Driving in the Rain

Do you turn your Low Beam Lights on when it Rains?

Q: Is it required to turn on your low beam lights when it rains?

A: Yes! Florida law requires motorists to turn on their headlights any time it rains. The aim is to make it easier for others to see you when visibility is poor.

The safety consideration of driving with headlights on is nothing new. Motorcycles are required to have a headlight on all the time, even in clear daylight. In addition, a number of new cars and trucks are factory equipped with daytime running lights - lowbeam headlights that automatically come on when the vehicle is started, day or night.

All County employees need to be aware of the regulation and get in the habit of turning on their headlights when it rains.

Do you keep your Hazard Lights off while driving in the Rain?

Q: Is it legal to drive with your hazard lights on in the rain?

A: No! Rain or shine, Florida law says keep your hazards off unless you are stalled or sitting on the side of the road. Hazard lights are only supposed to be used when you are stationary.

Some drivers think it is easier to see and be seen with blinking lights on in a blinding rainstorm, fog or when smoke from a wildfire reduces visibility.

However, hazards disable the turn signals. They also make it harder to tell if the motorist ahead is tapping on the brakes. Other drivers might assume the hazard lights are being properly used and swerve to avoid a vehicle they think has stopped in the highway.

If it is raining too hard to see, the Florida Highway Patrol advises drivers to pull off the road and then turn on your hazards to wait out the storm.

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Subpart 3 - Your Driving, Part 3.12 - Reduced Visibility
You must turn on your low beam (dim) headlights when driving between sunset and sunrise, including the twilight hours between sunset and sunrise or between full night and sunrise. You must also use these lights during any rain, smoke or fog. Parking lights do not meet requirements of this law.

Subpart 3 - Your Driving, Part 3.8 - Turn Signals and Emergency Signals
You must use hand signals or directional signals to show that you are about to turn. Turn signals are required when changing lanes or overtaking a vehicle. It is against the law to use your directional signals to tell drivers behind you that they can pass. Four-way emergency flashers should only be used while your vehicle is legally stopped or disabled on the highway or shoulder.