3.** When using this special eye protection, do not move around, drive a motor vehicle, or operate machinery.

4. Be always mindful of health and safety and your surroundings before choosing to observe the eclipse.

Path of Totality Solar Eclipse Visual Illustration



Detailed map of the Toronto-Hamilton area, showing the path of totality in gray

Safety Precautions & Safe Operations:

1. Communications:

- “Day of event” messaging will include Paging announcements in terminals in both official languages. This will be activated starting at 1000L throughout the duration of the event to remind employees and passengers not to look directly at the sun without the proper eye protection.
- The Toronto Pearson Website will have a banner advising passengers of the Solar Eclipse, Terminal Digital screens and curbside screens will be activated with messaging. Social media tweets will also be activated for the event keeping the public and airport community informed.

2. Apron, Taxiway, Runway & Facility Lighting:

- Airside Apron lighting, centerline lights, airfield lighting, and lighting in all facilities will be triggered during the event to full illumination.

3. Gatherings & Events:

- For safety reasons, the GTAA is discouraging gatherings of airport employees on the apron, in our facilities, other outdoor areas such as parking lots and roadways. This will be monitored and enforced with additional GTAA staffing during the eclipse event.
- Any outdoor activities or events outdoors should be reduced or re-scheduled during the Solar Eclipse timeframe.

4. Foreign Object Debris (FOD):

- Monitoring will be implemented to address FOD risks on airside operations during the eclipse. Please ensure if you have the approved eye protection that it is disposed in available refuse receptacles throughout the facilities.

5. Airside Vehicle Operators Program (AVOP) Testing and Training:

- All AVOP testing and training appointments will be suspended from 1300 to 1500L to minimize runway activity and Ground Service Equipment (GSE) movement. We ask that all applicable operators comply with this same requirement for in-house AVOP testing and training as well to ensure a safe work environment, all GSE movement should be minimized for the duration of the Solar Eclipse.

6. Terminals Retail Engagement:

- Commercial contacts have been advised to discourage stocking eclipse eyewear, the GTAA is discouraging gathering and viewing the eclipse on-site in our facilities. Please ensure all eyewear, if used, meet the ISO safety eyewear standard outlined in this Advisory and are being disposed of properly in receptable bins located throughout the facilities.

7. Passenger Departures/Arrivals Airside:

- Airport workers working on the apron during departure and arrival flights are to advise passengers who are disembarking/embarking flights on the apron to and from the terminal are informed to not look up at the sun or remain in the sun exposed area for too long.

8. Emergency Response Preparedness:

- Toronto Pearson Fire and Emergency Services team has been planning and preparing for this event and have been working with our allied emergency response partners. In the event of an emergency, our Fire and Emergency Services team will be available to respond to emergency calls for service.

9. Safe Driving:

- If driving in the course of your job duties, continue as normal and avoid looking at the sun, use hats/shades/visors that don't allow any visible light to pass through. Do not wear eclipse eyewear

while driving. Prepare for distracted drivers/people, where applicable, ensure adequate lighting and wear high visibility clothing as required job-specific appropriate for low light conditions.

10. Vehicle Traffic Congestion & Management:

- Prepare for distracted driving! There is an expected 1 million visitors to Niagara Falls for a viewing event. As this is a significant large number of people gathering to be in the path of totality, mainly around the Niagara Peninsula (south of the Hamilton area). Vehicle traffic and congestion will be expected with a possible impact to operations with employees and passengers trying to reach the airport by our surrounding roadways and highways. Please plan accordingly to give extra time to arrive to work at the airport. Traffic management for roadway and curb congestion will be managed through normal traffic management with Paladin Security, Public Safety Officers (PSOs) and Peel Regional Police (PRP) will be in place with a heightened awareness for Groundside operations and will be advised accordingly as it relates to operational impacts.

11. Aircraft Fuel and Diversions:

- This is not an operational concern; measures will be taken to ensure sufficient fuel reserves and capability for handling diversions, including gas-and-go and offloading operations.

Since this eclipse occurs when many people and employees will be returning home from school or work, it is important to plan ahead and take precautions. We thank you for your commitment to safety to ensure a safe working environment for all.