City of Columbia Operations Response Brief

July 17 – August 18, 2017- 1700 hrs.

2017 Total Solar Eclipse

The following is a status update for the City of Columbia’s operations response to the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse.

CURRENT & PLANNED OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure the safety and welfare of community, citizens, general public, visitors, first responders and employees during the weekend events
- Maintain essential Public Safety response
- Maintain continuity of services city-wide
- Maintain critical infrastructure, commerce and normal business
- Provide timely and adequate public information briefings
- Prepare to respond to transportation packages and evacuation centers*
- Establish and maintain situational awareness with partner agencies

*evacuation centers
2017 Total Solar Eclipse

Human Resources/Safety & Risk Management Department

July 17 – August 18, 2017 - 1700 hrs.

The HR/Safety & Risk Management Department’s summary of current actions and working objectives:

- Discuss the 2017 Eclipse Event Risk Management ASCOPE Summary at the COC Safety Committee Meeting 7/19/2017
- Discuss and distribute Total Solar Eclipse Safety Tips with COC Safety Committee to begin safety discussions with employees of all departments for event.
- Distribute Total Solar Eclipse Safety Tips to COC Department Heads & Division Heads 7/20/2017
- Conduct an employee Total Solar Eclipse Safety Awareness Video the week of July 24 for the Inncity intranet site to be utilized by departments for awareness
- Distributed more safety messages on, "How to Wear Eclipse Safety Glasses and When to Wear Eclipse Safety Glasses" to communicate to all employees
- Submitted Total Solar Eclipse Safety Message for monthly safety information for the August edition of Inside Columbia
- Discussed Total Solar Eclipse Safety information at the CCN meeting on Thursday, 7/27/2017 with local neighborhood representatives
- Completed an employee Total Solar Eclipse Safety Awareness video on Friday, 7/28/17 for the Innercity intranet site to be utilized by all departments In addition, completed several short safety informative videos on Friday 7/28/17 about Total Eclipse Safety Awareness for communication by the COC PR/Media Department

Critical need requests to EOC:
We will continue to update and monitor safety & risk management up until Total Solar Eclipse Event Monday, August 21, 2017
Columbia Fire Department

July 17 – August 18, 2017 – 1700 hrs.

The Columbia Fire Department’s summary of current actions and working objectives:

Role and Assets

- Command staff will provide information, liaison, and safety services
- Fire prevention staff and special operation resources will be assigned to key venues for the duration of the operational period.
- Logistics Staff will be available for hydration stations for the parks department

Command Post

- The Columbia Fire Department command post will be utilized during the total eclipse operational period. (Location to be determined by command staff)

Prior to event

- The Columbia Fire Department has identified key locations and will conduct fire and life safety inspections for code compliance.
- All fire presentations, fire demonstrations and training events have been rescheduled
- Synchronization of local/area Incident Action Plans
- Be aware of similar resources to cover the same location/events
- Overlap of Command Control of large events esp. when an incident occurs
- Effects of heat on travels in the area, access to enough potable water, shade
- State Fair Grounds Saturday, Sunday and Monday – patrol, coverage, responding to calls?
- Area/unified planning team for events that might escalate quickly.

The Columbia Fire Department solutions

Operations Division is flexible enough to staff as needed in areas of concerns, density of population and whether a certain day becomes more populated. We can dynamically add resources to areas of concern rather quickly.

- Engine Companies
- brush truck/pickup trucks
- Tahoe's/Pickups - EMT - QRVs for medical calls
- ATV's for crowded smaller areas
✓ Go-Fast Inflatable Boats (x4) for the rivers/canals with rescue swimmers

As we get closer

✓ The CFD Special Operations will build an Incident Action Plan (IAP)* in the Cities Rhodium account for all to view.
✓ *Our IAP on Rhodium will be open to any agency that would like to build into it.
✓ Finalize the Columbia Fire Department initial and working Incident Action Plan for that 24 hr period
✓ Continually determine the exact needs of manpower and additional equipment that will be needed at certain sites and within the department as a whole
✓ What resources will be needed to support our outside agencies needs for mutual aid?
✓ Communicating the Solar Eclipse safety tips to the public and media through CFD social media messages that are released through City Public Relations.

Columbia Police Department

July 17 – August 18, 2017 – 1700 hrs.
The forms of communication that CPD will use to disseminate information internally and externally during the Solar Eclipse are as follows:

- INTERNAL: Radios, Satellite Phones, Dispatch, Cell Phones and Computers
- EXTERNAL: Delivery of a consistent message about activities will be spearheaded by City PR with support from the CPD Media Relations Office via social media posts (likes, retweets, etc.)
Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications

July 17 – August 18, 2017 – 1700 hrs.

The Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Department’s summary of current actions and working objectives:

Current planning, decisions and actions to date:

- Increase staffing
- Utilize EMS EOC for additional Call-Taker ONLY positions (6)
- Utilize Everbridge on behalf of Emergency Management Operations with Customer Care’s # 545-3300

DOC status for event
- Keep staff in-house if at all possible

Resources status/estimates
- RCSD Command Post request – 6.5 employees

Potential / identified resource gaps
- Staff to support all service agency special event requests
- CAD
- Recorded phone lines

Working objectives with associated tasks
- Continue to monitor staffing requests
- Educate staff
- Coordinate Everbridge message

EOC designee/alternate for Monday August 21st
- CRC Representative
CRC 9-1-1 is currently operating under normal operations.

Staffing levels are consistent with daily operational staffing and will be adjusted accordingly based on call volume and demand.

CRC currently has had requests for tactical dispatcher deployment to begin until Monday, August 21, 2017 at 17:00 hours.

No significant increase in call volume.

### Total Solar Eclipse 2017

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Parks and Recreation Department

July 17 – August 18, 2017 – 1700 hrs.

The Parks and Recreation Department’s summary of current actions and working objectives:

- **Current planning, decisions and actions to date**
  - Event sites identified (spreadsheet attached) Public and Neighborhood
  - Public, visitor friendly sites posted to website (Finlay, Owens, Southeast, Riverfront Parks)
  - Neighborhood Parks will serve residents via CCN
  - Outreach planned to CCN to encourage partnering in neighborhood parks
  - Outreach (glasses distribution) planned at Neighborhood Night Out Kickoff
  - Glasses estimate provided to Experience Columbia via Flock & Rally
  - Checking with CFD regarding park capacity

**DOC status for event**
- 1111 Parkside Drive is department HQ for event
- Barry Wells will staff Parks HQ
- Kenya Bryant will staff EOC for P&R

**Resources status/estimates**
- Assessing support needs: barricades, tents, misters, port a jons, water
- CFD logistics re misters
- Potential Academy Sports sponsor for heating/cooling stations at public parks.

**Potential / identified resource gaps**
- Need designated funds for water bottles, fans, shade tents, cooling stations
- Public parks will need additional staff support
- UTVs, bicycles- means of moving through greenway and parks with minimal trail disruption
Working objectives with associated tasks

- Train all P&R staff
- Eclipse 101/Safety/Guest Service
- KASK, Kenya Bryant, Carey Rich
- Assign P&R staff
- Prepare outreach materials
  - Carey Rich, Tony Cooper
- Presentation to CCN Thursday 7/27
  - KASK & Harry Tinsley
    - Identify CCN groups to host/partner with parks
- Quantify viewing glasses
  - List to HT and Flock and Rally 7/17
    - Distribute Glasses
    - Three events plus viewing day
- Prepare outreach materials
  - Internal staff
  - External for CCN/Park Guests
  - City Time
  - Festival script-visuals
    - Mark /sign/barricade museum staff parking area at rock dam
    - Mark/sign/barricade press parking and viewing areas at Gist and Coble Plaza
- EOC designee/alternate for Monday August 21st
  - Kenya Bryant

The team met this morning to discuss and finalize the needs assessment for the placement of portable restrooms for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse. We have developed for consideration a list based on the following; City Parks, City Parking Decks, General downtown area, probable attendees estimates, use of current facilities, and electrical and water supply availability.

The City units being considered do not include units for those events being scheduled and hosted by private partners; as they are required to provide their own.
The Columbia Water division summary of current actions and working objectives:

- Identifying locations for employees to view eclipse on August 21, 2017
- Developing environmental conservation and value of water messaging appropriate for eclipse viewers
- Preparing messaging for eclipse visitor impact on water utilities to be ready if asked
- Emergency contact list will be developed by August 18, 2017.

**Customer Care initial preparation:**
- Preparing to close Eau Claire and Washington Square bill-pay centers between 1pm and 3pm on August 21, 2017.
  - See **Critical need requests**
- Preparing to have 803-545-3300 as the contact number for Eclipse questions
  - Eclipse option will be added to initial menu by August 14, 2017
  - Staff will be trained by August 14, 2017 in answering customer requests about the eclipse

**Engineering initial preparation:**
- All active construction sites will cease construction activity on August 21, 2017
- Surveying and other field operations will be suspended on August 21, 2017.

**Utility Operations initial preparation:**
Metro WWTP preparation:
- Metro WWTP reservoir will be emptied by August 18, 2017 in anticipation of needed storage
- Staff will check generators and fuel levels in anticipation of power outage by August 18, 2017
- Emergency vehicles will be fueled up by August 18, 2017.
- By-Pass pumps will be staged and topped off with fuel by August 18, 2017.
- Extra emergency crews will be on stand-by for call in as needed starting August 18, 2017.

At both Water Treatment Plants the following activities will be completed by the dates indicated:
- Chemical inventories verified by August 14 and topped off by August 17, 2017.
- Vehicles fueled and staged for deployment by August 18, 2017.
- Construction activity at plants will cease on August 21, 2017.
- All routine laboratory field sampling will be discontinued for August 21, 2017. Only complaint investigation and required sampling will be conducted.

Columbia Canal preparation:
- Canal and head gates will be inspected by August 14, 2017.

Wastewater Maintenance preparation:
- Key personal will be briefed and readied for mobilization by August 18, 2017.
  - Jody Harley
  - Jason Manchee
  - Anthony Roberts
  - Prentiss Brooks
- WWM Operators will be monitoring Critical Manhole/WWM Smartcovers by August 19, 2017.
  - All WWM Heavy Equipment will be fueled and ready for mobilization.
  - By-pass Pumps will be fueled and ready for service by August 18, 2017.
- Roll off debris boxes will be emptied and prepped for mobilization
- Field activities will be minimized, with only emergency field activities occurring between August 19-21, 2017.

Water Distribution preparation:
- Routine flushing activities will be suspended between August 19-21, 2017. Only complaint response or emergency flushing to occur.
- Field activities will be minimized, with only emergency field activities occurring between August 19-21, 2017.
- Vehicles and heavy equipment will be fueled and prepared for mobilization by August 18, 2017.
Critical need requests to EOC:

- Messaging coordination to announce suspension of some City functions to occur between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm on August 21, 2017
  - Signage to post in City buildings
  - Social media posts
  - Other announcements as appropriate

Public and Media Relations Department

July 17 – August 18, 2017 – 1700 hrs.

The Public and Media Relations Department’s summary of current actions and working objectives:

- Presented a PowerPoint presentation about the City Communication Strategy (7/13/17)
- Will compile operations reports from City departments weekly
- Friday, July 21, the City’s 30-day Total Solar Eclipse Public and Safety Education Campaign
- Starting on Friday, July 21 safety messages will be posted on City social media platforms and website
- City website will have City information regarding the Total Solar Eclipse
- Public Relations will encourage citizens to contact Customer Care for non-emergencies during the eclipse
- Will draft and send Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 a detailed message for the Everbridge System prior to the Total Solar Eclipse
- Scheduled Solar Eclipse Tips on social media platforms
- Conduct Joint Information Center meetings
- Sent media advisory about the Columbia-Richland Alerts for the Solar Eclipse
- Attended the Columbia Council of Neighborhood meeting to inform citizens about safety tips
- Sent out press releases weekly regarding the 30-day total solar eclipse public and safety education campaign
- Scheduled interviews for various City departments
Updated website and scheduled social media posts with total eclipse information

In correlations with various City departments, the Public and Media Relations Department released press releases regarding City operations, public and safety information during the 30-day Total Solar Eclipse Public and Safety Education Campaign.

Please see all press releases below.

City of Columbia’s 30-day Total Solar Eclipse Public and Safety Education Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 21, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

City to Launch 30-day Public and Safety Education Campaign for Columbia Total Solar Eclipse

The City of Columbia will begin a 30-day public and safety education campaign as the community counts down to the total solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017. “Our internal planning process and initial discussions regarding the eclipse operations began in September 2016, so we have been focused on this event for some time and actively engaged in assessing public safety and other operations,” said Columbia City Manager, Teresa Wilson.

The City’s social media platforms and website will be have public and safety tips for citizens to view and receive information about city operations such as: parking, police assistance, traffic control, street closures and more.

“We are primarily focused on ensuring that our citizens and visitors to our city have access to information that will allow them to not only enjoy this historic experience, but also enjoy it in a safe and beneficial way. The City of Columbia is engaged in community-wide operations and city staff are working diligently to be prepared for this large scale event,” City Manager Teresa Wilson.

“The Public and Media Relations Department is committed to providing our citizens with accurate and up-to-date information regarding the City’s operations both before and during the Total
Eclipse Weekend,” said Leshia Utsey, the Public and Media Relations Director. “We will be using all of the communications outlets at our disposal in order to disseminate information throughout the City and we look forward to working with our media partners, community leaders and the public during this endeavor.”

The City of Columbia plans to send out a (CRA) Columbia-Richland Alerts to notify citizens about the total solar eclipse. Columbia officials are encouraging all citizens to follow the City’s social media platforms and visit their website at www.columbiasc.net to stay informed. The City of Columbia will be sending out weekly public and safety updates where citizens can receive information through the city e-blasts and newsletters. To receive City updates, please email a request to pio@columbiasc.net.

For additional information, please contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

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*Please see the safety tips attached*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Monday, July 31, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

**Columbia-Richland Alerts for 2017 Total Solar Eclipse**

The City of Columbia and Richland County have partnered and created multiple ways for citizens to receive (CRA) Columbia-Richland Alerts. The (CRA) Columbia-Richland Alerts is an alert program designed to provide citizens with time-sensitive information. The types of messages citizens can receive from the CRA system are public safety, community events, water/sewer, severe weather, public meetings/hearings, traffic safety, street closures and community awareness. Citizens can receive these alerts through text messages, email (personal/work), home phone, business phone, cell phone and other devices.

The Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 will be disturbing information through the (CRA) Columbia-Richland Alerts system about the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse to raise awareness to all citizens of Columbia and Richland County.
The City of Columbia encourages all residents of the Columbia and Richland County to register for these alerts.

Register at www.columbiasc.net/911/citizens-alerts to receive alerts about the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse.

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*Please see the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse safety tips attached.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Friday, August 04, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

**City Parking for 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Weekend**

The City of Columbia’s Parking Services Division has announced upcoming parking options for the Total Solar Eclipse weekend Saturday, August 19 – August 21, 2017. The following parking decks will be open for the public Saturday, Sunday and Monday: Washington Street Deck, Taylor Street Deck, Lady Street Deck, Park Street Deck, Lincoln Street Deck and PJ Cannon. *Event parking rates may apply for City parking decks during the Total Solar Eclipse weekend, cash only.*

The following City surface lots will be available for parking during the eclipse weekend: Sumter Street lot, Devine Street lot and Harden Street/Exxon lot. The Convention Center lot will be available for parking only on Monday, August 21. *All surface lots event parking rates may apply only on Monday, August 21, cash only.*
On-street parking will operate as normal.

For additional information, please visit the City of Columbia website at columbia.sc.net or contact Parking Services at 803-545-4015

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*Please see safety tips attached.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, August 08, 2017

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

City releases Parking Map for Total Eclipse Weekend

The City of Columbia’s Parking Services Division has announced upcoming parking options for the Total Solar Eclipse weekend Saturday, August 19 – August 21, 2017. The following parking decks will be open for the public Saturday, Sunday and Monday: Washington Street Deck, Taylor Street Deck, Lady Street Deck, Park Street Deck, Lincoln Street Deck and PJ Cannon. *Event parking rates may apply for City parking decks during the Total Solar Eclipse weekend, cash only.*

The following City surface lots will be available for parking during the eclipse weekend: Sumter Street lot, Devine Street lot and Harden Street/Exxon lot. The Convention Center lot will be available for parking only on Monday, August 21. *All surface lots event parking rates may apply only on Monday, August 21, cash only.*

On-street parking will operate as normal.
For additional information, please visit the City of Columbia website at columbiaasc.net or contact Parking Services at 803-545-4015

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*Please see the Eclipse parking map attached.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, August 11, 2017  
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803)545-3020

**City Offices Will Open on August 21**

"Some Operations will be Suspended During the Total Solar Eclipse"

The City of Columbia does not plan to close offices on Monday, August 21, 2017, however, services at some locations will be suspended from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Those locations are as follows: Customer Care, all City payment centers, Business Licensing, Zoning, Planning & Development, and any other public facing operations in the Washington Square location. In addition, the Municipal Court (811 Washington St.), Human Resources (1225 Lady St.) and Parking Services office (1136 Washington St.) will also not provide services to citizens from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

City staff attended a (CCN) Columbia Council Neighborhood meeting on Thursday, July 27, to share Total Solar Eclipse safety information with local neighborhood representatives and residents in the surrounding areas. During the CCN meeting the safety & risk management team emphasized not to look directly at the sky while the eclipse is moving towards the sun and when the eclipse is moving away from the sun. A mini demonstration was provided to all citizens at the CCN meeting on how and when to wear the eclipse safety glasses.

The City of Columbia encourages citizens to use the City’s website and social media platforms to receive safety messages and City operations for the total solar eclipse weekend.

###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 15, 2017
Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Viewing Locations Available for Total Solar Eclipse

Public Restroom, Water Station Sites Announced

Five parks in the City of Columbia have been designated as public viewing sites for the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21, the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department announced.

Guests are encouraged to visit the following locations to view the solar eclipse:

- **Drew Park** (beside the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center), 2101 Walker Solomon Way
- **Finlay Park**, 930 Laurel St.
- **Owens Field Park**, 1351 Jim Hamilton Blvd.
- **Riverfront Park**, 312 Laurel St. (The north end is also available for viewing at 4122 River Drive)
- **Southeast Park**, 951 Hazelwood Rd.

**Solar eclipse glasses will be available for guests while supplies last.**

Restrooms, portable toilets, hand washing stations and manifolds (water stations) will be available on site.

Guests are encouraged to bring water bottles and fill them at the water stations.

For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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*Please see safety tips attached.*
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

City Total Solar Eclipse Public Education Campaign
Announces Fire Department Updates

As a continuation of the Total Solar Eclipse campaign, the City of Columbia Fire Department has prepared a strategic plan for operating during the total solar eclipse weekend. Fire prevention staff and special operation resources will be assigned to key venues for the duration of the operational period. The Operations Division will be flexible enough to staff as needed in areas of concerns such as density of population and if a certain day or area becomes more populated.

“Prior to the total solar eclipse weekend our fire prevention staff has worked on pre-inspections for the number of events that will be occurring on Saturday, August 19 – Monday, August 21,” said Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, Columbia Fire Department Chief. “Our intentions are to make our residents and visitors safe by conducting these pre-inspections. We have been meeting to discuss how we’re planning to have extra personnel on duty for the eclipse weekend and especially on Monday, August 21 in preparation for the large crowd.”

The City of Columbia encourages citizens to use the City’s website and social media platforms to receive safety messages and information on City operations for the total solar eclipse weekend.

###

*Please see safety tips attached.*
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, August 17, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

City Total Solar Eclipse Public Education Campaign
Announces Police Department Updates

As a continuation of the Total Solar Eclipse campaign, the City of Columbia Police Department has prepared a strategic plan for operating and keeping everyone safe during the total solar eclipse weekend. A higher level of law enforcement than normal will be on duty this weekend to keep residents and visitors safe. The Columbia Police Department encourages all residents of Columbia to be patient during traffic congestion, do not stop on shoulders of highways to view the eclipse and remain in a safe environment for this exciting experience.

“We are working to take all of the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of visitors, residents and businesses that are planning to take part in viewing the total solar eclipse,” said Chief William “Skip” Holbrook. “Our goal is to create a safe haven for everyone to enjoy what is expected to be a memorable experience in the city of Columbia. We want to remind all involved with this event to exercise good judgment and patience when entering and exiting viewing locations to avoid congestion.”

“We are working with City staff to see if there’s a need to divert traffic due to a large scale event and also working with those persons who are having viewing events,” said Deputy Chief Melron Kelly. “We will be in pre-staff levels for the days leading up to the event and the day after. The City of Columbia has excessively 360 officers with also community safety officers and police cadets, there will be more staff than normal on the roads both days and nights during the eclipse weekend.”
The Columbia Police Department will be using the following safety tips:

*These tips are from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division*

**Residents**

- Start planning now for where you will go to view the eclipse and make sure you're prepared.
- Prepare in advance to take care of your normal weekend activities.
- Fill your car up with gas and buy groceries before the weekend.
- Even if you do not plan to participate in any eclipse-related activities, expect heavy traffic and extremely busy areas in much of South Carolina.

**Visitors**

- Welcome to South Carolina! We hope you have a chance to Discover South Carolina and everything our beautiful state has to offer.
- Follow the guidance of local public safety officials and your event organizers. County emergency managers, local police and fire fighters know their communities and how best to direct you to where you would like to go.
- Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination throughout the weekend. Traffic will be heavy with large crowds going to and from events all weekend.
- Once you get to your eclipse event, stay there until well after the eclipse is over.
- If you are driving during the eclipse, **KEEP MOVING**. Do not stop your vehicle along interstates or any roadway.
- August in South Carolina means it will be HOT. Be prepared for extreme heat.
- Make sure you have bottled water, sunscreen, first aid kit and protective eyewear like certified eclipse viewing glasses.
- Take time to become familiar with our emergency plans and know what to do in the event of a hurricane, an earthquake or any type of severe weather and large-scale emergency.
- Call 9-1-1 for life-safety emergencies only.
- Make sure family members or friends back home know your schedule, when you are expected to return and your plan if something happens.

**Businesses**

- Prepare for a big jump in customers. Grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, transportation services, coffee shops, retail stores, urgent care clinics and many other establishments will experience a jump in business. Order goods and schedule staff accordingly.
- Be aware that many visitors will be camping in both authorized and unauthorized locations; expect customers who may be primarily interested in using restrooms.
- Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas prior to the time visitors begin to arrive in the area. Lines for fuel may occur and you’ll want staff to be able to get to work.

- Be prepared for more cash transactions and potential challenges with credit/debit card transactions taking longer than usual because of increased volumes. Consider having tills set up to accommodate more cash transactions.

- Be prepared for cell service overloads; there may be service disruptions due to the increase in visitors using networks. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your business telephone line if they are having trouble with cell service. Decide how you want to handle these requests and make sure employees know what to do.

- Talk to suppliers. Some suppliers may be considering delivery schedule changes due to the event(s). Suppliers may also be looking at how the increased traffic on rural roads may impact delivery times.

- It is advisable that viewers use eclipse glasses (sunglasses are NOT enough) when looking at the sun before and after totality. There may be glasses for sale or for free at viewing locations, but feel free to purchase some on your own and sell them at your store.

*Please see safety tips attached.*

###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 18, 2017
Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

City Total Solar Eclipse Public and Safety Education Campaign releases Eclipse Glasses Safety Tips

On Monday, August 21, the City of Columbia will experience a Total Solar Eclipse and all citizens are encouraged to please take preventive measures to ensure your safety and security while traveling and viewing the eclipse. The City of Columbia provides definitive information on the sequence of the total Solar Eclipse and how to safely view the eclipse with your eclipse glasses.

The City of Columbia is expected to experience the Total Solar Eclipse during the following hours:

Eclipse begins at 1:13 p.m. – eclipse glasses on
Totality begins at 2:41 p.m. – eclipse glasses off
Totality ends at 2:44 p.m. – eclipse glasses on
End of eclipse at 4:06 p.m.

The City of Columbia encourages citizens to use the City’s website www.columbiasc.net and social media platforms to receive safety messages and information on City operations for the total solar eclipse weekend.

###

*Please see the eclipse sequence flyer attached.*
**TOTALITY**

2 min. 36 seconds
2:41:51 p.m.
in Columbia, SC

**SEQUENCE:**

1. Partial
   eclipse begins
   1:13

2. Bailey’s
   Beads 2:41
   GLASSES ON!

3. Diamond
   Ring 2:41
   GLASSES ON

4. TOTALITY

5. Diamond
   Ring 2:44
   GLASSES ON!

6. Bailey’s
   Beads 2:44
   GLASSES ON!

7. Partial
   eclipse
   Ends at 4:05

**BEFORE TOTALITY**

**AFTER TOTALITY**

Glasses On
2017 Total Solar Eclipse Safety Tips

Anyone in the United States on August 21, 2017, will be able to see at least a partial solar eclipse (weather permitting, of course). But only those people in what's known as the "path of totality" will see a total solar eclipse. For the August 21, 2017 eclipse, the path of totality is about 70 miles wide, and extends from Oregon to South Carolina. Depending on where observers are located, the sun may be completely obscured by the moon for up to 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

Eye Protection for Looking at the Sun
To view the sun directly (and safely), use "solar-viewing glasses" or "eclipse glasses" or "personal solar filters" (these are all names for the same thing), according to the safety recommendations from NASA. The "lenses" of solar-viewing glasses are made from special-purpose solar filters that are hundreds of thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses.

Do not view through any welding glass, if you do not know or cannot determine its shade number. Be advised that arc welders typically use glass with a shade much less than the necessary #14. A welding glass that permits you to see the landscape is not safe.

Don't look at the Sun directly! Use eclipse glasses...

Eclipse Glasses – YES!  Sunglasses – NO!

Eclipse glasses can be purchased at http://www.rainbowsymphony.com/eclipse-glasses/
2017 Total Solar Eclipse
Safety Tips

- Do not use a telescope to view the Total Solar Eclipse, It Will Damage Your Eyes & Telescope.

- Do not take pictures with a camera during the Total Solar Eclipse, It Will Damage Your Eyes.

- Dress for summer & hot-humid weather. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight and helps your body maintain normal temperatures. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton, recommends OSHA.

- If you are going to be exposed to direct sunlight, it is recommended you use Sunscreen SPF-30 which blocks 97% UVB rays or even wear a hat to block the direct sunlight.

- Stay-Hydrated-Drink Water. Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don’t feel thirsty.

- Maintain Situational Awareness at all times while viewing the Total Solar Eclipse. There will be a large mass of people in the Columbia area for this event. Your personal safety is #1.

- Watch out for an abundance of pedestrian/vehicular traffic in the Columbia surrounding area for this event.
Eclipse Weekend Event Amenities
August 19 - 21, 2017

Media Parking is available to media representatives on the first-come, first-served basis.
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Owens Field Park

City Tent
Vendor Tent
Trailer Restroom
Portable Toilet
Hand Washing
Water Filling Station
Misting or Spray Pool
Barricade
Facility Restroom
Handicap Restroom
Media Parking
Parking Deck

Media Parking is available to media representatives on the first-come, first-served basis.
Eclipse Weekend Event Amenities
August 19 - 21, 2017

Riverfront Park South
Eclipse Weekend Event Amenities
August 19 - 21, 2017

Southeast Park & Tennis Center

Media Parking is available to media representatives on the first-come, first-served basis.
Eclipse Weekend Event Amenities
August 19 - 21, 2017

- City Tent
- Vendor Tent
- Trailer Restroom
- Portable Toilet
- Hand Washing
- Water Filling Station
- Mister or Spray Pool
- Barricade
- Facility Restroom
- Handicap Restroom
- Media Parking
- Parking Deck

Taylor at Assembly
Eclipse Weekend Restrooms
August 19 - 21, 2017

Hampton at Main
Eclipse Weekend Restrooms
August 19 - 21, 2017

Riverfront Park North
Eclipse Weekend Restrooms
August 19 - 21, 2017
• **What is a total solar eclipse?**  
  o Essentially, it's when the moon moves right in front of the sun, covering it completely for a very short time. It darkens the whole sky, you can look right at the sun (only when it's completely covered, though you must use special solar eclipse glasses to view the eclipse.

• **When will it happen?**  
  o Monday, August 21, 2017

• **Will the City of Columbia offices be open?**  
  o Yes, City offices will remain open, except for all City payment centers will be closed from 1pm – 3pm

• **How will traffic operations be handled?**  
  o Staged bucket trucks and operation staff will be around Columbia for quick respond for issues and to respond chasing traffic patterns so they can modify signal timings if needed. Signal lanes will be adjusted when needed.

• **Are there any street/road closures?**  
  o At this point CPD have not received any request to close any street. They will work with City staff to see if there’s a need to divert traffic due to a large scale event.

• **Will school district close for the Total Solar Eclipse?**  
  o On a local level they are aware that some of the school districts in the Midlands will be closed and will return on Tuesday, August 22.

• **What to do in an emergency situation?**  
  o For emergencies call 9-1-1  
  o For non-emergencies call 803-545-3300

• **I live in the path! Can I watch it from my house?**  
  o Absolutely!! You are incredibly lucky, and you should invite lots of friends over. Please see our viewing tips on the City website and social media platforms, and get enough pairs of eclipse glasses for all the people you'll invite to experience it with you. (An eclipse is even better if shared with a few hundred of your closest friends!)

• **Where can I get Eclipse glasses?**  
  o Contact Experience ColumbiaSC at 803-545-0000
• **How do I take pictures of the eclipse?**
  o Unless you have special solar filters for your camera and telescope, you can’t even set up for pictures like this - the heat of the sun will melt your lenses! If you want to pull out a point and shoot during totality, be advised that your pictures will NOT be any good.

• **So a telescope is out, too?**
  o Yes, unless you have a special solar filter that fits over the end of the scope (not at the eyepiece!), and you know how to use it properly.

• **What if it’s cloudy that day?**
  o If it’s cloudy, you won’t see anything.

• **What to wear during Solar Eclipse?**
  o Dress for summer & hot-humid weather.

• **Can I view the Solar Eclipse from the City parking garages?**
  o No, the City parking garages are strictly for parking purposes only.

• **Will traffic have a heavy impact on Columbia?**
  o Yes, heavy traffic will be from Friday, August 18 – Tuesday, August 22

• **What time should I expect the Solar Eclipse?**
  o Around 1:13 p.m. the solar eclipse will start
  o Around 2:41 p.m. Totality will begin
  o Around 2:43 p.m. the solar eclipse will end

• **When do I need to wear the eclipse glasses?**
  o When the eclipse is starting at 1:13 p.m.
  o Take off your eclipse glasses at 2:41 p.m.
  o Put eclipse glasses back on when the sun begins to peak from behind the moon at 2:43 p.m.

• **How can I pay my water bill?**
  o City payment centers will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  o Re-opens from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
  o Online payments are acceptable

• **What is the schedule for the City garbage & recycling pickup?**
  o Garbage and recycling pick-up will remain on regular schedule

• **When is a good day and time to go shopping for groceries?**
  o Any day and time before Friday, August 18 and after Tuesday, August 22

• **How will the City alert citizens about the Solar Eclipse?**
  o Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 will be sending out a message through Columbia-Richland Alerts.

• **How do I receive the Columbia-Richland Alerts?**
  o Please sign-up for alerts at www.columbiasc.net/911/citizens-alerts
• What devices can I receive the Columbia-Richland Alerts?
  o Any device you would like to setup the alerts through such as:
    ▪ Home phone
    ▪ Cell phone
    ▪ Business phone

• What if I’m driving during the solar eclipse at 1:13pm, 2:41pm or 2:43 pm?
  o Do not stop on the interstate nor the shoulder of the highway.
  o Go to the next exit and stop in a safe location

• If I’m in the car do I need solar eclipse glasses to view the solar eclipse?
  o Yes, it will damage your eyes.
  o You will not need eclipse glasses to see totality at 2:41pm
  o You will need eclipse glasses after totality at 2:43 pm
  o Do not drive with eclipse glasses on

• Will the City host any events during the Eclipse weekend August 18 – August 21?
  o No, the City will not host any events during the eclipse weekend, please visit http://totaleclipsecolumbiasc.com/event/ for events.

• Do I have to pay for parking downtown the day of the Eclipse?
  o Event parking rates may apply for City parking decks/lots during the Total Solar Eclipse weekend, cash only.

• Will automatic city street lights be turned OFF for the eclipse?
  o Due to safety concerns and the number of photocells in both our systems and SCE&G’s system we will not be turning off City street lights.