



Bowie County Emergency Management Total Solar Eclipse Information Guide – 2024



Total Solar Eclipse Occurs:

Monday, April 8, 2024

Anticipated Community Impact Days:

Thursday, April 4, 2024 – Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Partial Eclipse Begins in **New Boston**: 12:28 pm CDT
Full Eclipse Begins: 13:45 pm CDT
Total Eclipse Occurs: 13:47 pm CDT
Full Eclipse Ends: 13:49 pm CDT
Partial Eclipse Ends: 3:07 pm CDT
Total Darkness: 3 minute 37 seconds

Next Total Solar Eclipse 2044

****DISCLAIMER****

THIS IS A 'LIVING' DOCUMENT AND WILL BE UPDATED ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS.

PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ECLIPSE EVENTS IN BOWIE COUNTY.

Be Ready, Be Safe!!!

Issue Date: January 11, 2024

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For additional information or questions contact:

Bowie County Emergency Management
Emergency Management Coordinator
Lance Hall
(903) 628-6776
Lance.Hall@bowiecounty.org



If you were to stay in one place all your life, the chances of seeing a total solar eclipse would be quite slim. As residents, we are fortunate to know why visitors from all walks of life are drawn to our beautiful community. In all probability, if the weather cooperates, we will all be in for a special treat when the sun's shadow crosses our state.

We encourage everyone to take a few moments to review the various Eclipse Information Guides. You will discover best practices that should be familiar. These tips for health and safety, we hope, have become more commonplace in our dialogue with friends and family. The principles that apply to emergency preparation are much the same as they apply to mass gatherings and other natural hazards.

The eclipse represents both increased opportunity and challenges. As thousands of additional individuals and families arrive for a once in a lifetime celestial event, we encourage residents & visitors alike to be ready; to be patient; to be safe; and most of all, to enjoy this unique experience here in east Texas!

During the days leading up to and during the eclipse event, we encourage you to read our local newspapers and listen to our local public radio stations as they, too, are committed to bringing you preparedness information and current information during the eclipse event.

Respectfully submitted,

Bowie County Emergency Management



Photo Source: Solar Eclipse Chasers on FB

Eclipse Facts

Where and When?

The April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean and will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 1:07 pm CDT.

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 pm NDT.

Who Can See It?

To see all stages of a total solar eclipse, you must view it from somewhere along the path of totality: the locations on Earth from which the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun. Observers viewing the eclipse from outside the path of totality may observe a partial eclipse, where the Moon covers most but not all of the Sun.

31 million people in the US live inside the 2024 Path of Totality. That's 2.5x as many as the 12 million people who lived inside the path of the 2017 total solar eclipse. In Texas alone, 12 million people reside within the path of totality in April 2024, by far the largest of any state in the US.

Source: <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/texas-2024-eclipse>

What Is It?

The 2024 total solar eclipse is set to be a major event. Totality can last twice as long as in 2017, depending on the observer's location. It's also set to be the longest totality on land for over a decade, so expect eclipse-chasers from around the world to visit the path of totality. The last time the contiguous US saw a total eclipse was in 1979. It will be the last total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044.

What to Expect?

The April 8, 2024, eclipse will be a total solar eclipse. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. People viewing the eclipse from locations where the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun – known as the path of totality – will experience a total solar eclipse. The sky will darken, as if it were dawn or dusk. Weather permitting, people along the path of totality will see the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, which is usually obscured by the bright face of the Sun. When a solar eclipse reaches totality, nocturnal wildlife sometimes wakes up, thinking that it's nighttime, and non-nocturnal wildlife might think it's time to head to sleep!

How Can You See It?

You never want to look directly at the sun without appropriate protection except during totality. That could severely hurt your eyes. However, there are many ways to safely view an eclipse of the sun including direct viewing – which requires some type of filtering device and indirect viewing where you project an image of the sun onto a screen. Both methods should produce clear images of the partial phase of an eclipse. [Click here](#) for eclipse viewing techniques and safety.

Source: NASA <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>



Tips for Residents

Eclipse Begins: Monday, April 8, 2024, at 1:27 pm CDT (enters Texas).

Eclipse Leave Texas: at the Oklahoma and Arkansas borders at 1:49 pm CDT.

Anticipated Community Impact Days: Thursday, April 4, 2024 - Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Traffic will be heavy and lines for local services such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery and retail stores may be longer than usual; do what you can ahead of time before the anticipated impact days and allow for extra time to get where you need to go.

Things to consider doing in advance to make life a little easier during the heaviest congestion periods:

- **Errands & Appointments:** Schedule your errands and appointments early, before Thursday, April 4, 2024, if possible. Check ahead if you have plans for Monday, April 8, 2024, some services may be closed or have limited hours during this time. By scheduling your errands early, you will beat the crowds and give our local stores and businesses time to restock before the eclipse visitors arrive; this includes grocery shopping, doctor/dentist/veterinary appointments, prescriptions, etc.
- **Supplies:** Overall, supplies may be limited due to the high demand, which may mean the items you want are not available during the impact days. If there is something important you want, get it early. Shopping one to two weeks in advanced is encouraged, if not sooner.
- **Gas:** If you normally fill up your gas on the weekend, be sure to do that task early, before Thursday, April 4, 2024.
- **Cash:** If you regularly use cash or want some on hand, consider visiting your local bank or ATM before Thursday, April 4, 2024.
- **911:** Know when it is appropriate to call 911 (true emergencies) and the have the non-emergency phone number for your local Dispatch Center programmed into your phone ahead of time. The non-emergency number for Bowie County Dispatch Center is 903-798-3149. For [additional non-emergency contacts](#), see page 7.
- **Cellular Service:** With the increased number of visitors, local public safety officials anticipate cellular service may become overwhelmed (primarily Monday, April 8, 2024) or have limited access during the impact days. Consider these ideas to assist with communications during this time:
 - Develop a communication plan with family and friends if you lose or have limited service. Follow this link <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form> to create a Family Emergency Communications Plan.
 - If you only have a mobile phone at home find out which of your neighbors have a land-line number in case, you need to call 911 for an emergency.
- **Public Water Systems:** Consider postponing watering your lawn or using “extra” water during the anticipated impact days to take a little pressure off the public water systems during that time.
- **Reminder from Public Health:** A food operations permit is required if you plan to prepare and sell perishable food items from your home or business to others; contact Bowie County Health Inspector, Roy Beckett at: 903-628-6778 or email roy.beckett@bowiecounty.org.

Individual/Family Emergency Plans: Consider the eclipse event a drill to build your [emergency kits](#) and [emergency plans](#). If you do not have a kit or have not talked about your emergency plans, now is a great time to do so. [Ready.gov](#) website has information to help in your planning efforts; make sure family members and friends know your plans. For Low and No Cost Preparedness Guidance visit: <https://www.ready.gov/low-and-no-cost>.



Tips for Visitors

Eclipse Begins: Monday, April 8, 2024, at 1:27 pm CDT (enters Texas).

Eclipse Leave Texas: at the Oklahoma and Arkansas borders at 1:49 pm CDT.

Anticipated Community Impact Days: Thursday, April 4, 2024 - Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

One of the most challenging aspects is determining how many people may visit Bowie County for this event. It is best to *arrive early, come prepared*, and *have reasonable expectations, given the situation*, and *leave late!* Once the eclipse begins, you will forget all about the crowds and any small inconveniences it took for you to experience this wondrous event!

Bowie County is part of the [Piney Woods region](#) of East Texas, dominated by several species of pine and as well as hardwoods including hickory and oak. The area is beautiful but keep local hazards in mind and always know your surroundings.

While Visiting During the Eclipse Impact Days:

- Do not think, “We’ll just pick up what we need when we get there.” Supplies, cash, fuel, and restaurant meals may be limited or have long lines due to high demand.
- Get to your destination early and try to spend eclipse night at or near your viewing location. Expect the highways and freeways to be extra busy in the aftermath of totality.
- Make sure your vehicle/RV has been serviced and you are all fueled up and ready to go (gas, propane, etc.)
- Help us keep our communities and public areas clean and safe; follow the rule [“Leave No Trace!”](#)
- Think about your personal safety and security:
 - Have a good [communication plan](#) with your family members. Cell service may be limited due to the increased volume. Have an out of area friend or family member you can check in with if you get separated. Pick a landmark where you can reunite if you get separated in a crowd.
 - Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Think through your security plan and how to keep important items secure, i.e., cell phones, telescopes, binoculars, wallets, etc.

What to Bring with You:

- Eclipse Viewing Glasses
 - Water (plenty of it)
 - First Aid Kit
 - Necessary medications for you and your pets
 - Cash (ATMs may be limited during this time)
 - Sunscreen
 - Sunglasses
 - Hat/visor
 - Comfortable walking shoes
 - Folding chair
- Jacket or sweatshirt (Texas weather is unpredictable)
 - Snacks/food for the hours, days you plan to be with us.
 - Prepaid phone card – if you need to call long distance and cellular service is not available.
 - Maps of area if you need directions (print your directions and bring them with you); your cellular service may be limited during heaviest impact times.



Contacts for Additional Information or Specific Questions:

Texas/Bowie County Resources

<u>Bowie County</u>	<u>Sheriff's Office</u> : 903-798-3149 <u>Office of Emergency Management</u> : 903-628-6776
<u>DeKalb</u>	<u>City of DeKalb</u> : 903-667-2410 DeKalb Police Department: 903-667-2095 <u>DeKalb Chamber of Commerce</u> : 903-667-3706
<u>Hooks</u>	<u>City of Hooks</u> : 903-547-2261 <u>Hooks Police Department</u> : 903-547-2222
<u>Leary</u>	<u>City of Leary</u> : 903-831-0263
<u>Maud</u>	<u>City of Maud</u> : 903-585-2294 Maud Police Department: 903-585-5004
<u>Nash</u>	<u>City of Nash</u> : 903-838-0751 after hours 903-276-5047 <u>Nash Police Department</u> : 903-838-0822, <i>Emergency Calls</i> : 903-276-5047
<u>New Boston</u>	<u>City of New Boston</u> : 903-628-5596 <u>New Boston Police Department</u> : 903-628-3771 <u>New Boston Chamber of Commerce</u> : 903-628-2581
<u>Red Lick</u>	City of Red Lick: 903-831-3691
<u>Redwater</u>	<u>City of Redwater</u> : 903-671-2775
<u>Texarkana, TX</u>	<u>City of Texarkana, Texas</u> : 903-798-3900 Texarkana Texas <u>Police Department</u> : 903-798-3116 <u>Office of Emergency Management</u> : 903-798-3043 <u>Texarkana USA Chamber of Commerce</u> : 903-792-7191
<u>Wake Village</u>	<u>City of Wake Village</u> : 903-838-0515 <u>Wake Village Police Department</u> : 903-838-5580

Arkansas/Miller County Resources

<u>Miller County</u>	<u>Sheriff's Office</u> : 870-774-3001 <u>Office of Emergency Management</u> : 870-772-2591 or 903-293-4161
<u>Texarkana, AR</u>	<u>City of Texarkana, Arkansas</u> : 870-779-4991 Texarkana Arkansas <u>Police Department</u> : 903-798-3130 <u>Office of Emergency Management</u> : 870-779-4956 <u>Texarkana USA Chamber of Commerce</u> : 903-792-7191



Resources for Visitors

TEXAS State Travel Map: (download ahead of the eclipse)

<https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/maps/city/travel-map-texas.pdf>

For TEXAS Safety Rest Areas and Travel Information Centers follow the link below:

<https://www.txdot.gov/discover/rest-areas-travel-information-centers.html>

TEXAS Public Campground Guide:

<https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trv/campgrounds.pdf>

TEXAS State Parks: Official Guide:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guide>

Texas Parks & Wildlife Eclipse Viewing Guide:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/links/eclipse-viewing>

Texas A&M Forest Service:

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/TexasEclipse/>

NWS Eclipse Information:

<https://www.weather.gov/fsd/suneclipse>

Weather & News Resources for the Ark-La-Tex Region:

- KSLA News 12: [Home \(ksla.com\)](https://www.ksla.com)
- KTAL News 6: [Shreveport, Marshall, Texarkana News & Weather | KTALnews.com](https://www.ktalnews.com)
- KTBS News 3: [ktbs.com | KTBS 3 | Shreveport, LA News, Weather and Sports](https://www.ktbs.com)
- National Weather Service Shreveport: [Shreveport, LA \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov)



EV Charging Stations in Bowie County:

<https://www.plugshare.com/directory/us/texas/texarkana>



Tips for Businesses

Eclipse Begins: Monday, April 8, 2024, at 1:27 pm CDT (enters Texas).

Eclipse Leave Texas: at the Oklahoma and Arkansas borders at 1:49 pm CDT.

Anticipated Community Impact Days: Thursday, April 4, 2024 - Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Bowie County expects a large influx of visitors during this event, the exact number can't be predicted. This could be a great opportunity for business, but you will need to be prepared. Grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, transportation services, coffee shops, retail stores, urgent care/walk-in clinics and many other establishments will experience a surge in business.

What You Can Do to Prepare Your Business:

- **Back-up Plans:** Prepare for an increase in customers; have needed supplies on hand and early; consider extending hours of operation to meet customer needs and have back-up plans if staff are delayed due to traffic.
- **Employee Preparedness:** Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas; have their own resources ready at home; day care needs are met, etc. by Thursday, April 4, 2024. Gas stations may be very busy or may be waiting for resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work, so give them reminders to plan ahead and share the ["Tips for Residents"](#) in this guide.
- **Cash/Financial Transactions:**
 - Be prepared for more cash transactions; consider having extra tills set up to accommodate more cash transactions. You may have larger than normal deposits over the weekend. Check ahead of time if your bank will be open on Monday, April 8, 2024.
 - ***How does your credit/debit card machine access the internet?*** If you use cell service/cell wireless service for your transactions, be prepared with a back-up plan. We anticipate a high demand for cellular service during the impact period, especially Monday, April 8, 2024. You may find you are not able to make transactions; have a backup plan to meet your customers' needs.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular service disruptions due to the increased demand. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your landline business phone if cell service is limited; decide how you want to handle these requests and make sure employees know what to do. ***If it is a 911 emergency and you have a landline...be ready to help!***
- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries; deliveries scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024, may be significantly delayed due to the overwhelming number of vehicles trying to come in and leave Bowie County. Consider rescheduling for Tuesday or order extra the week before.
- **Restrooms:** Be aware many visitors will be camping in authorized and potentially unauthorized locations; expect customers who may be primarily interested in using business restrooms. Public restrooms will be in short supply and port-a-potties in limited locations may be at capacity until service providers can empty them.
- **Weather and Your Business:** If conditions are foggy, visitors with hotel reservations will most likely not change their plans, but the "day trippers" may move; there is no way to predict this but monitoring the weather the week to 10 days prior to April 8, 2024, could be very useful for your business.



Safety – 911, When and How to Call

Call 911 when life or property is in danger, or you could become endangered if the situation continues. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from police, fire, or ambulance.

	Emergency Call 911 (Dispatch)	Non-Emergency Call Non-Emergency #	Other Agency Resources
Examples	Any immediate danger to life, limb or property	Non-Emergency Events	No Crime or Emergency Involved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House or building fires • Medical emergencies, i.e., chest pains, trauma injuries • Someone is threatening or attacking you • Crime in progress • Aggressive dog attack • You have heard gun shots in your area • Vehicle accidents • Impaired/unsafe driver 	<p>Concerns or to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpermitted neighborhood burning – yard debris, etc. • Lost or loose animals in your neighborhood • Noise disturbances • Vehicle break ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-emergency ambulance transfers • Copies of police/fire reports • Power outages • Driving directions or road closures
When calling... from landline or cell phone	<p><i>In an emergency, dial 911 from your phone immediately.</i></p> <p><i>An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance.</i></p> <p><i>When you call 911, be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The location of the emergency, including the street address</i> ○ <i>The phone number you are calling from</i> ○ <i>The nature of the emergency</i> ○ <i>Details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency</i> <p><i>Remember, the call-taker's questions are important to get the right kind of help to you quickly. Be prepared to follow any instructions the call-taker gives you. Many 911 centers can tell you exactly what to do until help arrives, such as providing step-by-step instructions to aid someone who is choking or needs first aid or CPR. Do not hang up until the call-taker instructs you to do so.</i></p> <p><i>Source: https://www.911.gov/calling-911/</i></p>		
If you can't speak or hear when calling 911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After dialing, leave the phone off the hook and make noise to let the Call Taker (Dispatcher) know you have an emergency • Calling from a landline (hard wired phone): Your address will appear on the call taker's screen • Calling from a mobile (cell) phone: The Call Taker may get latitude/longitude <i>close</i> to your location • Text-to- 911: Give clear identifiers to where you are located and what your emergency is 		
Public Safety Tips...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure your address is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visible on the outside of your house or at roadway, especially at night ○ Posted in your home for guests or babysitters to use if they are calling from a mobile phone. • Teach children when to call 911, when not to and their home address; be sure a phone is within reach, and they know where to find it • Keep mobile phones secure so they don't accidentally call 911; but if that happens do not hang up, stay on the line, and explain the situation to the Call Taker 		



Safety – Transportation, Travel and Parking

While the number of eclipse visitors is hard to estimate, both residents and visitors should expect increased activity on roadways, in neighborhoods, in public facilities, restaurants, parks, and retail stores. Hotels, short-term rentals, and campgrounds will be at peak capacity.

The large influx of people expected to visit Texas during this eclipse event will have a huge impact on highways, gasoline supply, and other basic needs. What you do to plan ahead will help your eclipse-viewing experience.

What You Can Do:

- **Expect delays.** Traffic backups are inevitable. Preparation ensures a good time for visitors and residents alike.
- **Expect traffic changes.** Normal travel paths may be disrupted. Communities may close streets to through traffic or ban left or right turns to keep traffic moving, especially around venues with many visitors.
- **Be prepared.** If traveling, plan for your basic needs such as food, water, gas for the car and bathroom breaks in case you're stuck in traffic. Arrive early, stay put during the eclipse, and leave late afterwards, in case everyone else jumps on our highways all at once. Remember, all travelers have a shared responsibility to stay safe. [Be Prepared, Build a Kit!](#)
- **Do what you can to HELP.** Can you work from home or flex your work schedule when your local roads are full? Avoid roads being used to get people in or out of a local event.
- **Look out for each other.** This is a rare opportunity, but it brings potential hazards. We all must do our part to be prepared. You may see travelers unfamiliar with the area. Be friendly, helpful, and patient!
- **Be mindful of Texas's "move over" law.** Drivers in Texas are required to move over a lane or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching emergency vehicles, law enforcement, tow trucks, utility service vehicles, TxDOT vehicles, or other highway construction or maintenance vehicles using visual signals or flashing lights activated on the roadside. On roadways with posted speed limits of 25 mph or less, drivers must reduce their speed to 5 mph ([Texas Transportation Code 545.157](#)).
- ***Keep emergency vehicles in mind when parking.*** Maintaining room for emergency vehicles is critical during large scale events such as the eclipse. Inside the city limits, parking in your driveway or on your own property, will help ensure first responders will not be impeded by parked vehicles on their way to an emergency call. In the county, this can be accomplished by parking completely off the paved portion of the roadway.



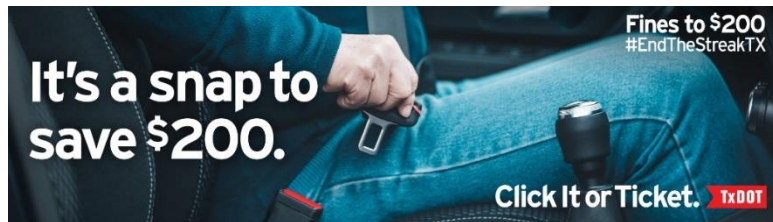
Motor Vehicle Accidents:

- What to do after a crash:
 - First, check for injuries. If people are hurt, tend to them.
 - Next, move your car out of the roadway to a safer place where you can exchange names, addresses, phone numbers, vehicle identification numbers, vehicle license plate numbers, insurance information, and driver's license information.
 - Finally, note the location of the crash and get the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses. If the vehicles cannot be moved, protect the scene by setting up flares or raising your hood.

When to call police:

- Always call the police when:
 - An injury or fatality is involved
 - The vehicles cannot be moved
 - You suspect one of the drivers is intoxicated
 - One of the drivers has no insurance
 - One of the drivers leaves the scene

For more information visit: <https://www.txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws/tips-avoid-collisions.html>



Safety - Weather

<https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>
[Tornado Safety \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov)

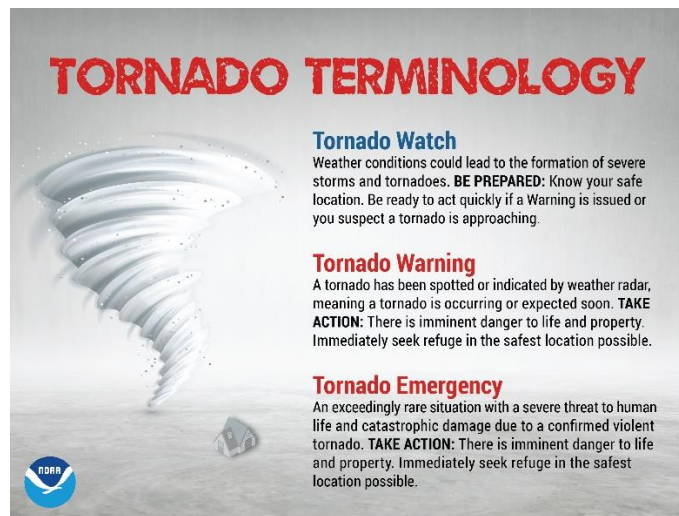
Tornado Basics

<https://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/tornadoes/>

What is the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING?

A **Tornado WATCH** is issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for weather conditions that are favorable for tornadoes and severe weather. A watch can cover parts of a state or several states. Watch and prepare for severe weather and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio to know when warnings are issued.

A **Tornado WARNING** is issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 over a designated area. This means a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the tornado. A tornado warning indicates that you should **ACT NOW** to find safe shelter! A warning can cover parts of counties or several counties in the path of danger.



Watch this [Youtube video](#) for a great explanation!

Outdoor Sirens

<https://www.weather.gov/dvn/sirenFAQ>

Learn More about Tornadoes
[Tornadoes \(texasready.gov\)](https://www.texasready.gov)



Safety – Eye Protection (Eclipse Viewing)

[Eye safety information in many languages for the Great North American Total Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024 | Eclipse2024.org](#)

Looking directly at the Sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase of a solar eclipse (“totality”), when the Moon entirely blocks the Sun’s bright face, which will happen only within the narrow path of totality.

What You Can Do

The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun. To date four manufacturers have certified that their eclipse glasses and handheld solar viewers meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products.

- Rainbow Symphony
- American Paper Optics,
- Thousand Oaks Optical
- TSE 17.

An alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed Sun is pinhole projection. For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the Sun, look at your hands’ shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the Sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse. Additional eye safety can be found on [NASA’s website](#).



DO NOT

- Look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
- Look at the Sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury.
- If you are within the path of totality remove your solar filter only when the Moon completely covers the Sun’s bright face, and it suddenly gets quite dark. Experience totality, then, as soon as the bright Sun begins to reappear, replace your solar viewer to glance at the remaining partial phases.

St. John's Medical Center
Solar Eclipse Eye Safety
Learn more about the solar eclipse at tetoneclipse.com

Partial Eclipse (Wear Eclipse Glasses) | Total Eclipse (No Eclipse Glasses Needed) | Partial Eclipse (Wear Eclipse Glasses)

Not Safe
Do not wear ordinary or polarized sunglasses. They are not strong enough to protect your eyes.

Safe
Use glasses specially designed for solar eclipse viewing to block the sun's harmful rays.

Not Safe
Do not use solar eclipse glasses to look through a camera, binoculars, or a telescope.

Safe
Use only specially designed filters for lenses.

Source: St. John's Medical Center



Safety – Lake and Water Safety

When visiting Bowie County and participating in recreational activities, your safety is a priority. Tragic water accidents happen quickly. The most common reason for aquatic mishaps is a lack of safety knowledge. The following water safety tips, when adhered to, will ensure a great time.

Safe Swimming:

- [Don't depend on floating / air-filled toys](#)
- [Don't take chances; swim with a buddy](#)
- [Don't dive in open water, lakes or rivers](#)
- [Learn to swim well and practice floating](#)
- [Obey all signs and buoys](#)

Click here to read [“Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning”](#) by [Mario Vittone](#).

Four Signs of Drowning: About 60 percent of all drownings are not recognized because people cannot identify the four signs:

- head back (bobs up and down above/below the surface)
- mouth open
- no sound
- arms outstretched, moving simultaneously in an above-the-water, up- and-down stroke that appears as if the victim is slapping or playing in the water.



Life Jackets:

Boaters enjoy the feel of sun and spray. So, it is tempting to boat without wearing a life jacket, especially on nice days.



Modern life jackets are available in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Many are thin and flexible. Some are built right into fishing vests or hunting coats. Others are inflatable; as compact as a scarf or fanny pack until they hit water, when they automatically fill with air. There is no excuse not to wear a life jacket on the water!

- [How to Choose the Right Life Jacket Brochure – PDF](#)

Boating Safety:

You are responsible for any damage that your vessel or your wake causes. Be cautious and aware of your surroundings at all times. Obey all signs and posted restrictions. Irresponsible actions of boat operators usually lead to accidents, so boat responsibly.

- [Boating courses offer valuable training](#)
- [Carbon monoxide poisoning: beware!](#)
- [Don't rock your boat](#)
- [Inspect your equipment](#)
- [Intoxication and water: a deadly mix](#)
- [Properly rescue a person in the water](#)
- [Steer clear of commercial vessels](#)
- [Watch your children](#)



Safety – Fire Prevention

Nine out of ten wildfires are caused by people. Please be responsible and know the dos and don'ts of outdoor recreation and check for local outdoor fire restrictions and elevated fire weather conditions. If a wildfire occurs, the smoke may prevent everyone around you from seeing the eclipse. Do your part and don't let a wildfire start!

- **Parking on dry grass, dragging chains, or driving with low tire pressure** could potentially spark a wildfire and should be avoided. Parking, idling, or driving over tall grass or dry vegetation can cause an ignition due to hot components in the undercarriage of the vehicle, including ATVs and UTVs. Only park in designated areas. Dragging tow chains can cause sparks when they strike the road, igniting vegetation along the road. Low tire pressure or tire failure can cause the wheel to strike the road, leading to spark that can ignite a wildfire.

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/preventionresources/>

- **Campfire Safety:** First, check if campfires are allowed and that no burn bans are in place locally. Then, select the right spot by constructing it at least 10 feet away from structures, tents, vehicles, or trees and clear of any overhead obstructions such as tree branches or powerlines. Use a metal fire ring or line around the fire with rocks and keep the campfire small. Clear the area around the fire to bare mineral soil. Always have a water source, bucket, and shovel nearby to properly put out a campfire. Use the drown, stir, drown, feel technique and remember: if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

<https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos>



- **Report wildfires immediately!** A quick response could save lives and property. Increased traffic may delay emergency responders, so every second counts. Stay aware of wildfires: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/CurrentSituation/>
- **Arson:** Wildland arson is a crime that poses a serious threat to life and property. A person is committing arson in Texas if they set a fire or cause an explosion with the intent to destroy or damage property or when they are reckless about the possibility that the fire or explosion will endanger another individual's life or property. Educate children about arson and communicate that matches and lighters are tools, not toys. Report any suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies or call the Texas A&M Forest Arson hotline: 1-800-364-3470.

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ArsonHotline/>

- **Wildfire Risk:** Be wildfire aware! Be aware of any wildfire risk in the area by knowing forecasted weather, dry vegetation conditions, and outdoor burning restrictions. Don't let a wildfire lose your chance of seeing the eclipse.

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/DailyFireDanger/>

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/FireWeatherAndOutlooks/>

Source: Texas A&M Forest Service: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/TexasEclipse/>



Texas Department of Public Safety Travel Tips

Travel Information

Travelers may call 1-800-452-9292 daily for [travel information](#), professional trip planning assistance and emergency road condition information.

Highway Conditions

See what's happening on the roadways around the state. [Highway Conditions](#) information is provided by TxDOT districts to alert travelers about current roadway conditions.

Motorists Helpline

The Motorists Helpline was designed to assist motorists in various times of need.

Call toll free 1-800-525-5555 (for non-emergency) if:

- Your vehicle is disabled, or you are stranded on the side of the road.
- You want to report a drunk driver.

Rest Areas & Travel Information Centers

Texas has an abundance of rest stops for motorists to take advantage of while traveling through our great state. Many of these facilities have amenities like restrooms, vending machines, phones, playscapes, and much more. Take advantage of these resources the next time you plan your road trip. For Travel Information Centers and Rest Area Locations visit:

<https://www.txdot.gov/discover/rest-areas-travel-information-centers/safety-rest-area-map.html>

Source: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/highway-patrol/travel-tips>



Info – Garbage, Solid Waste and Sanitation

The community comes together to enjoy events, but in the process a tremendous amount of waste is generated, much of it recyclable. The single most effective tool in reducing waste at special events is planning ahead.

- **Leave No Trace:** When traveling around Texas, it is important to practice [“Leave No Trace”](#) ethics, which includes leaving sites as you found them, disposing of waste responsibly, respecting wildlife and being considerate of other visitors. [“Don’t Mess with Texas”](#)!
- **You Can be Fined:** \$500 every time you litter in Texas. And, if what you toss weighs more than five pounds, you may have to pay up to \$2,000.
- **Avoid Excessive Waste:** Consider packing large water containers and refilling them with tap water.
- **Be Prepared:** Due to the increased number of visitors and anticipated traffic congestions it is a good idea to keep public restroom locations in mind, identify where port-a-potties are stationed, how long it will take you to reach them and/or bring an emergency sanitation kit with you.



Info – Medical Services and First Aid

First Aid:

Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency or helping yourself, family, or friends. You may consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the following things can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection, and assist in decontamination. Having a basic first aid kit that includes some of the following items will better prepare you to help yourself or others if they are hurt.

- At least two pairs of patient care gloves (latex or sterile gloves)
- Sterile dressings to stop bleeding
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Antibiotic towelettes & ointment
- Burn ointment
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Thermometer, Scissors, Tweezers
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers.
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies
- Non-prescription drugs – aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, and/or laxatives



Source: www.ready.gov

Medical Services in Bowie County

Hospitals & Emergency Rooms:

Texarkana Emergency Center and Hospital
4646 Cowhorn Creek Road, Texarkana, TX 75503
<https://texarkanaemergencycenter.com/>
903-223-6020

Christus St. Michael Hospital
2600 St. Michael Drive, Texarkana, TX 75503
<https://www.christushealth.org/locations/st-michael>
903-614-1000

Wadley Regional Medical Center
1000 Pine Street, Texarkana, TX 75501
<https://www.wadleyhealth.org/>
903-798-8000

Signature Care ER
2001 Mall Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
<https://ercare24.com/texarkana/>
903-306-2126



Info – Public Health

Reduce your chances of illness by following these prevention guidelines from the Bowie County Local Health Authority.

Water-Related Illness:

- Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.
- Do not go in the water when ill (or recently ill) with diarrheal illness.
- Shower with soap before and after you enter recreational waters.
- Do not swallow the water.
- Take bathroom breaks at least every 60 minutes.

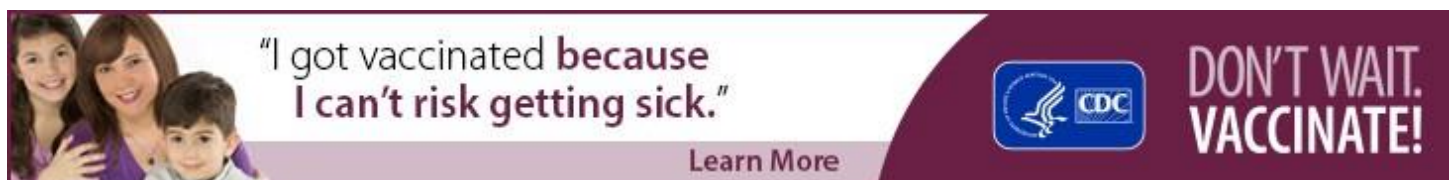
Airborne Illness:

- Cover your cough with your elbow (not your hands)
- Wash your hands after coughing.
- If you are sick, stay home. If you must go out, where mask.



Get Vaccinated:

There will be visitors here from all over the world. Many areas of the world still have a higher incidence of Measles, Mumps, and Pertussis. Get your vaccines now – it can take 4-6 weeks for vaccines to take effect.



Info – Rules and Etiquette

With so many people gathering to witness this event, here are some tips to make sure the eclipse event is fun and safe for everyone.

Trespassing:

- Do not trespass on private land.
- Do not trespass on public lands that are closed to the event. Sensitive habitat areas and other public locations that could be damaged by visitors will be closed.
- Remember that in Texas, a **purple stripe means** “no trespassing,” so if you see one, don't go beyond it. In [Texas Penal Code §30.05](#), if a property is fenced, posted with at least one sign, or marked with purple paint, it is illegal for anyone to enter.
- The fine or jail time for trespassing in Texas can be up to \$2,000 or up to 180 days.



Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana Use:

- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol or marijuana.
- **Smoking and vaping are not allowed on any Bowie County property, and in restricted areas at county parks??** Smoke only in approved locations and properly dispose of cigarettes and matches.
- Recreational use of marijuana is illegal in Texas, using marijuana in public is prohibited.
- Citizens and visitors are encouraged to research local ordinances pertaining to open alcohol container laws where they are recreating.
- **DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER!**



Parking and Transportation:

- Parking will be very limited; determine if there is public transportation where you plan to visit or be ready for long walks to where you are headed.
- When parking, do so legally. Do not park in bike lanes, do not block driveways, roadways or right of ways; doing so could hamper public safety from reaching those who need help.

Other:

- Do not litter. This includes leaving trash or debris on either public or private property as well as throwing any garbage from a vehicle. Offensive littering is a Class C misdemeanor.
- Dogs in Bowie County must be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. Do not leave an animal locked in a car. In most cases, dogs will need to be restrained with a leash. Report any animal bite immediately!
- Do not ask to look through someone's telescope. If you want to look through a specially equipped telescope, consider arranging this in advance; those who have set up their telescopes will be very focused and may not wish to share their telescopes with others.
- Avoid external lighting, flashlights, camera flashes, sparklers, or other fireworks; any light that would detract from the phenomena.

Quick Reference – Community Information and Links

Website Links

Local Emergency Alerts, sign up for CodeRED

- Code Red Emergency Alerts: <https://www.co.bowie.tx.us/page/bowie.CodeRedNotificationCenter>

Check Weather Conditions

- NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/>
- NWS Current Conditions – Shreveport serves Bowie County: <https://www.weather.gov/shv/>
- NWS Current Conditions – Mobile version: mobile.weather.gov

Check Road Conditions

- TEXAS (TxDOT) Dial: 800-452-9292 or visit: <https://drivetexas.org/>
- ARKANSAS (ARDOT) Dial: 501-569-2374 or visit: <https://www.idrivearkansas.com/>
- LOUISIANA (LADOTD) Dial 888-762-3511 or visit: <https://www.511la.org/>
- OKLAHOMA (ODOT) Dial 844-465-4997 or visit: <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/travel/current-traffic-conditions>

Preparedness Tips

- Ready.Gov: www.ready.gov
- Create a plan: <https://www.ready.gov/plan>
- Make a Communications Plan: <https://www.ready.gov/pdf>
- Emergency Kit for the Car: <https://www.ready.gov/car>
- Texas Ready: [Be Informed \(texasready.gov\)](http://BeInformed.texasready.gov)

Weather & News Resources for the Ark-La-Tex Region:

- KSLA News 12: [Home \(ksla.com\)](http://Home.ksla.com)
- KTAL News 6: Shreveport, Marshall, Texarkana News & Weather | KTALnews.com
- KTBS News 3: ktbs.com | KTBS 3 | Shreveport, LA News, Weather and Sports
- National Weather Service Shreveport: [Shreveport, LA \(weather.gov\)](http://Shreveport, LA (weather.gov))

Helpful Eclipse Links

- American Astronomical Society: <https://eclipse.aas.org/>
- Great American Eclipse: <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/>
- Texas 2024 Solar Eclipse: <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/texas-2024-eclipse>
- National Eclipse: <https://nationaleclipse.com/resources.html>
- Totality – Eclipse App: <https://www.bigkids-science.com/eclipse/>
- Eclipse Path Time and Date: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/2024-april-8>

How Landowners Can Prepare for the Eclipse (AgriLife PODCAST)

<https://aglaw.libsyn.com/episode-158-bryan-davis-cassie-gresham-and-jim-bradbury-how-hill-country-landowners-can-prepare-for-the-eclipse>

Mobile Phone Quick Dial ##'s/Mobile Apps

- 911** – Emergency Help
- 211** – Community Resources
- FEMA** Preparedness (includes NWS weather alerts): <http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>
- NWS** Mobile: mobile.weather.gov

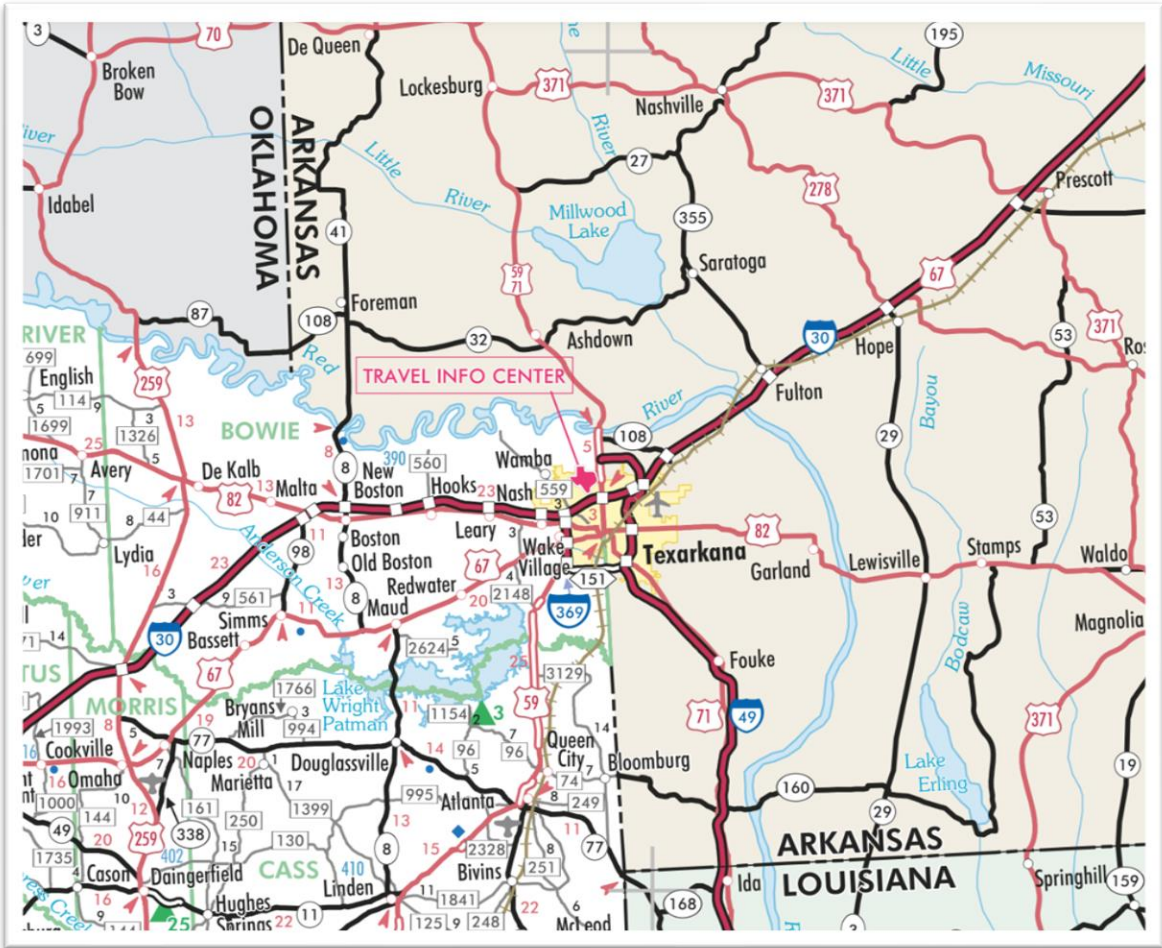


[Text-to-911: What you Need to Know](#)



Bowie County Map

Texarkana Interactive Map: <http://texarkanamaps.com/maps.php>



Bowie County Map Source: <https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/maps/city/travel-map-texas.pdf>

