Solar eclipse safety Matt Sheehan | Media Relations Coordinator Broadcast Version

INTRO:

ON MONDAY – APRIL 8TH – A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE WILL CROSS NORTH AMERICA... PASSING OVER MEXICO... THE UNITED STATES... AND CANADA.

TAKE VO

MANY MIDWEST STATES WILL BE IMPACTED – INCLUDING MISSOURI... ILLINOIS... KENTUCKY... INDIANA... OHIO AND PART OF MICHIGAN. ACCORDING TO NASA – THE PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE WILL BE OVER SOUTHERN ILLINOIS STARTING **AT TWELVE FORTY-TWO PM**... WITH TOTALITY BEGINNING AT **ONE FIFTY-NINE PM**. TOTALITY ENDS JUST MINUTES LATER AT **TWO OH-THREE PM**... FOLLOWED BY THE END OF THE PARTIAL ECLIPSE AT **THREE EIGHTEEN**.

WE'VE ALL SEEN WARNINGS NOT TO STARE DIRECTLY AT THE ECLIPSE WITHOUT EYE PROTECTION. WHILE IT MIGHT BE TEMPTING TO IGNORE THOSE WARNINGS... DON'T THE LIGHT FROM AN ECLIPSE CAN DO SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE.

SOT Dr. Ben Kemp, OSF HealthCare Emergency Physician

"There is a concern if you get direct sunlight for too long of a period of time to the back of your eye, you can essentially burn your retina and have permanent vision loss, sometimes complete vision loss if that exposure is long enough and intense enough."

VO TAG

NASA HAS SOME SAFE ECLIPSE VIEWING TIPS LIKE WEARING SPECIALLY MADE ECLIPSE GLASSES OR WELDER'S GOGGLES RATED 14 OR HIGHER... USE SPECIALLY DESIGNED SOLAR TELESCOPES OR SOLAR BINOCULARS... AND SUPERVISE CHILDREN CLOSELY WHEN THEY'RE USING SOLAR FILTERS AND ECLIPSE GLASSES.