



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Dealing With Fog

According to the National Transportation and Safety Board, there are about 700 fog-related highway fatalities each year. The best advice for handling heavy fog is to stay home and wait for it to lift before traveling. If you cannot avoid traveling during foggy conditions, there are a few basic safety tips you should follow.

- If you must drive in fog, allow more time for your journey.
- Check and clean your windshield, windows and lights before driving. Use your windshield wipers and defrosters at all times. Using your air conditioner in conjunction with your defrosters works best.
- See and be seen. As a general rule, drivers should use low beams only.
- If you drive into a patch of fog, slow down gradually so the car behind you has time to slow too.
- To heighten your awareness in your murky surroundings, open your window part way and turn off the radio.
- Maintain a safe following distance from the car in front of you. Leave yourself plenty of room for stopping. You should always be able to stop within your range of vision.
- Slow down and keep to safe speed. Don't be tempted to keep up with the vehicle in front of you, as it can give a false sense of security.
- Don't speed up to get away from a vehicle which is too close behind you, and always resist the urge to overtake as you may find visibility ahead in much worse than you actually think.
- Stay patient. Do not pass.
- Don't hunch forward over your steering wheel. You'll see better in your normal driving position.
- Use the right side of the road for guidance.
- If the fog gets too dense, pull off the road, leave your headlights on, start the flashers, turn on your interior lights, and sound your horn occasionally.
- Remember that fog can drift rapidly and is often patchy. People often think that fog is clearing and suddenly find themselves back in thick fog.
- Turning at an intersection in fog needs particular care. Open your windows so that you can hear oncoming vehicles. Use your turn signals well beforehand and while waiting to turn. Keep your foot on the brake pedal so that your brake lights are on as an extra warning.

- If possible, find an off-street parking space for your car and never leave it on the "wrong" side of the road.
- If your vehicle breaks down, get it off the road if you can. If you can't do this, make sure you turn the hazard warning lights on.