

Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin



August 15, 2017

Subject: Aviation Operations during the Solar Eclipse on August 21, 2017

Area of Concern: Aviation Operations

Discussion: The Solar Eclipse occurring on August 21, 2017 will affect aircrews operating in the vicinity of the Path Of Totality (POT) in many ways. This event will result in an unprecedented amount of people in limited geographic areas resulting in additional stress on highways, backcountry roads, campgrounds, communities, infrastructure, airports, and airspace. An increase of general aviation, media aircraft, and UAS traffic should also be expected. Partial phases will begin around 9:00 AM PDT on the Oregon coast and end around 4:00 PM EDT on the South Carolina coast.

FLIGHT PLANNING DURING THE ECLIPSE: Daylight conditions will exist right up to totality and return immediately after totality. Depending on your proximity to the 67 mile width of the POT, twilight conditions both before and after the eclipse will occur and as a result, require operators within (or close to) the POT to operate as if they were in normal civil twilight and night time.

Aircraft operating or staged within the affected geographic areas that are not permitted to operate at night should be on the ground or depart and be able to operate in daylight conditions no later than 15 minutes prior to darkness. Aircraft should remain parked or outside the affected area(s) until 15 minutes after darkness. This should adequately account for any anomalous effects that weather and sky conditions may have on brightness. Pilots of transitioning aircraft that are permitted to operate at night in accordance with agency policy are to exercise caution and utilize their best judgement with respect to visibility and airspace congestion within the POT.



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