

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

FOG KILLS!™

Slow Your Pace It's Not A Race™

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SLOW FOR THE
CONE ZONE[®]
CALTRANS



California Fog Programs

Central California's Operation Fog Program

Whether you're traveling south to enjoy the warmer climate, heading north to walk among the majestic redwoods, or if you live in the fertile Central Valley, you need to always be aware of winter driving conditions. Especially when dense fog blankets the highways.

Fog can catch you by surprise. One minute you're driving along at 65 mph with a clear view of the road and the next minute your visibility drops to less than 200 feet and the traffic ahead of you slows to a crawl. This dramatic change in visibility and the speed of traffic can lead to multiple-car pileups, severe injury, or even death. It is difficult for motorists to perceive speed in dense fog conditions.

Caltrans and the CHP began "Operation Fog" in 1991 in an effort to help make you aware of this unique winter driving condition in Central California and to reduce the number of fog-related accidents.

This program not only relies on educational information like this brochure, but it also uses high-tech equipment to help you find your way when visibility drops on state highways in Central California. There are roadside weather stations and visibility sensors that gather information as well as electronic message signs and low-powered AM radio stations that alert you in advance of foggy conditions. Also, signs are posted in low-visibility areas that estimate Sight Distance. And as you approach off-ramps, a "3-2-1" countdown pattern of clear reflective pavement markers assist you in exiting the road during heavy fog.

Please do your part as well to avoid becoming an accident statistic. Reduce your speed and allow extra distance between vehicles in front of you when driving in Central California fog. It's also a good idea to phone the Caltrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) for statewide highway information. That way if travel conditions appear severe, you can consider postponing or rescheduling your trip until the fog clears.

CHP Pace Car Program

When visibility is reduced to less than 500 feet, the California Highway Patrol implements its "Pace Car Program." CHP vehicles escort traffic through dense fog when needed. Officers utilize their flashing lights to lead vehicles at a safe pace through areas of heavy fog. Keeping traffic speeds at a reduced and consistent pace during these conditions helps to minimize accidents and maximize safe travel on our state roads.



Caltrans
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



SLOW YOUR PACE



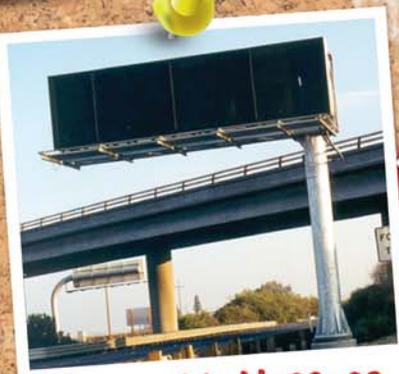
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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Current Technology



Facts and Tips



Changeable Message Signs

Changeable Message Signs

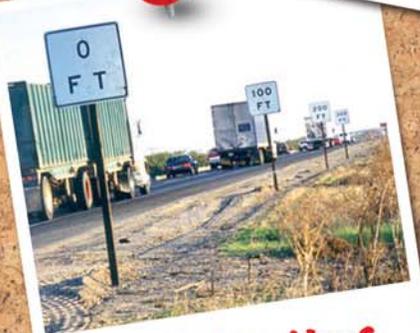
These signs are programmed from the Transportation Management Center (TMC) to alert motorists regarding highway construction, maintenance work and adverse weather conditions.



Visibility Sensors

Visibility Sensors

New technology also gives TMC workers the ability to "read" environmental conditions with the use of roadside weather stations, visibility sensors and closed circuit television cameras. The stations and sensors measure visibility, wind speed and direction, humidity, precipitation and pavement temperature.



Visibility Signs

Visibility Signs

These signs can assist motorists in determining Sight Distance in low-visibility locations. Motorists can then adjust their speed and the distance between the vehicles in front of them depending on the visibility.

Fog Driving Tips

1. Reduce your speed to allow for safe stopping distance.
2. Drive with your headlights on low-beam. NEVER drive using only your parking or fog lights.
3. Use extreme caution when crossing traffic or busy intersections during dense fog conditions.
4. Lower your window and listen for traffic you cannot see.
5. Use windshield wipers and your defroster to improve visibility.
6. Be patient! Don't pass long lines of traffic in fog.
7. If visibility diminishes to the point that you no longer feel safe driving, don't stop in the traffic lanes.
8. Attempt to utilize the closest off-ramp so you can stop at a safe location and wait for the fog to clear.
9. Call the Caltrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-ROAD for the latest information on highway driving conditions. *

Slow your Pace

The Dangers of Fog

- Driving in fog is comparable to driving while wearing a blindfold.
- Fog creates the most dangerous driving condition: *Zero Visibility!*
- Statistically, fog-related accidents carry the highest fatality rates.
- Unsafe driving speeds in foggy conditions drastically reduce stopping distances and reaction times.

Stay safe. Slow down while driving in fog.



CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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