

These are warning signs to motorists that a wildfire is burning in the area.

Motorists should slow down and watch for emergency vehicles.

REDUCE
SMOKE
SPEED

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SPEED

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

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. Unforeseen changes in weather may create conditions where visibility on roadways is seriously impaired. Under these conditions drivers need to be cautious. The best decision is not to drive in fog or smoke. If you must drive under these conditions, there are actions that every driver should take to protect themselves and their passengers.

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 motorists.

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

- **SLOW** down!
- Pull **ALL** the way off the roadway.
- Report the Hazard to the Florida Highway Patrol.



Prescribed Fire ... and Smoke

PRESCRIBED BURNS are conducted in Florida for many reasons. They are considered a necessary part of a good land 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 burns 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.



Photo by William Bollfrass III

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



Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services