



# Stay safe during wildfire season

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## Driving during smoky conditions

In recent years, we've seen an increase in wildfires and the smoke inevitably creates poor visibility on our roads, which is challenging for drivers. Sometimes the best thing to do is get off the road until conditions improve.

Here are tips for driving in smoky conditions.

### Before you go

- Check your entire route before setting out. Conditions may vary along the way.
- Find an alternate route. Fire is wildly unpredictable, especially in high winds. If possible, find a route that takes you far away from fires.
- Have your car ready before you go. Make sure you have a full gas tank before leaving and that your vehicle is in good condition. Have water, food, and carry an emergency kit with extra water and medications for all your passengers, including for any pets you bring.

### On the road

- Slow down and stay alert so you can respond to unexpected conditions.
- Turn on your headlights. Even during daylight hours your headlights will help others on the road see you. Use low-beams as high-beams reflect off particles in the air and cause glare.
- Use fog lights. If you have them, fog lights can help cut through the smoke.
- Pay attention. You need to drive, not take pictures. Especially when there's a fire.
- Keep plenty of space between you and other vehicles. With decreased visibility, make sure to maintain a safe stopping distance between you and the vehicle up front.
- If visibility becomes too dangerous to continue, pull off to the side of the road as soon as safely possible.
- Never stop in a travel lane. Look for a safe area completely away from the road if possible and turn off all lights — including emergency flashers — until it's safe to continue.
- Give extra space. Keep a steady, reliable pace. Remember that everyone else on the road is in the same fix you're in.
- Roll up the windows. Set your fan to recirculate.

### Preventing wildfires

#### Practice fire prevention.

- When pulling off the road, stay on paved surfaces whenever possible.

Avoid the side of the road where flammables such as dry grass can come in contact with your vehicle's hot components including the exhaust system or catalytic converter.

- Never toss a cigarette or any flammable materials out the window of a vehicle. Extinguish all smoking materials completely and thoroughly and away from dry grass and fuels.
- Secure chains and make sure they aren't dragging. They can cause sparks.

#### **Maintain your car and carry the right equipment**

- Maintain proper tire pressure as driving on rims will throw off sparks.
- Prevent vehicle fires by having your vehicle serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. Heat and electrical sparks that come into contact with leaking flammable car fluids can easily start a car fire.
- Carry a fire extinguisher in your car and know how to use it.

#### **Be alert**

- If you see something, say something. If you encounter people behaving carelessly with fireworks or other flammables, alert the proper authorities.
- Know wildfire risks and restrictions in your area.

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