

Safe Driving in Rain & Fog

WHY THIS MATTERS

Weather-related crashes kill thousands every year. Wet pavement is present in 74% of all weather-related crashes (FHWA). Rain alone causes 10% of all traffic injuries and 8% of fatalities (NHTSA). Fog contributes to over 38,700 crashes and about 600 deaths annually. Reducing speed, increasing following distance and using headlights correctly are the simplest ways to stay alive in poor weather.

1.2M

Weather-related crashes per year in the U.S. (NHTSA)

74%

Of weather crashes occur on wet pavement (FHWA)

600+

Annual fog-related fatalities (NHTSA)

5 Rules for Driving in Rain & Fog

Every worker who drives in poor weather must follow these rules:

- 1 SLOW DOWN**
Reduce speed by at least one-third in rain and by half in heavy fog. Speed kills in low grip.
- 2 INCREASE FOLLOWING DISTANCE**
Double your normal distance in rain, triple it in fog. Stopping takes much longer on wet roads.
- 3 USE LOW BEAMS — NEVER HIGH BEAMS**
High beams reflect off rain and fog, blinding you. Low beams + fog lights cut through better.
- 4 AVOID SUDDEN MOVES**
No hard braking, sharp turns or sudden lane changes — smooth inputs prevent hydroplaning.
- 5 PULL OVER IF YOU CAN'T SEE**
If visibility drops below 100 yards, exit the road safely. Turn on hazard lights. Wait it out.

Before You Start — Quick Checklist

- Are your wipers in good condition and working?
- Are all headlights, taillights and fog lights working?
- Are your tires properly inflated with adequate tread?
- Is your defroster working to keep windows clear?
- Have you checked the weather forecast for your route?
- Do you have extra following distance planned?

Key Hazards & How to Handle Them

Hydroplaning: Tires lose contact with the road on standing water. Ease off the gas — do not brake hard.

Reduced Visibility: Use low beams and fog lights. Never use high beams in fog — they reflect back and blind you.

Longer Stopping: Wet brakes take up to 2x longer to stop. Pump brakes lightly after driving through water.

Fog Patches: Fog can appear suddenly. Slow down before entering. Use road markings as your guide.

Standing Water: Never drive through flooded areas — 6 inches of water can stall a car, 12 inches can float it.

Other Drivers: Assume others cannot see you. Keep headlights on. Stay in your lane. Be predictable.

Common Mistakes That Cause Crashes

- ✗ Driving the speed limit in heavy rain — the limit is for dry conditions, not wet
- ✗ Using high beams in fog — light reflects back and creates a white wall of blindness
- ✗ Following too closely — rear-end collisions are the #1 rain-related crash type
- ✗ Driving through standing water — hydroplaning and stalling happen fast

Safety Tips to Remember

- ✓ Slow down BEFORE you need to — braking on wet roads is when you lose control
- ✓ If you start to hydroplane, ease off the gas and steer straight — do not slam the brakes
- ✓ Turn headlights on in ANY rain — even light drizzle. It's not just about seeing, it's about being seen
- ✓ If fog is too thick to see, pull completely off the road, turn on hazards and wait

Discussion Questions for Your Team

1. Have you ever hydroplaned? What did you do?
2. Do you check your tire tread depth regularly?
3. What is your company policy on driving in severe weather?
4. How much extra following distance do you add in rain?
5. Have you ever pulled over because of fog? When is the right time to stop?

TOOLBOX TALK SIGN-OFF

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Project: _____

Location: _____

Attendance sheet attached: [] Yes