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GOVERNOR

STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Maj Gen GARY L. SAYLER
ADJUTANT GENERAL



BRAD RICHY

May 8, 2017

Good afternoon,

On August 21, 2017, the state of Idaho will be one of several states that will be in the path of the first total solar eclipse to cross the entire country since 1918. The eclipse will pass into Idaho around 10:10 am, over Washington County on our western border and pass out of Idaho around 12:48 pm mountain time on the eastern border over Teton County. The communities that will witness total obscuration of the sun is called the "path of totality". Your community is directly in the path of totality. Many other communities north and south of the path will still experience periods of darkness, just not to the extent seen within the path of totality.

While the eclipse will cross over Idaho for just under three hours on a Monday morning, it is estimated that most visitors coming to Idaho to view the eclipse will make a long weekend out of the event. We have been told that nearly every hotel, motel, camping space and in some cases backyards for nearly 100 miles north and south of the path of totality has been booked for several months, if not years. Many of the hotels and motels required a 2-3 night minimum when booking, bringing visitors into the area beginning on Friday or Saturday before the eclipse.

The websites GreatAmericanEclipse.com and Eclipse2017.org list Idaho as a prime viewing state since the prospects for clear skies are great. All this to say, communities of all sizes within or near the path of totality should plan to experience a significant increase in visitors over the eclipse weekend. It is important that your jurisdiction prepares for this event that could overwhelm your local infrastructure including overcrowding, traffic control issues, increased demand on services, etc.

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management has been hosting regular planning meetings with state agencies that may be called upon to assist local communities during the eclipse. We have also been actively working with counties and communities in an effort to help them plan for a large influx of visitors to their jurisdiction.

IOEM will be offering additional emergency operations planning opportunities in the near future. I encourage you and the leaders in your community to take advantage of these opportunities to participate in planning workshops to ensure your community is prepared to deal with any incidents that could arise from the large number of visitors the eclipse event is predicted to draw into Idaho. Please be watching for more information in the next week.

In the meantime, IOEM will continue working with the statewide agencies to ensure they are prepared to support your community during the eclipse weekend. If you have any questions, please contact myself at brichy@imd.idaho.gov or Teresa Luna at tluna@imd.idaho.gov. You can also find helpful information on the Idaho Department of Commerce website at <http://commerce.idaho.gov/eclipse>

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRAD RICHY".

Brad Richy
Idaho Office of Emergency Management