

FLORIDA'S wildlands burn at any time of year, under almost any weather condition. Where there is fire, there is ultimately smoke, and smoke does not mix well with safe driving. Conditions may arise where visibility on roadways, due to unforeseen changes in the weather, is seriously impaired. Under these conditions drivers need to be cautious. The best decision is not to drive in fog and smoke. If you must drive under these conditions, there are actions that drivers should take to protect themselves and their passengers if they encounter smoke or fog.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER SMOKE ON FLORIDA'S HIGHWAYS

- **Slow down!**
- **Use windshield wipers in heavy fog.**
- **Turn on your low-beam headlights.**
- **If the fog or smoke becomes so thick that you cannot see well enough to keep driving, pull all the way off the pavement and stop. Turn on your emergency flashers.**
- **The space between your vehicle and the roadway should be sufficient so that you can safely exit the vehicle without obstructing traffic.**
- **Report the hazard to the nearest Florida Highway Patrol office so that steps can be taken to warn other drivers about the hazard.**

This is a warning sign to motorists that a wildfire is burning in the area. Motorists should slow down and watch for emergency vehicles.



When smoke blocks your view, pull off the road as far as you can and stop. Do this as quickly and as safely as possible.



Accidents due to reduced visibility can result in injury and even death.

What To Do If You Encounter SMOKE ON FLORIDA'S HIGHWAYS



Prescribed Fire ... and Smoke

PRESCRIBED FIRES are conducted in Florida for many reasons. They are considered a necessary part of a good fire management program.

They help managers by:

- Reducing the impact from wildfires by eliminating excess fuel.
- Enhancing wildlife habitat so that the land is able to support healthy wildlife populations.
- Providing ecological maintenance and restoration of critical Florida ecosystems.
- Managing pasture and range lands.
- Aesthetic enhancement for Florida's visitors

In some instances these prescribed fires are close to roadways where they might distract motorists. In those instances the land manager may place a sign along the roadway informing the public that a prescribed burn is in progress.



From ashes to forest — the cycle begins anew.



A forester uses a driptorch to start a prescribed fire.



This is a precautionary sign to motorists that a prescribed burn is being conducted in the area. Motorists should watch for smoke and/or fire management vehicles.

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