



## News Release

[www.McKinneyTexas.org](http://www.McKinneyTexas.org)

### City of McKinney News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## McKinney Fire Department warns of fake solar eclipse glasses

McKINNEY, Texas (Aug. 14, 2017) – The McKinney Fire Department (MFD) along with the U.S. Fire Administration encourages residents to beware of fake solar eclipse glasses being sold at many retailers. Millions of Americans will watch the solar eclipse on Aug. 21 and have already purchased eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers for assumed safe viewing. Some of these people may be at risk from counterfeit glasses and viewers sold by disreputable vendors trying to cash in on this rare event. Watching the eclipse with fake protective gear or homemade versions can cause permanent eye damage.

“Only glasses and viewers verified by an accredited testing laboratory to meet ISO 12313-2 are safe to use when viewing the eclipse,” said Fire Marshal Michael Smith. “This standard requires glasses and viewer to be thousands of times darker than typical sunglasses.”

It may be hard to tell the difference between genuine protective gear and fake glasses/viewers as some counterfeit makers are placing ISO labels on them. NASA recommends eclipse watchers refer to the American Astronomical Society (AAS's) website for a list of reputable vendors selling solar glasses and viewers.



“Residents can experience the eclipse safely, but it’s vital they protect their eyes at all times with the proper solar glasses and viewers,” said Smith.

For additional information and safety tips for watching eclipse go to <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety> or <https://aas.org/>.

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### About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest growing cities in America, McKinney has a current population of more than 168,000. The city was #1 on the list of Best Places to Live in America in 2014, published by *Money Magazine*. Established in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers award-winning schools, a vibrant historic downtown, diverse housing options, a robust economy and a uniquely beautiful natural setting, with rolling hills and lush trees. Visit the city’s website at [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

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