

Tips & Tricks for shooting Fog, and other weather forms.

I. Fog

A. Tips for "in-camera"

1. Use exposure variables -1 to +1
 - a. Shooting fog is a little like shooting snow... The camera wants to make it 18% gray and you may want it whiter or darker to meet your artistic vision.
 - b. Meter your hand for your zero exposure if necessary. Then set your exposure so that amount is the 0 amount and to +1 to -1 in 1/2 stop steps.
2. Make longer exposures for a silky look if the fog is moving... i.e. 50 or 100 ISO, a high F stop (F-16 to F-32) plus an overall neutral density filter. Your polarizer functions like a 2 stop neutral density filter, increasing your required exposure time 4x i.e. a 2 second exposure now becomes 8 seconds with the addition of the polarizer. The increases in exposure time will require a tripod, delayed shutter release (mirror lock up enabled plus the 10 second normal delay time to get a 2 second delay on some Canons), combined with a cable release if you have it.
3. Auto focus may "hunt" with fog scenes, so manual focus may be a better choice for some fog scenes.

B. How to tell if there will be fog at your favorite location:

Check the dewpoint. (dewpoint is the temperature the air must be cooled to for water vapor to condense into water.. it is the saturation point.) If the overnight projected low temperature is to be within 4 degrees Fahrenheit or less of the projected dewpoint, and there is very little or no wind forecast, then the odds are in your favor for low level fog just before or a little after sunrise. The fog will start to dissipate once the air temperature is 5 degree F or more above the dew point. If the relative humidity is equal to 100%, then the dewpoint equals the current temperature.

Go to www.intellicast.com and then enter Spokane or your zip code. Here you will find dewpoint under current conditions, plus the projected low temperature and wind mph. Also listed are: Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise and Moonset and the Moon Phase

II. Fog Tricks with the help of the Digital Darkroom

- A. Simulated Fog using GIMP, the GNU Image Manipulation Program (This is a free digital darkroom program that includes layering options)
Go to: www.gimp.org/Tutorials/SimulatedFog/
You can create fog were there was none, just using brushes and filters.
- B. YouTube — Add Fog and Mist in Photoshop. This method uses an extra photograph of clouds, and tweaking that new image layer into fog.
- C. Download [Photoshop Brushes Series 42 - mist, vapor and fog effects.](#)

III. The video: **Shooting Weather with Gallen Rowell** — Dealing with Sunrises, Sunsets, Moonrises, moonsets, rain and rainbows.