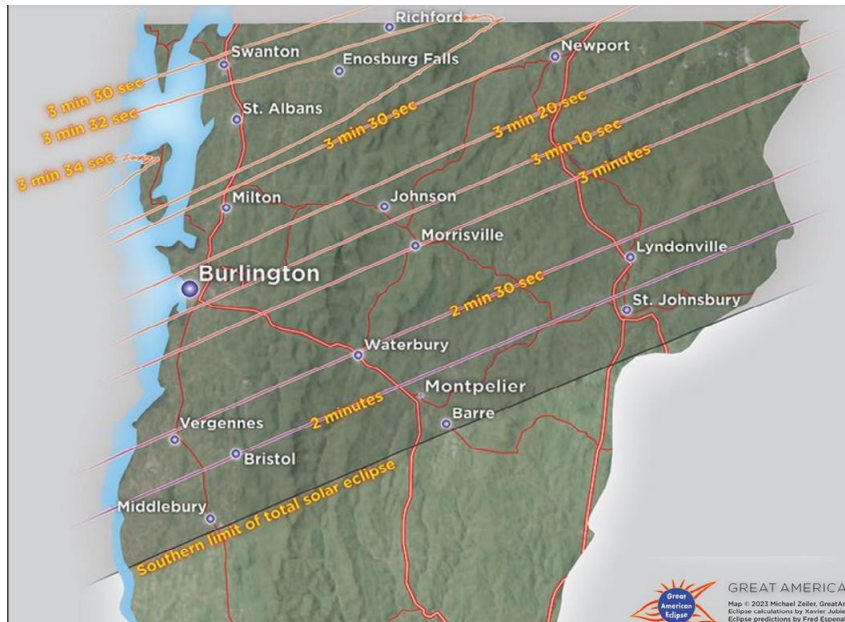


Eclipse Planning



<https://vem.vermont.gov/document/eclipse-area-totality>

Northern Vermont will experience a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. This unique event is expected to draw 50-200 thousand visitors to that area for the day.

A partial solar eclipse will begin at 2:14 p.m.; at 3:26 p.m., a total eclipse will darken Vermont's daytime sky, lasting about 3 minutes. The phenomenon will continue as a partial eclipse until 4:37 p.m. The area impacted by the eclipse will be an east-to-west line from St. Johnsbury, Barre, and Middlebury north to the Canadian border. A map of the area can be found at: <https://vem.vermont.gov/document/eclipse-area-totality>

Municipalities should plan for possible stress on their emergency services, injuries, increased traffic, and in some cases, extreme traffic issues. Other considerations could include where visitors park their vehicles (both legally and illegally), the impact on public lands during mud season, wildfire risks, and more. Many schools in the area plan to close early that day.

Should your city or town host a special eclipse event, you are asked to notify the state for our planning purposes at https://plan.vermontvacation.com/users/sign_up. The state is not hosting any events.

State agencies are preparing for the spike in visits and potential challenges that many extra people present. A working group comprising personnel from tourism,

marketing, public safety, natural resources, transportation, education, and others has been working on addressing impacts.

Event Planning Template Available

For those hosting eclipse events or other large events, VEM now has a template for large event planning for local Emergency Management Directors. This annex outlines areas of consideration for towns hosting large events of all kinds, from the upcoming eclipse to a concert to the annual fair.

This year marks 20 years since the Phish concert in Coventry that attracted roughly 65,000 people to the small Vermont town during a week of unanticipated torrential rains, deep mud, and an estimated 30 miles of traffic jams. This new annex prompts municipalities anticipating large events to plan in advance for elements that can turn a planned event into a complex incident.

The optional annex includes several sections aimed at event planning to preserve life safety. Sections include participant demographics, communications, basic services, contingency and evacuation plans, weather planning, medical needs, fire risks, substance use, and traffic and road conditions. Each section contains a series of questions for municipalities to consider in planning and preparation, including partners and stakeholders to include on event planning teams.

The annex is available on VEM's [Local Emergency Management Plan Resources page](#), along with various other topic-specific annexes. Feel free to contact your [regional coordinator](#) with any questions about the annex. For eclipse-specific planning, also consider joining the [Vermont League of Cities and Towns bi-weekly planning call series that began on January 25](#).