

Emergency response vehicle trial

During April/May 2015, the NZ Transport Agency is trialling a **FREE** emergency response vehicle on Wellington's urban motorway.

The emergency response vehicle trial:

- is **FREE** for people whose cars are removed from the motorway during trial hours
- runs during peak traffic hours - 6.30 to 9.30am, and 3.30 to 6.30pm - in April and May
- covers both directions but is more targeted at the peak hour direction
- includes the area from the Terrace Tunnel to Churton Park on SH1, and to Petone on SH2.

WHY WE'RE RUNNING THE TRIAL

As part of building the Ngauranga to Aotea upgrade, traffic lanes have been narrowed and road shoulder space reduced in some areas. We want to remove any vehicles that obstruct peak hour traffic as quickly as possible to keep traffic moving smoothly and to keep everyone safe.

HOW THE TRIAL WORKS

A tow truck is parked near the work area on stand-by during peak traffic hours. Operators in the Transport Operations Centre are alerted to an incident by detectors and/or cameras. They alert the tow truck driver and direct him/her to the incident. The tow truck removes the vehicle to a designated safe location and returns to the stand-by location.

Questions you might have

CAN I CHOOSE WHERE MY CAR GETS TOWED TO?

No, not during the hours of the trial. The tow truck needs to be available again to respond to another incident on the highway as soon as possible. Your car will be removed to the closest designated safe location (the driver will tell you where your car is being taken to). You might be able to enter into a private arrangement with the tow company to return and move your vehicle from the designated safe location when the peak hour trial is finished.

MAY I GO WITH MY CAR?

Yes. One or two people may travel in the tow truck to the designated safe location.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CAR AFTER IT'S TOWED TO A SAFE LOCATION?

Once your car has been removed to a designated safe location, it's your responsibility. You'll need to arrange to have it removed from there at your own cost.

WILL MY CAR BE SECURE AT THE DESIGNATED SAFE LOCATION?

Yes. All designated safe locations are CCTV monitored 24/7 by the Transport Operations Centre. The Transport Agency will endeavour to record the licence plate number of any vehicle used to remove your car. However, the ultimate responsibility for security of your vehicle rests with you.

HOW WILL THE TRANSPORT AGENCY KNOW IF THE TRIAL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

We ran a baseline survey before our trial, timing the response of tow trucks when they're called from nearby suburbs to attend an incident on the highway. The trial will be successful if the response time and disruption to commuters is significantly reduced.

IF THE TRIAL IS SUCCESSFUL, WILL IT BECOME PERMANENT?

We're not sure. If the trial makes a significant difference, the Transport Agency will consider the options of having an emergency response vehicle on stand-by during peak traffic hours.

CONTACT

Email us and/or sign up for our newsletter at ntaq@nzta.govt.nz

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