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Toms River Fire Prevention Bureau Warns of Fake Solar Eclipse Glasses

(Toms River, NJ) As the solar eclipse nears on August 21, the Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention is urging residents to take steps to protect their eyesight.

The U.S. Fire Administration says residents may be at risk from counterfeit glasses and viewers sold by vendors trying to cash in on this rare event. Watching the eclipse with fake protective gear or homemade versions can cause permanent eye damage.

Kevin Esposito, Fire Official for the Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention, says beware of fake solar eclipse glasses being sold at many retailers. "The only glasses and viewers you should use when viewing the eclipse are those verified by an accredited testing laboratory to meet ISO 12313-2 standards. This standard requires lenses to be thousands of times darker than typical sunglasses."

To tell the difference between genuine protective eyewear and fake glasses, Esposito recommends residents refer to the American Astronomical Society (AAS's) website for a list of reputable vendors selling solar glasses and viewers.

"We want everyone to experience and enjoy the eclipse safely next week, but it's important that they protect their eyes at all times with the proper solar glasses and viewers," said Esposito.

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

