



# How to Drive in the Fog

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## Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge Fog Procedures



Fog reduces visibility which can cause dangerous travel conditions.

### **GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION**

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[thecauseway.us](http://thecauseway.us)

# WHEN ARE WE MOST LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE FOG DELAYS?

Our "Fog Season" is typically between October and March.

## What is Fog?

Fog forms near the ground when water condenses into tiny droplets that remain suspended in the air. Fog is usually associated with fair and calm weather. Many processes can lead to the formation of fog, but the main criteria for fog formation are low temperatures and low dew points.

Beginning in October, morning fog becomes more common. Clear, calm fall nights supply the ingredients needed to form "radiation" fog. It's called radiation fog because the process begins with the radiation of heat from the Earth into space on clear nights. If there are clouds in the sky, they radiate heat back to the ground, keeping it warmer.

As the ground cools on a clear night, it cools the layer of air near the ground. If the air is humid enough, the water vapor in it begins condensing into tiny water droplets that float in the air. This is called ground fog because it hugs the ground, often no more than a couple of hundred feet thick. Wind can prevent the formation of fog. After sunrise the heat begins warming the ground and air, dissipating fog.



## How do we decide on restrictions?

A ranking Police Officer is always on duty monitoring traffic and weather on the bridge. The officer verifies reduced visibility and fog density. When visibility falls below specified thresholds, the officer is authorized to implement restrictions. Please note that fog always reduces visibility. Even though it might not be sufficiently dense to warrant traffic restrictions, motorists should reduce speed, put headlights on low beam, and drive carefully.



## SINGLE LANE RESTRICTIONS

Single lane restrictions are used on the bridge span opposite peak travel and are also used on both spans during non-peak travel times. Traffic cones are placed on the center line markers, closing the left lane to all vehicles except those that encounter mechanical problems and cannot make it to a Crossover or Safety Bay. All commuters should use the right lane, passing is prohibited.

## ROLLING CONVOY RESTRICTIONS

Rolling convoys are used on the span of peak travel, south bound in the a.m. and north bound in the p.m. Rolling convoys utilize both lanes of the bridge span. An emergency vehicle will lead vehicles onto the bridge from the toll plaza, setting a safe and steady pace. Drivers are not permitted to pass or change lanes.



## VEHICLE FAILURE/PROBLEMS WHEN SINGLE LANE FOG RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT

Do not stop in the right lane. Attempt to drive to a Crossover (located approximately 3-1/2 miles apart) or Safety Bay located halfway between each Crossover. If this is not possible, turn on emergency lights and pull into the closed lane adjacent to the railing. Move a safe distance to the rear of the stalled vehicle. Please stand on the curb and flag oncoming vehicles and call  
**Causeway Police (\*27 or 504-835-3116).**

## HOW WE NOTIFY COMMUTERS

The Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission informs motorists of fog conditions at [www.thecauseway.us](http://www.thecauseway.us), 1700 AM Radio, Facebook or Twitter. There you can sign up for traffic advisories that will alert your device to the conditions on the Bridge. Also, most local news stations routinely broadcast weather and traffic conditions on the bridge. When approaching the bridge, note the messages displayed on the message signs.



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