

Foggy Driving Conditions

Sometimes weather can create adverse driving conditions. One specific type of adverse condition is fog. Fog is created by tiny water droplets suspended in the air at ground level creating a misty cloud condition. Obviously, when this happens visibility can become a problem. With reduced visibility comes a need to properly adjust driving techniques to handle the situation. If at all possible, it is always best to avoid driving in this condition. However, if driving in this condition cannot be avoided, follow these tips:

- Make sure you are driving with your headlights on low beam. Headlights on high beam will only be reflected back off the fog creating greater impaired visibility.
- Reduce your speed and keep an eye on your speedometer. Fog has a way of creating a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- Listen for vehicles you cannot see. Crack your window a little to hear easier.
- For improved visibility use your windshield wipers and defroster as necessary.
- For guidance use the right edge of the road or painted road markers.
- Be willing to take your time and avoid passing traffic in front of you.
- Increase following distance to ensure enough reaction time and stopping distance.
- Do not use your cruise control.
- If visibility becomes too impaired, pull completely off the road, preferably at a rest area, truck stop or gas station.

Driving in fog can be stressful. Having a game plan in place to deal with the condition can lower the stress level. It's always a good idea to have a plan in place to deal with unexpected or unavoidable conditions. Knowing what to do will increase your confidence and allow you to better manage the situation.

References:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation

Contributed by: Carl Baldwin, Deputy Loss Control Manager, West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management