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Measures to augment safe ways of motor driving in foggy conditions

Overview



Source: http://cdn-wac.emirates247.com/polopoly_fs/1.530060.1386125900!/image/2601431804.png

Foggy weather conditions are an important factor for road accidents. Those who have experienced driving in the fog would agree that foggy condition is the real test of driving skills. Whether you are one of the best of the drivers or a novice, getting surrounded by the fog with visibility reduced to less than 50 meters is a dangerous situation to be in.

We at Liberty Videocon General Insurance value the importance of safe motor driving in foggy conditions for preventing accidents; and intend to suggest some useful measures to augment the same. We sincerely hope that the measures suggested in this document will help follow better practices when it comes to safe driving of cars in foggy conditions.

Fog is a cloud that occurs at ground level instead of in the sky. It's made up of tiny droplets of water that float suspended in the air. Foggy conditions are the number one cause of large multi-car pile ups on the roads. Some recent unfortunate events in India due to fog include:

- a. Piling up of 48 vehicles on Yamuna Expressway due to fog, killing 2
- b. A school bus colliding with a truck in foggy weather, injuring 8 children in Noida.

Things to follow while driving your car in foggy conditions





The following are simple tips to ensure safe and responsible driving in foggy weather conditions.

Tips for improving the visibility while driving in foggy conditions. These must be taken care of before you get into the car as once you are in the fog, it's too late:

- Ensure that front & rear windshields and mirrors are cleaned and polished.

- Wipers and water fluids are important. Ensure that wiper blades do not skip and leave marks when operated. It's recommended to use genuine fluids or at least mix of soap and water that cleans the dirt properly.
- Eyewear (your spectacles) often reduces the visibility. Be prepared for this.
- It's a good idea to install front & rear fog-lamps if you live in a fog prone area like northern India. Make sure you know how to operate your front & rear fog lights before setting off. Don't confuse these with your 'full-beam' setting.
- Ensure that there is enough fuel in the car - such weather often causes delays.

Tips to ensure safety during driving

- Allow time for you to react. Leave sufficient distance between you and the front car. '3 seconds rule' is proven to be helpful during normal weather conditions. Increase your following distance during foggy conditions. 
- If visibility is very limited, wind down your windows at junctions and crossroads to allow you to listen out for approaching traffic. If you really cannot see, you should consider stopping until it is safe to continue.
- Keep an eye on the road and use your ears more carefully to judge traffic that you cannot see. So turn off loud music and don't use your mobile when driving. 
- You must drive your vehicle at a speed appropriate to the road conditions. Driving faster or slower as compared to others poses the risk of accident. Be patient while changing lanes and at traffic junctions.
- Do not apply brakes in panic. You may get hit from behind. 
- Honk periodically to let other drivers know of your presence.
- Be extra careful while driving on bridges that do not have railings, especially in rural areas.
- If you need to stop, please try to get as far from the road as possible. Drive into a parking lot or side-road or any other similar place where you do not expect traffic. Stopping on the main road may result in accidental piling up of vehicles. 



Generally, dense fog is temporary. You will encounter dense fog near rivers, lakes or open moist places. You can plan your trip appropriately to avoid roads passing through such areas, especially during early morning hours.

When visibility is low, drive slow! Remember the importance of adapting your driving behaviour to the changed weather conditions. Wish you happy & safe driving!

Source: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-CrLigQ5C3IU/VJiz-uFAID/AAAAAAAAAF-Q/2k6e17BTO0g/s1600/12.22.14%2BHeavy%2BFog.jpg>

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