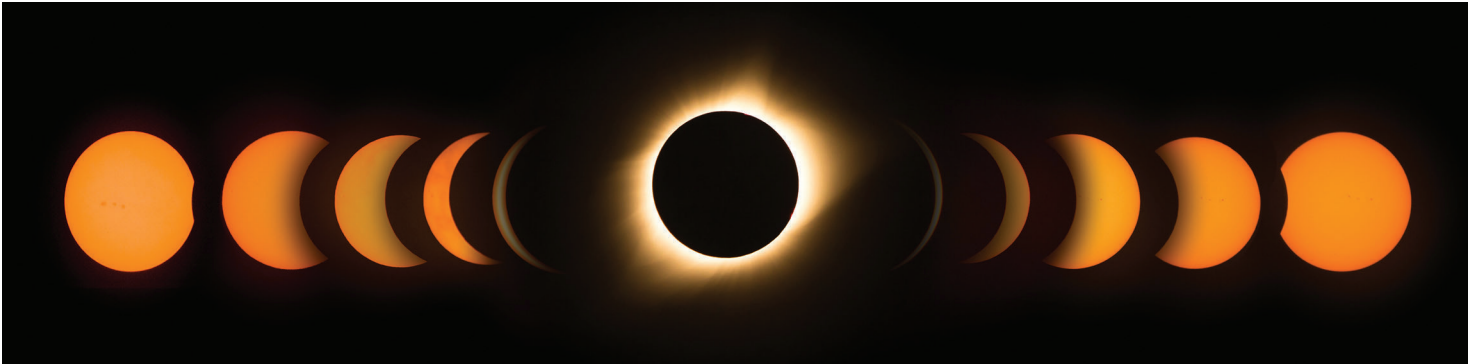


HOMESAFETYMATTERS

SPRING 2024



Protect your vision: Having appropriate eyewear is essential for people wishing to experience this phenomenon.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR PROTECTION DURING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Follow these tips for protecting your vision during April 8 event

When the moon crosses in front of the sun on the afternoon of April 8, skies in Ohio will darken and those of us in the path of it will be treated to a rare astronomical show.

But if you're viewing the eclipse without special protective eyewear, your eye's lens will focus sunlight onto a very small spot on the retina on the back of your eye. This literally burns your eye, and may cause permanent damage or blindness, according to the science museum Exploratorium, which has teamed up with NASA to bring the public live coverage of the event.

"The concern over improper viewing of the sun during an eclipse is for the development of 'eclipse blindness' or retinal burns," said associate professor of optometry Dr. Ralph Chou in an article published by NASA.

Rudolph Libbe Group will mail each associate four pairs of special-purpose eyeglasses to safely view the eclipse. These glasses can also be bought at big box stores, electronic supply outlets and online. The glasses should have this certification insignia: ISO 12312-2.

NASA outlines some do's and don'ts of viewing the eclipse:

- Do not look directly at the sun.
- Use special solar filters, such as eclipse

glasses or handheld solar viewers, to view the eclipse.

- Read and follow filter instructions and supervise children.
- In any stage of eclipse, do not look at the sun through a camera, telescope, binoculars or other optical device, and never use solar filters with these devices, as concentrated solar rays will damage them and can cause serious eye injury.
- Inspect your solar filter before use; if it is scratched or damaged, discard the filter.
- Pinhole projection is a safe way to view the sun in indirect fashion; Exploratorium provides instruction on "[How to Build a Sun Viewer](#)" and other methods of safely viewing the sun.

A GREAT SPRING RITUAL!

Change clock, check batteries

On Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m., we lose an hour as clocks "Spring Forward" when Daylight Saving Time begins.

While you are resetting the clocks, it's also a great time to swap out the old batteries in household smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace with fresh ones.

REGULAR CLEANING CAN PREVENT A DRYER FIRE

Lint build up, clogged vents can be catastrophic, expensive

The National Fire Protection Association reports that dryers and washing machines are responsible for an average of 15,970 fires each year, with dryers causing 92% of them.

Dryer fire hazards typically originate from two places, dryer venting and the lint trap. More than one-third of the fires

are attributed to a failure to clean and perform routine dryer maintenance. Lint build up restricts airflow and clothes take longer to dry, which also makes the dryer run less efficiently.



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SPRING STORM SAFETY CHECKLIST

Make sure you're prepared for whatever Mother Nature tosses your way

Spring is just about here and while many look forward to longer days, more sunshine and being outside, Spring in the Midwest usually offers plenty of severe weather.

Severe weather can arrive at a moment's notice. The Farmer's Almanac offers these tips to protect your family and your home:

Familiarize yourself with your

insurance coverage. Every homeowner should know exactly what their policy covers, or doesn't cover, so there are no surprises in the event of storm damage.

Assess. Take a walk around your property often to see if there is any damage and make necessary repairs. Small damage to roofs and chimneys that occurred during winter can turn into big headaches after any severe storm. Make sure gutters are clear and draining properly. Consider investing in a chimney cap— they're great at keeping out moisture from heavy rains, which can damage stainless steel liners, or cause mold.

Ensure sump pumps are working.

Spring runoff and torrential rainstorms can all result in flooded basements. Make sure your pumps are running smoothly so they can do their job when you need them.



Consider hiring a professional who can safely trim and prune trees. Keep trees and limbs 10 feet away from the house.

Secure backyard items. High winds can turn unsecured items into missiles. If you've received a warning that a severe storm is approaching, move these items — patio furniture, lawn chairs, propane tanks, and grills, flags and poles, bird feeders, and potted or hanging plants— inside your home, shed, or garage if possible, or tie items down with rope or garden hose.

Trim and prune trees. Remove dead branches that could end up being dangerous projectiles in a severe storm and cause damage not covered by your homeowner's insurance. Are any hovering near the power source to your home? Most arborists recommend that trees and limbs be at least 10 feet away from your home. Hire tree professionals to assess and take care of issues.

DON'T DIY, GET A PRO Tree removal/trimming dangerous, not for everyone

That old, decaying tree in the backyard has seen its best days. But removing the tree yourself is usually a bad idea.

The Tree Care Industry Association conducted an analysis of 62 civilian tree care-related accidents reported by the media from January 2017 to June 2018. Forty-one of the accidents (66%) were fatal.

Most homeowners were struck by a tree, or were hit by limbs, wires or chain saws. Others fell or were electrocuted. In two-thirds of all cases where it could be determined, the victims undertook hazardous tree work with nobody to spot, assist or advise them when it might have been prudent to stop and get an expert.

“Homeowners may not realize how dangerous tree work can be, and how much they're risking by taking the ‘do-it-yourself’ approach,” says Peter Gerstenberger, senior advisor for safety, standards and compliance for TCIA. “Lack of training, equipment or situational awareness undoubtedly contributed to these incidents.”

SAFE RIDER MOWING

- Drive up and down slopes, not across.
- Avoid sudden turns.
- If the machine stops while moving uphill, disengage the blade first, then back straight down the hill slowly.
- Don't allow children on the mower.
- Before backing up, look down and behind the machine.
- Keep guards, shields, switches and safety devices operational.
- Clear lawn of objects such as rocks, toys, wire, etc.
- Read and follow the operator's manual.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

WHEN DOES AN INJURY REQUIRE EMERGENCY CARE?

To go or not to go to the ER is often the question for many injuries

While urgent care centers and walk-in clinics can treat some injuries, other medical problems require emergency care. According to the University of Miami Health, here is when to get immediate help:

- Uncontrollable bleeding.
- Large, deep or open wounds affecting muscles or tendons and facial wounds.
- A broken or fractured bone that appears deformed or protrudes through the skin.
- Suspected accidental poisoning: call 911 or the Poison Control Center, (800) 222-1222.
- Obstructed breathing, or an



- obstructed airway, requires a call to 911.
- A suspected drug overdose requires a call to 911.

Unless a head injury is severe, it can usually be treated in an urgent care center. The attending physician will then determine the possibility of a concussion and refer you to an emergency department center if necessary.