



## Driving in Fog

**F**og can be every bit as treacherous as rain and snow. Here are some tips to make your drive in the fog as safe as possible.

### Slow Down

No matter how careful you are, poor visibility is treacherous. If you must drive, reduce your speed according to how far ahead you can see. If you can see only 75 feet ahead, slow to 20–30 miles per hour. If visibility is reduced to 25 feet, slow to 10 miles per hour. The idea is to drive slowly enough so you can stop in about half the distance you can see ahead. If this means driving more than 15 miles per hour below the posted speed limit, turn on your emergency flashers.

If you can see a vehicle in front of you, increase your following distance to four or five seconds, depending on conditions. Distances are hard to judge in fog, so give yourself extra time to respond to any road hazards. Be on the lookout for pedestrians, animals or stopped cars. Remember that the road is wet, so it will take you longer to stop.

### Make the Most of Limited Visibility

Turn your low-beam lights on in the fog. Light from high beams tends to scatter on the water droplets in the air and make visibility more difficult.

Heavy fog causes mist on the windshield that you might not notice. Keep your wipers and defroster going, making sure there are no objects on the dashboard that might block the heat from the defroster.

### Don't Take Chances

Fog can get so dense that you can't see the road. Stopping on the shoulder is hazardous, however; stopped cars, even with the flashers on, tend to get hit by other motorists. The best thing to do is keep moving slowly. Look for taillights of vehicles up ahead, and roll down your window and listen for traffic. Check your mirrors for lights of vehicles coming from behind. If you are moving, you'll be able to steer out of their way if they cannot stop in time. If you are stopped, you can't steer.

If you must top, move your vehicle as far off the road as possible, turn off the lights, and get out and move away from your car.

### Be Prepared

You can't control the weather, but you can make sure you're in the best position to cope with poor visibility. Keep your eyesight at its best by getting regular eye exams and always wearing your prescription eyeglasses if you need them. Keep your eyeglasses clean. And while you're at it, clean your windshield—both inside and outside—regularly.