

JACKSON COUNTY SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

GENERAL

SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017. AUGUST 19-21, 2017

This 3-day event covers Jackson County. Within the three days, outdoor festivals, concerts, tours and the eclipse viewing will be occurring which will draw an influx of visitors to the area. Approximately 40,000 visitors can be expected for this event. All hotels/motels are not expected to have the capability to accommodate the surge of visitors expected.

PURPOSE PROCESS

This Emergency Action Plan predetermines actions to be taken before and during the Solar Eclipse Event (hereafter referred to as the event), in the response to an emergency or hazardous condition. The actions should be used by organizers, management, emergency response personnel and attendees. These actions represent those required prior to the event in preparation for those required during an emergency.

Flexibility must be used when implementing this plan because of the wide variety of potential hazards that exist for this event. These hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Fire (structural and wildland)
- Medical Emergencies
- Severe Weather
- Situations requiring Law Enforcement response

ASSUMPTIONS

The possibility of an emergency occurring at this event is present. The emergencies could require the response of Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and Law Enforcement.

- Cellular communications are limited in some areas and will be limited by increased use.
- Radio communications may be impacted by extra units being on UHF, VHF and Viper systems not only in Jackson County but across Western North Carolina as well.
- A large increase and impact of traffic could occur during this time frame. The different venues will draw large crowds and could cause traffic jams.
- Weather may also be a determining factor in events scheduled.
- Many visitors may not be prepared for the weather situation.

BASIC PLAN

Emergency Management

The EAP event representative will be identified as the point of contact for all Communications regarding the event:

- Primary Contact Name: Todd Dillard, JCEM Director 828-269-1429
- Alternate Contact Name: Michael Forbis, JCFM 828-269-9445
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC): 828-631-4357 (HELP)
- Conference Room: 828-339-0900

Emergency Notification

1. Notification of an emergency will be by 911. The caller should have the following information available to the 911 operator:
 - Location of the emergency within the event area
 - Type of emergency
 - Contact person with callback number
2. In the event that mass notification is necessary, the Code Red system will be activated by the EOC.
3. Reunification sites will be available at the event areas. These sites will be used to reunite lost visitors with their groups and serve as evacuation shelters in the event of a natural/manmade threat.
4. The event should be assigned a tactical talk around channel
5. All emergency information should be given to the Command Post that has been established for dissemination to the response personnel.
6. If the emergency requires a response by Law Enforcement, LE personnel on-scene should be given the information direct or through the Command Post.
7. All other non-emergency communications will go through the EOC at 828-631-4357.

Severe Weather

1. Weather Forecasts and current conditions will be monitored through The National Weather Service at www.weather.gov/gsp.
2. If severe weather is predicted prior to the event, Emergency Management will coordinate with Command Staff and the Event Representative to evaluate the conditions and determine if the event will be as scheduled. The Event Representative or his/her designee will be identified and will be responsible for monitoring the weather conditions before and during the event. Weather information will be given routinely every day and more frequently if necessary to all response agencies and Event Representatives.
3. Should severe weather occur during the event, the Event Representative and Emergency Services personnel on-scene will make notification to those attending of the potential hazardous weather conditions and take appropriate actions.
4. Severe weather includes severe thunderstorms which can produce very strong winds, rain, large hail and lightning. These storms have the potential of producing tornadoes.
5. Various warning systems will be used to notify all of Jackson County. This includes the Emergency Alert System (EAS) used by weather radio, commercial radio and television stations. This will be an automatic alert if the weather service issues a severe warning. The National Alert and Warning System will be used to notify people in the warning area established by the National Weather Service.
6. In the event of any severe weather watches or warnings, all emergency personnel will be notified by radio.

7. If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, civilians and emergency personnel should seek shelter in a sturdy building if available. If a building is not available, a hard-topped motor vehicle can be used for protection from hail, wind and lightning.
8. Should a tornado warning be issued, **EVERYONE** (*event staff and visitors*) should seek shelter immediately in any available building. Once inside the sturdy building, people should shelter on the lowest floor possible and the most interior room without windows. The smaller the room the better.

In the event of severe weather, Emergency Management or other Emergency Services personnel in command have the authority above and beyond the Event Representative to delay and/or cancel an event.

Fire

1. Event staff should understand the safe use of Portable Fire Extinguishers.
2. Emergency Services Personnel will use the county radio system to notify Telecommunicators of a fire emergency and provide the necessary information.

Medical Emergencies

1. There is potential for injury to the participants involved with any of the outdoor events. There could be different types of injuries. There could be heat related incidents and/or traumatic injuries.
2. Should an incident occur that requires Emergency Medical Services, First Responders will use the radio to request this resource from the Telecommunicators for the incident.
3. Event staff will assist First Responders/EMS to determine the best ingress/egress route for the patient.

Law Enforcement

1. In an attempt to be prepared for the unverified numbers of potential travelers to the County the Sheriff's Office and Sylva PD will bring in additional department resources and have requested personnel from other jurisdictions.
2. Normal shifts may be extended if deemed necessary.
3. Personnel should be aware of their surroundings at all times and continually monitor for any possible threat. and take appropriate action to mitigate the risk.
4. All emergency personnel and event personnel should be on alert for suspicious packages, persons, actions and/or other paraphernalia. If suspicious packages or item(s) are identified, emergency personnel should move the people to a safe location. Nobody is to touch the item until Law Enforcement has declared the item to be safe. Law Enforcement will be the lead agency for these types of incidents.

Public Health

1. Agency will monitor for possible outbreaks/communicable diseases that may occur in and around the events.
2. Public Safety Announcements are being distributed to educate the public of the possible hazards to human health.

Public Works

1. Personnel will be strategically staged across the county in two teams of five or six. Personnel will be staged in the Cashiers area Sylva area.
2. These teams will be called upon by the EOC to assist with any task that arises, such as mobilization of equipment and/or manpower for SAR events.
3. Teams will be on standby throughout the day on August 21st.

Parks & Recreation

1. Additional personnel (approximately two at each site) will be staged at event locations being held at the Cullowhee and Cashiers Recreation Centers as well as Mark Watson Park.
2. Free bottles of water will be provided at these sites.
3. A UTV will be staged in Cullowhee and Cashiers and 15-passenger van will be staged at the Cullowhee Recreation Center.

Emergency Vehicle Access

1. Access for emergency vehicles (fire, EMS, and law) will be unobstructed at all times.
2. All participants and spectators will be directed to approved parking areas and will not interfere with protective features—sidewalks or public thoroughways.
3. See appendix A for parking for vendors and Staff vehicles.
4. See appendix B for the location of parking for visitors in proximity to the event.