



Driving in Fog

Driving in fog is hazardous and can cause accidents, injuries and fatalities. Visibility is the most significant concern with fog. Heavy fog is defined as visibility below one-quarter of a mile. A 'dense fog advisory' means that thick fog has reduced visibility to one-quarter of a mile or less within the area. Travel should be limited when fog is present.

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

- Drive with lights on LOW beam. HIGH beams reflect off the moisture and create a blinding “white wall” effect.
- Signal early.
- Use windshield wipers and defroster as necessary to maximize visibility.
- Travel with the driver’s window partially open to listen for oncoming traffic.
- Reduce your speed and watch the speedometer- fog creates an illusion of slow motion and you may actually be speeding.
- Turn off the cruise control so you are in control of your vehicle.
- If possible, drive in a “pocket” where no other vehicles are around you.
- Do not slam on your brakes - pump your breaks to signal you are slowing down.
- Increase your following distance of other cars to ensure enough reaction time and adequate stopping distance.
- Watch for California Highway Patrol (CHP) pace cars to guide you.
- Use the right edge of the roadside reflectors as a guide.
- Avoid crossing traffic lanes.
- Be prepared for emergency stops by other vehicles.
- Watch for slow-moving and parked vehicles.
- If you pull off the road, turn on your hazard flashers immediately.
- Fully concentrate on the road - resist making or taking phone calls.

Remember, always use extreme caution. Other drivers have limited sight distance as well and fog can worsen without warning.

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers.

Contact your loss control consultant or visit CompWestInsurance.com for more safety tips and information.

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