



# RISK REMINDER

June 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Driving in Dust Storms, and Sandstorms

### Impaired Visibility

Impaired visibility while driving can have two meanings:

1. Your ability to see out your car's windows and/or
2. The ability of other drivers to see you, is diminished.

**Sandstorms** typically occur in desert locations or where sand is more prevalent than soil or rocks, such as in dry and flat regions like Kansas and New Mexico.

**Dust storms** tend to form in places where there is little vegetation and the ground is exposed to the wind, such as across the American west in areas such as Arizona OR across the Heartland/Plains before planting of crops.



If you are caught in a sand or dust storm or fog, take the following steps:

- Drive slowly, leaving enough distance between you and other cars. This means ensuring you have enough braking distance, given the speed at which you are travelling, to avoid any hazards should you need to stop unexpectedly.
- Remain alert – no distracted driving. Keep visual and other distractions to a minimum: turn off the radio, keep your hands off your phone, and limit conversations.
- Keep your headlights on, using low beams. Your high beams may scatter into the fog or storm, creating glare instead of illumination.



- Check the weather forecast and pay attention to any advisories.
- If visibility is in question, turn on your hazard lights to make your car more detectable.
- If the conditions worsen and it is possible to move well off the road, consider doing so to wait until visibility improves. Moving off the road, and not simply to the shoulder, means you are out of the flow of traffic in the event another driver loses control of their vehicle

**Question: True or False**

**Always use high beams during sand/dust storms?**

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