

CL-10200293-9388

U.S. Department of Transportation

08/08/07

2007 AUG 16 PM 12: 47

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-210
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Massive pile ups on Freeways in fog at night.

I am 81 years old. Way back when I started driving you could buy Fog Lights to attach to your front bumper, and they had amber lens. When you got into a fog you could turn off your head lights and turn on your fog lights to see where you were going.

There is a stretch of I-75 in Tennessee that gets real foggy because of a Paper Mill west of the Interstate. It took a long time and a lot of massive pile ups before any thing was done about it. They now have a lot of fog warning signs, and Amber steet lights.

Before any body took notice of this situation my wife and I were headed north at night on I-75 in this same area in the winter when all of a sudden I was blinded by my low beam head lights reflecting off the snow storm that we just came upon. I turned off my head lights and turned on my emergency flashers which were mounted in my lower bumper and because they had an amber lens I could see to continue driving at a lower speed.

In 1998 we bought a new Chrysler Cirrus. It had Fog Lights in the lower bumper, and you had to have your low beam head lights on in order to turn on the fog lights. They would be of no good, because both lights were white they would reflect off the fog or snow and blind you. I drove with the fog lights all the time because they helped light up the road better than just having my low beams on. Being retired I didn't have to drive when it was foggy.

We rented a car after flying to California, it had Day Time Running Lights that came on when you started the engine.

On the way home to my mother's house one night we just got off the Free-way and started up the hill to her house when we got into a fog I had to stop because I could not see. I turned off the head lights, but I still could not see because I could not turn off the Day Time Running Lights. My sister had to get out of the car and go to the other side of the road and tell me which way to turn to guide me home.

I wonder how many people have been killed when running into a fog on the Free-way with white Day Time Running Lights that they could not turn off.

We bought a 2006 Toyota Camry it has white Day Time Running Lights that you can turn off. The emergency flashers in the front are very small and are located right next to the head lights they have a clear lens with an amber bulb and I don't think they will light up the road very good in a fog. They should be larger and located in the lower bumper to be of any good in a fog.

mc
8/16/07
cc

The deluxe Camry has Fog lights that are located in the lower bumper. You have to have your low beam head lights on in order to operate the Fog Lights. This is no good because your low beams will blind you.

Now bear in mind the drivers that found out that they could not see when they got into a fog with white fog lights that would only work if their low beam head lights were on could not report this to you because they got killed in the accident that followed.

How many more people have to die before something is done to correct this dangerous situation.

Since some one thinks Day Time Running Lights is a safety thing why not make it safe? Have large amber lights located in the lower part of the bumper. When the driver gets in a fog or snow storm at night all he or she has to do is turn off the head lights.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Toledo, OH [Redacted]

P.S. See photo of my 2000 Camry showing my flashers turned on.

This photo shows my emergency flashers.
They are too small and too far from the road
To be of any help in a fog.

