



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander
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Safely Navigating the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse on the Great Lakes

The Ninth Coast Guard District is issuing this Marine Safety Information Bulletin to bring awareness that areas of the lower Great Lakes states will experience a [total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024](#). Between 1510 and 1530 local time, portions of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence Seaway through Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York will experience a brief period of night-time conditions. During that same timeframe, the rest of the Great Lakes region will witness a partial solar eclipse and may experience dusk-like conditions. While offering stunning celestial displays, the eclipse may present unique challenges and potential distractions for those that navigate and operate commercial vessels on the Great Lakes. Below are suggested precautions that should be considered for maritime operations during this event.

Stay Informed: Be aware of the timing and duration of the eclipse relative to your planned vessel location and operations. Monitor updated weather forecasts and be alert for any potential impacts to navigation. Plan for a high potential of congested waterways.

Be Aware: Rapid changes in light and atmospheric conditions may affect spatial perception and visibility. Keep navigational decision aids readily accessible. Monitor your vessel's position relative to other vessels.

Ensure Adequate Lighting: Prepare to energize navigation lights, flashlights, and emergency lighting as necessary to maintain visibility and prevent collisions.

Communicate Effectively: Uphold proper radio calls and share your intentions with nearby vessels. Stay connected to Local Notice to Mariners and Broadcast Notice to Mariners to receive safety advisories and navigational information.

Maintain a Proper Lookout: Exercise caution especially if visibility is reduced or if there are sudden changes in weather conditions. Reduce speed, increase lookouts, and remain vigilant for any potential hazards.

Prepare for Emergencies: Review emergency procedures with your crew and ensure all safety equipment is readily accessible. If carrying passengers, ensure passenger voyage safety briefings are conducted. Be prepared to respond promptly to any unforeseen circumstances or emergencies that may arise as significant traffic may delay emergency services.



Sincerely,

M. D. DOORIS
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Prevention Division
By direction