



Tips for Residents and Businesses

Tips For Residents

Eclipse Begins Monday, April 8, 2024, at 12:16 pm, ends at 2:57 pm.

Anticipated Community Impact Days: Thursday, 04/04 – Tuesday, 04/09

- 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 the 4th if possible. Check ahead if you have plans for Monday the 8th; 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.
 - **Gas:** If you normally fill up your gas tank Friday – Monday, be sure to do that task early, before Thursday, April 4th.
 - **Cash:** If you regularly use cash or want some on hand, consider visiting your local bank or ATM before Thursday, April 4th.
- **911:** Know when it is appropriate to call 911 (true emergencies) and have the non-emergency phone number for your local Dispatch Center programmed into your phone ahead of time.
- **Cellular Service:** With the increased number of visitors, local public safety officials anticipate cellular service may become overwhelmed (primarily Monday the 8th) 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.
 - 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.
- **Individual/Family Emergency Plans:** Consider the eclipse event a drill to check 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. Make sure family members and friends know your plans.



Tips for Businesses

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The City of Dripping Springs expects as much as a 25% increase in visitors. 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 jump 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 is 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, the 4th. Gas stations may be very busy or may be waiting on 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, the 8th.
 - *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, the 8th. 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 8th may be significantly delayed due to the overwhelming amount of vehicles trying to come in and leave the city. 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.