

# *Total Solar Eclipse - August 21, 2017*

## *National Elk Refuge Event Overview*



### ***Key Messages for Visitors to the Jackson Area***

- Cell and internet service in all areas may be inconsistent or not available due to a high volume of users. Text messages may be more reliable than phone calls, especially when trying to contact 9-1-1 for an emergency.
- In an emergency, you may send a text message to 9-1-1. Simply text the number 911; in the message, include your location, the nature of your emergency, and if you need police, fire, medical, or search and rescue response. Do not use abbreviations. Be prepared for a delayed response.
- Stock up on groceries or make dining reservations in advance, as restaurants will likely be crowded.
- Fill your gas tanks. We are expecting additional demand and congestion on the roadways.
- Visit the banks / ATMs early, as ATMs may run out of cash due to a visitation surge.
- Lodging accommodations are limited. Hotels, camping, and RV camping are near capacity. Visitors may need to look outside of Jackson and Teton County for accommodations. Be sure to have your accommodations arranged prior to arrival.
- Area roadways will likely be congested; regular routes may be subject to temporary restrictions. Variable traffic signs will provide up-to-date information on specific roadways. Visit [www.wyoroad.info](http://www.wyoroad.info) for additional information.
- Be prepared for heavy bicycle traffic. Remember to share roads, trails, and pathways and be courteous to other users, including any emergency service vehicles that may be using pathways for emergency response routes.
- The hospital and urgent care facilities are increasing staffing to handle heavier than normal walk-in and emergency visits. Fill your medical prescriptions in advance and have an extra supply of any medications.
- August is prime fire season. Be extremely careful with cigarettes, campfires, recreational burns, and parking a vehicle on dry grass. Know and respect any burning restrictions for the area you are visiting. Campfires must be completely extinguished: doused, stirred, and cold to the touch. Report any signs of smoke immediately. Fireworks are not allowed.
- Residents should stock up on essentials including groceries, medications, water, tarps, emergency generators, and camping equipment. The more self-sufficient you can be, the better. Emergency response times will be affected with the additional visitors.

### ***General Information***

#### ***Where can I find information on the internet about Refuge restrictions during the eclipse?***

The National Elk Refuge has an informational page on its web site dedicated to the total solar eclipse at <http://bit.ly/2tgZiom>.

Additionally, a comprehensive eclipse-dedicated web site, <http://tetoneclipse.com>, has been developed for the Town of Jackson and Teton County, Wyoming and is an excellent resource for visitors to the area for the celestial event.

#### ***What activities will be allowed on August 21?***

The only change in regulations will be a closure of Refuge fishing access on August 21. Otherwise, it will be business as usual on the Refuge during the eclipse. The same standard year-round regulations will be valid during the period preceding, during, and after the eclipse.

Key year-round regulations include:

- National Elk Refuge access is restricted to open public roads and trails designated as “authorized routes.” All other foot, vehicle, bicycle, and horse travel is prohibited. This includes travel between the Refuge and adjacent National Forest lands. You must be on an authorized route at all times while within the Refuge boundary.
- Visitor use is not allowed on the Refuge between legal sunset and sunrise, other than vehicle traffic on the road to a designated location.
- Overnight parking/camping on the Refuge Road (including pullouts) is not allowed.

#### ***Will public facilities remain open?***

Both the Miller House and Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center will remain open during regular business hours on August 21. Staff will encourage visitors to step outside during the totality phase (11:34-11:37 am) if they have appropriate viewing eye protection. The administrative offices will also be open during regular business hours.

#### ***What are key times to note?***

- 10:16:43 am - Start of partial eclipse
- 11:34:55 am - Start of total eclipse
- 11:37:10 am - End of total eclipse
- 1:00:21 pm - End of partial eclipse
- Duration of totality - 00:02:15

## ***Incident Reporting Procedures***

### ***What if I have a medical emergency?***

Call or text 9-1-1. State your name and specific location, then say you are calling to request an ambulance for a medical emergency. If the dispatcher answers the phone by asking, “Can you please hold?” state, “I am calling with a medical emergency and requesting immediate assistance.” This will help dispatchers as they prioritize calls.

### ***What if I need vehicle assistance?***

Requests for non-emergency requests (flat tire, engine trouble, etc.) will be prioritized and responded to as soon as possible. Accidents, especially those that involve injuries, will be a higher priority.

### ***What if I need to report a wildfire?***

Call or text 9-1-1 or call the Teton Interagency Fire dispatch center at (307) 739-3630. This dispatch number is specific to fire only.

## ***Refuge Parking Options***

### ***Can I park in the pullouts during the eclipse?***

Visitors cannot park along the Refuge Road on August 21. They can, however, park in any of the public pullouts on the Refuge Road or Flat Creek Road beginning at sunrise. There is no time limit for parking in the pullouts as long as it's within the general time regulations of sunrise to sundown. Visitors should park as tightly as possible to maximize space.

### ***Where can I park other than roadside pullouts?***

The two gates on either end of the Miller House complex should be closed on the evening of Sunday, August 20. The south gate (closest to the Miller House) will open between 9:45 and 10:00 AM on the morning of August 21. Visitors will not be allowed to line up on the Refuge Road in anticipation of the gate opening. Once the gate is open, visitors can park in the Miller Barn area.

### ***Can I set up lawn chairs in the pullouts or Miller House parking area?***

Yes, as long as they are immediately adjacent to the vehicle and are not impeding additional parking or obstructing traffic.

### ***Can I have alcoholic beverages while watching the eclipse?***

Open containers in vehicles, consumption of alcohol in vehicles, and public intoxication are not allowed.

## ***Additional Resources***

- The official Town of Jackson and Teton County, WY solar eclipse site: [tetoneclipse.com](http://tetoneclipse.com)
- National Elk Refuge Eclipse Information: <http://bit.ly/2tgZiom>
- Grand Teton National Eclipse Information: [www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/2017-solar-eclipse.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/2017-solar-eclipse.htm)
- Bridger-Teton National Forest Eclipse Information: <http://bit.ly/2sXN14F>
- Multiple eclipse topics: [Eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://Eclipse2017.nasa.gov)
- For eye safety and certified eye protection: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety>
- For learning what's required for taking photos of the sun during an eclipse: [Mreclipse.com](http://Mreclipse.com)