

Driving in the Fog

Weather can be very dangerous at times, especially when you drive a car, truck, bus, airplane or boat for a living. Fog creates dangerous driving conditions and has been the cause of a high number of accidents and fatalities.

Fog is a cloud form at the surface of the earth made of tiny water droplets suspended in the air. The greatest problem with fog is visibility. Heavy fog is defined as visibility below one quarter of a mile. A *Dense Fog Advisory* means that dense fog has reduced visibility to 1/4 mile or less within the advisory area.

If you must drive in fog, follow these safety tips:

- Drive with lights on LOW beam. High beams will reflect off the fog, creating a "white wall" effect.
- Avoid crossing traffic lanes.
- Reduce your speed and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding
- Travel with the driver's window partially open. Listen for traffic
- Watch for *California Highway Patrol (CHP)* pace cars to guide you
- Be cautious, fog can become thicker without warning and without being noticed until it is too late to react
- Increase following distance to ensure enough reaction time and stopping distance
- Use windshield wipers and defroster as necessary to maximize visibility
- Be ready for emergency stops by other vehicles
- If possible, drive in a "pocket" where no other vehicles are around you.
- Turn off your cruise control so you are in control of your vehicle
- Use the right edge of the road or roadside reflectors as a guide
- Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles, unless absolutely necessary
- Remember that other drivers have limited sight distance and that fog makes the road wet
- Signal early; and when you use your brakes, don't stomp on them
- Watch out for slow-moving and parked vehicles
- If you cannot see, pull completely off the road preferably at a rest area or truck stop
- If you pull off the road, turn on your hazard flashers immediately

Consider Postponing Your Trip Until the Fog Lifts