

Motor Risk Management

Driving in fog

During this time of year, foggy conditions can make driving very dangerous. Driving conditions in fog can deteriorate incredibly quickly. Even if you are confident in your own driving abilities, defensive driving in relation to other road users is essential.

The Highway Code

The Highway Code requires drivers to use their headlights if visibility is reduced significantly. The general guideline is to use fog lights if the visibility is less than 100 metres. If you can't see the tail lights of the vehicle in front of you, use your fog lights. Once visibility improves, fog lights must be switched off.

An orange lamp symbol on your dashboard denotes your rear fog lights are on and a green lamp symbol indicates your front fog lights are on.

Driving safely in fog

If you have to drive and you know there is fog, consider the following:

If you're expecting fog, switch on your dipped beams and ensure all lights are working.

Turn on your headlights when you enter fog. Consider switching on your headlights manually rather than waiting for them to switch on automatically.

When you see 'Fog' signs, and the conditions are clear, be aware that a fog bank can appear quickly. Adapt your driving style and anticipate what might lay ahead.

Do not use your full beam lights in fog as the light reflects back at you off the fog.

Make sure you know how to turn on the fog lights in your vehicle.

Reduce condensation and improve visibility in your vehicle by using your heater and windscreen de-misters, front and rear.

Don't be tempted to follow the rear lights of the vehicle in front too closely. Prevent 'hit third party in rear' type collisions.

Follow the 'three second rule' in foggy conditions.

Don't accelerate away if the vehicle behind you gets too close.

At junctions, stop and wind down the window so you can hear vehicles approaching.

Turn your radio off so you can hear the hiss of other vehicles' tyres.

Make sure you reduce your speed with your brakes so your brake lights warn the driver behind you.

The road surface will be made slippery by the fog and the moisture often freezes.

Remember the essentials

If you have to drive and you know there is fog, consider the following:

Fog has been the main factor in some work-related road collisions in the UK.

Don't lose your perception of speed. You never know if the vehicle in front is about to stop suddenly as they might be driving too close to the vehicle in front.

Slow down and put plenty of distance between you and vehicle in front.

Use the objects you can see to judge the extent of visibility and follow the guidelines in this document and you'll increase your chances of staying safe in the fog.

For more Risk Management Guidance read our Guide to Risk Management.
qbefurope.com/documents/index/14489

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