

# DRIVING IN LOW VISIBILITY

Visibility is defined as 'the range of vision under given weather conditions.' Reduced visibility conditions include dusk, twilight, darkness, rain, snow, fog, and bright sunshine.



## PRECIPITATION

All forms of precipitation reduce visibility.

- Turn on headlights to increase visual range. In many states it is the law to have your headlights on if your windshield wipers are being used.
- If ice and/or snow accumulate on the windows of a vehicle, it is important to scrape and brush the entire window. Keeping the defroster on will help ensure the window stays clear.



## FOG

Fog can reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less, creating hazardous driving conditions.

- Use the low beams. High beams will reflect off the fog and further impair visibility.
- Reduce speed.
- Use wipers and defrosters as necessary.
- Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide.
- Do not pass lines of traffic.



## DUSK/TWILIGHT

Twilight is one of the most difficult times to drive because your eyes are adjusting to the growing darkness.

- Turn on your headlights.
- Use sunglasses or visors to help reduce visual impairment if the sun is glaring.



## NIGHT DRIVING

According to the National Safety Council, traffic death rates are 3 times greater at night than during the day. Vision is severely limited at night. After sundown, depth perception, color recognition, and peripheral vision are weak. Fatigue is also associated with driving at night. Drowsiness makes driving more difficult by inhibiting concentration and slowing reaction time.

- Prepare your car for night driving. Keep headlights, tail lights, signal lights, and windows clean.
- Have your headlights properly aimed, otherwise they will blind other drivers and reduce your ability to see the road.
- Avoid smoking. Nicotine and carbon monoxide hamper night vision.
- Reduce speed and increase following distance. It is more difficult to judge other vehicles' speeds and distances at night.
- When following another vehicle, turn on the low beams so you don't blind the driver ahead.
- If an oncoming vehicle does not lower beams from high to low, avoid glare by watching the right edge of the road and using it as a steering guide.
- If you are too tired to drive, stop and rest.



## ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR DRIVING IN LOW VISIBILITY

- Drive slowly enough to maintain a safe stopping distance.
- Don't slow down so much that you become a risk to other drivers.
- Be aware that in reduced visibility conditions, drivers tend to follow the tail lights of vehicles in front of them.
- If you must pull off of the road, pull as far off as possible, turn off your headlights, take your foot off the brake pedal, and turn on your hazard lights.
- Make sure you have a pair of sunglasses in case of bright sunlight.

Contact the ISA Risk Management Division today for more information on these and other risk management services and resources.  
Call 800-622-8272 or email [riskmanagement@siegelagency.com](mailto:riskmanagement@siegelagency.com).