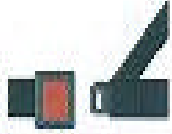


## KEYS TO GETTING THERE SAFELY...



Always insure that the driver and all other occupants have seatbelts properly buckled up. Children under the age of 5 must be in a child safety seat. Children under the age of 13 must wear a safety belt anytime they are in a vehicle.



Don't drink and drive. If you drink, use a designated driver. Remember, you drink, you drive, and you lose.



Impatient and aggressive drivers are becoming increasingly common on our roadways. Do not tailgate. Tailgating is a violation of the law.



Minimize your distractions when you are behind the wheel. Cellular telephones and other devices may affect the way you drive. Use them responsibly.



To report unsafe driving conditions, you may reach the Causeway Police by dialing \*CP on your cellular phone. This is a free call.

## WHAT IS FOG?

Fog forms near the ground when water condenses into tiny liquid water droplets that remain suspended in the air. Fog is usually associated with fair and calm weather, but the reduced visibility can cause travel headaches. Many processes can lead to the formation of fog, but the main criteria for fog formation is saturated air. The two ways air can become saturated are cooling the air to its dewpoint temperature or evaporating moisture into the air and increasing its water vapor content.

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 - fog. This kind of fog 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, evaporating the fog.



Greater New Orleans Expressway  
Commission



Causeway Police Department  
"Service is Our Profession"  
[www.thecauseway.com](http://www.thecauseway.com)



*Helpful Guidelines  
For Driving In Fog On  
The Causeway  
Bridge*



Greater New Orleans  
Expressway Commission  
P.O. Box 7656  
Metairie, La. 70010  
(504) 835-3116

# Fog Procedures Implemented On The Causeway Bridge

## When are we most likely to experience fog delays?

Our “Fog Season” is typically considered to be between November and February.

## Controlling Traffic In The Fog

The Causeway Police are experienced in handling traffic during periods of fog. Procedures vary depending upon fog density, time of day, and coverage area. We appreciate motorists’ desire to arrive at their destinations on time and the frustration of being delayed. Although we regret this inconvenience, our goal and responsibility is to have you and other motorists safely travel the Causeway Bridge.

Most commuters have, at some time, approached the bridge wondering why fog restrictions are in effect when they see slight or no traces of fog. Being a twenty-four mile bridge over water presents unique and varied weather conditions. Fog is often patchy and covers only portions of the bridge.

## How These Decisions Are Made, Who Makes Them?

The Causeway Police always maintain a ranking officer on duty. He verifies reduced visibility and fog density. When visibility falls below specified thresholds, he has the authority to put specific restrictions in place. 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.

## Hints For Driving In Fog

Stay just close enough to the vehicle in front of you to see its taillights. Allow enough distance to stop safely. Remember roadways may be wet, causing stopping distance to increase.

Be sure your heater/defroster, windshield wipers, and all headlights/taillights are working before entering the bridge.

## 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 vehicle failure and can not make it to a crossover. Vehicles are to use the right lane, passing is prohibited.

**In the event of vehicle failure when single lane fog restrictions are in effect:** Do not stop in the right lane. Attempt to make it to a crossover (located approximately 3-1/2 miles apart). If this is not possible, then turn on emergency lights and pull over in left lane close to the railing. Move a safe distance to the rear of the stalled vehicle. Please stand on walkway of the left lane and flag oncoming vehicles until Causeway Police arrive.

## 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 out onto the bridge, from the toll plaza, setting a steady pace. To aid in traffic flow drivers should not pass or change lanes.

**In the event of vehicle failure when convoy restrictions are in effect:** Attempt to make it to a crossover (located approximately 3-1/2 miles apart). If this is not possible, then turn on emergency lights and pull over in right lane close to the railing. Move a safe distance to the rear of the stalled vehicle. Please stand on walkway of the right lane and flag approaching vehicles until Causeway Police arrive.

## How We Notify Commuters

Causeway Police use several methods to inform motorists of fog conditions. While at home or work, you may check current bridge conditions by accessing the Causeway’s web site at: “[www.thecauseway.com](http://www.thecauseway.com)”. Also, most local television stations routinely call and get the latest conditions. When approaching the bridge, note the messages displayed on the message signs and/or tune to our radio station, 1700 AM.

## Message Signs and Conditions



To minimize inconvenience to drivers, police lead convoys across the bridge. Police will drive in the middle of the roadway, causing motorists to pace the police vehicle and drive at a safe

speed. This method has been very successful at saving time and preventing accidents.



It’s always easier to see in the fog with headlights on low beam. This helps reduce the glare from light reflected by the fog.

When traffic cones have been placed in the middle of the roadway, drivers should stay in the right lane only. This insures a steady traffic flow and eliminates dangerous lane changes.



Regardless of the type of fog restriction, drivers should not change lanes or attempt to pass other vehicles. Doing so interrupts the steady flow of traffic and causes others to drive inconsistently.



Quite often, portions of the bridge are clear while others contain dense fog. Proceed with caution when this sign is displayed. Please observe the motorists aid assistance signs and 1700 AM for up-to-date information.