A total solar eclipse is expected to pass through the United States on April 8, 2024. It will give stargazers the chance to view the celestial phenomena in which the moon will pass in front of the sun, causing the sun to be blocked entirely and creating a period of total darkness. The eclipse will enter the U.S. in Texas and exit in Maine. This will mark the last time a solar eclipse is visible in the U.S. until the year 2044. UTA has a full day of activities planned around the eclipse and EH&S will be on hand for any safety assistance needed for the UTA community.

**2024 Total Solar Eclipse**

**Solar Eclipse Eye Safety**

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<td>Ordinary sunglasses are not strong enough to protect your eyes.</td>
<td>Use specially designed solar eclipse glasses and viewers to block the sun’s harmful rays.</td>
<td>Wearing solar eclipse glasses to look through a camera, binoculars or a telescope will not protect your eyes.</td>
<td>Use only specially designed filters for lenses.</td>
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EH&S student workers Tiffany Fontenot, Zainab Rahim and staff member Violet Wayman enjoy the UTA solar eclipse festivities.
EH&S Current Events

EH&S Staff Member Retires

Merja Karwoski, EH&S Biological Safety Specialist, retires after 16 years at UTA. With more than 13 years of experience in research work, Merja was a valuable asset of UTA’s Biological Safety program, along with her great contributions toward lab bio-safety, chemical

Merja Karwoski with current and former EH&S team members

EH&S Staff Promotions

J. Darren Byington is our new Assistant Director of Fire and Life Safety. Darren previously served as the Construction Project Manager for EH&S. Darren started with UTA as a contractor before re-joining the EH&S department in 2021.

Elisabeth Rowlett has been selected as the new Assistant Director for Research and Laboratory Safety. Elisabeth previously held the Chemical Management Specialist position within EH&S. Elisabeth will celebrate 15 years with EH&S in November.

EH&S Welcomes New Staff Member

Violet Wayman joins EH&S as a Safety Specialist III. Violet will support the needs of UTA in areas of research, teaching, and service mission. Specifically in the areas of Biological Safety, including but not limited to human pathogens registrations, biosafety cabinet recertification, safety evaluations, BSL-2 space commissioning and decommissioning, etc. Welcome to our team, Violet!
Electrical Fire Safety Tips

- Do not piggyback or plug a power strip of any type into another.
- Do not overload electrical sockets.
- Never use an extension cord with an appliance — plug them directly into wall sockets.
- Never place anything that can burn over a lamp.

Did You Know?

More than 400 die from electrical home fires annually in the United States.

Overloaded extension cords, power strips and outlets are one of the leading causes of fires in college housing.

Many college students live in older off-campus housing equipped with electrical wiring that can’t safely handle the modern power demands from microwave ovens, compact refrigerators and personal computers, used by the multiple residents living there.

Check with your college/university to see which types of appliances are allowed or prohibited in residence hall rooms.
Always Follow Laboratory Safety Rules!

Life threatening injuries can happen in the laboratory. For that reason, students need to be informed of the correct way to act and things to do in the laboratory. Always have a safety checklist with do's and don’ts and know emergency procedures in the event one occurs. Reference EH&S’ webpage for lab and chemical safety information.

**EH&S TRAINING COURSES**

Online safety training is located on the EH&S training management website: [https://cems.uta.edu/](https://cems.uta.edu/)

- Bloodborne Pathogens for Laboratory Research Personnel
- Bloodborne Pathogens (Non-Research)
- BioSafety Level 2
- On-Site Biohazardous Waste Management
- Vaccinia Virus
- Laser Safety
- Radiation Awareness
- Radiation Producing Machine
- Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Academic
- Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Non-Academic
- Fire Alarm Device
- Back Injury Prevention
- Confined Space Entry Awareness
- Hand & Power Tool Safety
- Hearing Conservation
- Lockout/Tagout
- Respiratory Protection
- Class C Underground Storage Tank
- Defensive Driving Awareness
- 12 & 15 Passenger Van
- Powered Industrial Truck (Forklift)
- Hot Work Safety

Call us at 817-272-2185 to schedule specific trainings not available online:

- Radioactive Materials
- Fire Extinguisher
- Respirator Fit Testing
- Hands On PIT (Forklift)

The [Great Escape with Fire Extinguisher Training](#) and [Evacuation Chair](#) in person trainings are offered on a bimonthly basis. Please call to sign up for a date.

**DRIVING UTA VEHICLES**

**Defensive Driving Awareness** - This online course must be completed every 3 years to remain an authorized driver of UTA vehicles. Additionally, an individual driving record check (MVR) must be updated annually.

**12 & 15 Passenger Van Training:** Take the online course first. A behind-the-wheel driving test is also required and will be conducted at the EH&S office, 500 Summit Ave. Drivers must have already passed the Defensive Driving Course and have a current approved driving record check (MVR) to attend. Click the link below to schedule a date and time.

[EH&S Booking Site for 12 & 15 Passenger Van Training](#)