

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 29, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **April 8<sup>th</sup> Total Solar Eclipse Preparedness Update**

On Monday, April 8, 2024, the City of Dallas will be in the path of totality for a Total Solar Eclipse. While the eclipse itself is not a concern, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has identified several impacts that are expected due to the amount of people who will be visiting the city to view the eclipse. City departments are actively working towards preparedness efforts for the following concerns/impacts.

- 1. Visitors and Events:** Thousands of people are expected to visit Dallas from April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>. Hotels in the Central Business District are 99% sold-out for that time period. It is estimated that Dallas will experience a 35% increase in visitors over the weekend and the day of the eclipse. While many individual viewing events require a permit from Convention and Event Services (CES), there are many other events that do not require a permit, so the city has limited oversight over those events. There are expected to be possibly hundreds of events throughout the city during this time. CES is actively accepting and reviewing permits, attempting to limit permitted events that require road closures.
- 2. Traffic and Egress:** The Dallas Police Department (DPD) is actively engaging with partners to draft a traffic management plan that will focus on access to critical infrastructure and areas, such as hospitals and highway systems. DPD is expecting that freeways and major arterials will be heavily impacted by the influx of people, especially in the afternoon hours. The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) is limiting road and lane closures that weekend and day of the eclipse.
- 3. Park and Recreation Events:** Up to 8,000 people may visit Samuell Farm the day before and the day of the eclipse, both for overnight stays and day passes. Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) is actively engaging with Park and Recreation (PKR) and CES to ensure that the farm will have adequate staffing of medics and other resources for the event. PKR is actively engaging with DPD and the City Marshal's Office (MSH) for security needs at the farm. PKR is also monitoring several other locations that are expected to see a significant increase in visitor ship, including White Rock Lake, Bachman Lake, Kiest Park, Samuell Grand Park, Cedar Ridge Preserve, and Crawford Park.
- 4. Weather:** April is the height of severe weather season. This could be concerning since so many people will be outdoors during this event. OEM will be monitoring the weather and will be prepared to initiate any severe weather response, including

the use of the Outdoor Warning System (OWS) and the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

5. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** OEM has been coordinating collaboration meetings with city, county, regional, and state partners and stakeholders. To ensure day-of coordination, the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated on April 8<sup>th</sup> with in-person representation from relevant departments and partners.
6. **Outreach:** Public messaging will continue to focus on eclipse safety, traffic safety, and encouraging residents to consider using public transportation on April 8<sup>th</sup>. A virtual Joint Information Center (JIC) has been activated to coordinate all public information and communications. Key departments and partners will have a representative involved virtually with the JIC. A press release was released by Communications, Outreach, and Marketing on March 18<sup>th</sup>, detailing key safety messages and the steps the city is taking to get prepared.
7. **Sanitation Collection Delays:** The Department of Sanitation Services (SAN) is suspending garbage, recycle, and brush/bulky waste collections for the entire day on April 8<sup>th</sup> due to law enforcement's expectation of severe traffic impacts to freeways and other major arterials which are essential for transporting solid waste to disposal sites. All garbage and recycle collections the week of April 8 will be delayed by one day. McCommas Bluff Landfill and Bachman Transfer Station will remain open on April 8<sup>th</sup> for commercial and residential customers. Sanitation will communicate this schedule adjustment to customers in coordination with the Office of Communications, Outreach and Marketing.

If you have any questions, please contact Travis Houston, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, at [travis.houston@dallas.gov](mailto:travis.houston@dallas.gov).



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