

# The Autumnal Equinox & Dangers of Windshield Glare

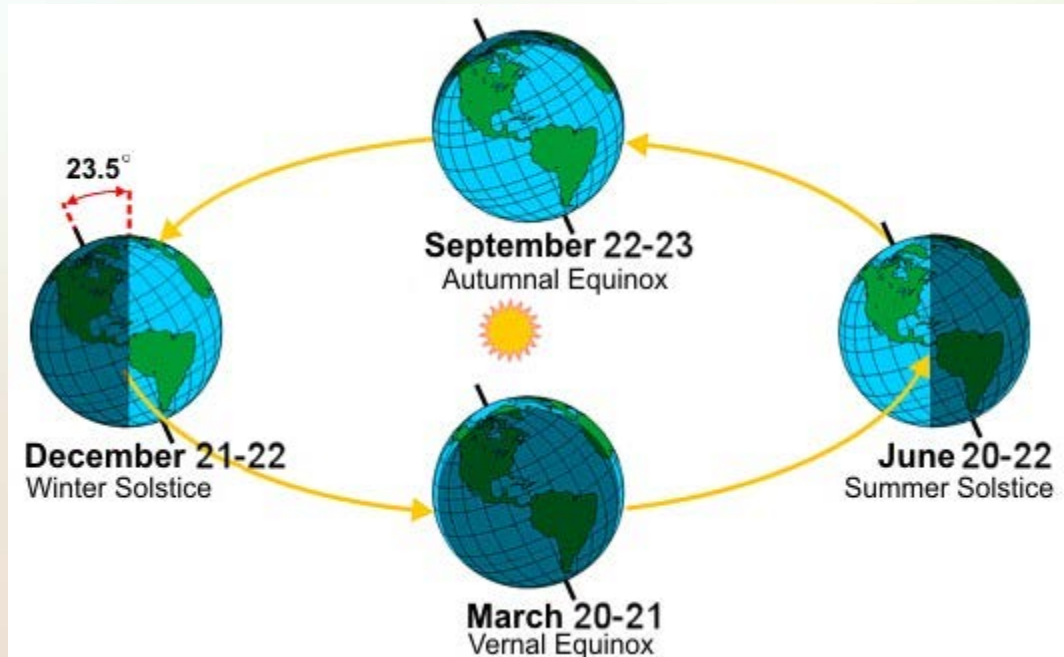
National Weather Service  
Albuquerque, NM



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# Autumnal Equinox

- There are only two times of the year when the Earth's axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun, resulting in a "nearly" equal amount of daylight and darkness at all latitudes.
- These events are referred to as Equinoxes. The first occurred on March 20<sup>th</sup> , the Vernal Equinox - the first day of Spring and will occur again on **Saturday, September 22nd at 7:54 pm MDT (Autumnal Equinox - the first day of fall)**.
- The word equinox is derived from two Latin words - *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).
- At the equator, the sun is directly overhead at noon on these two equinoxes.



# Dangers of Windshield Glare

- On the equinox, the sun rises and sets precisely along an east-west axis and as such can leave motorists blinded.
- Around the fall equinox, sunrise corresponds with the early morning peak traffic rush.
- The most dangerous time is the first 10 to 15 minutes after sunrise when the sun is on the eastern horizon.



# Lower Your Risk

- **Be aware that cars traveling toward the sun at sunrise or sunset may be virtually blinded.**
- **Clean your windshield thoroughly, including the inside, since dirt and haze on the glass increases glare and makes it especially hard to see.**
- **Increase your following distance beyond the recommended safe distances to allow three or more seconds between vehicles. If you get cut off, keep your cool and maintain a safe distance. What matters is safety.**
- **Wear sunglasses to help reduce glare.**
- **Be alert to changing cloud cover and changing traffic flow.**

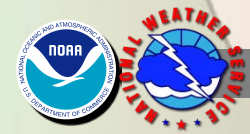


09-16-2018 Sun 18:39:59



**Thank You!**

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