

Fog

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Clouds that form near the ground are called fog. Clouds are made when the air is full of water vapor. The water vapor condenses when the air comes into contact with the cold ground. Fog is thicker than mist. A dense fog can be the most dangerous type of cloud, because it is such a hazard to drivers. Driving in fog is very dangerous and drivers must be careful because the headlights can be blinding. Fog can be seen close to the ground on a winter morning. Fog occurs after the very cold ground has cooled the air. Cold air sinks and collects at the bottom of valleys. Fog can be seen at sea when wind blows damp air over cold seawater. Smog is a smoky fog. This is more common in cities. The air contains many extra particles such as dust or smoke released by some industries. Water vapor condenses on these to form smog. This is worsened by an effect called inversion. Inversion is a layer of warm air that prevents the surface air from rising. The pollutants in the air are trapped at ground level.