



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: November 19, 2014
District: 10 - Stockton
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS ALERTS MOTORISTS ON HOW TO DRIVE SAFELY IN FOGGY CONDITIONS THROUGH ITS OPERATION FOG PROGRAM

Stockton- During the winter months, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties are plagued by extremely dense fog which poses a severe hazard to drivers. Typically the fog season begins during the month of November and continues through February. Despite this predictable seasonal occurrence, multi-vehicle accidents are commonplace due to the combination of fog, excessive speeds and traffic congestion.

A Caltrans News Flash video highlighting operation fog is available on You Tube http://youtu.be/i_B_DUGII_8

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) implemented what is now known as Caltrans Automated Warning System (CAWS). The CAWS consists of 37 Changeable Message Signs (CMS), 30 weather stations and 124 speed monitor locations along Interstate 5 and State Route 99, 120, and 580.

The CAWS system is fully automated; visibility sensors provide reduced visibility information and the speed monitors detect slow and stopped traffic. Working together, these components provide the data necessary to display the appropriate message on the CMS. "Low Visibility Conditions Reduce Speed" and "Slow Traffic Ahead" are only two of the helpful and informative messages displayed for motorists.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has implemented "pace" units that work on major the highways between Modesto and Merced on foggy days to slow vehicles down when visibility is less than 500 feet.

For up-to-date information motorists should tune in to local radio and television stations. for up-to-date information. Motorists can get information on specific highway conditions from the Caltrans website <http://www.dot.ca.gov> or by telephone at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).

For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow For the Cone Zone.

www.dot.ca.gov

