

EMERGENCY STOPPING AREAS

SMART INFO

April 2016



Our smart motorway includes two emergency stopping areas on the northbound side of the road between the Aotea on-ramp and Ngauranga. Emergency stopping areas provide a safe place that drivers can pull into if their vehicle gets into trouble. It keeps broken down vehicles off the road and allows the rest of the traffic to keep flowing smoothly.

Installed in each emergency stopping area is an incident detection camera and a phone which connects straight through to the Wellington Transport Operations Centre (TOC). TOC operators are alerted when a vehicle enters the area and can see what's going on.

Drivers can talk to the operators via the direct line or use their own phone to arrange the help they need. They can then wait safely in the emergency stopping area until help arrives. If required, TOC operators can display the Red X on a lane control sign to close a lane to allow support vehicles to get there as quickly as possible.

Motorway rules apply to the emergency stopping areas. That means drivers may only stop there in a genuine emergency (which doesn't include taking a phone call).

When a vehicle is ready to leave the emergency stopping area, TOC operators can display the Red X to close the lane behind the area. This'll empty the lane so drivers have time to get their vehicle up to the same speed as the rest of the traffic.

IF YOUR VEHICLE STOPS BEFORE YOU CAN GET TO AN EMERGENCY STOPPING AREA

Here's a few things to remember to keep yourself and others safe:

- Put your hazard warning lights on.
- Steer your vehicle as far off the road as possible.
- Stay in your vehicle with your safety belt on, unless you're absolutely sure it's safe to leave.
- If it's safe to leave your vehicle, get off the road and get behind the edge barrier – that's the safest place to be.

PRE-PLANNING TO AVOID YOUR VEHICLE BREAKING DOWN

Many breakdowns and obstructions on the motorway could be avoided with some simple pre-planning. Before setting off, make sure:

- your vehicle has enough fuel, oil and water for your journey
- the tyre pressures are correct
- any loads carried or towed are secure (the Transport Agency picks up a range of items including many mattresses that fall onto the motorway from vehicles).

Our smart motorway's emergency stopping areas are there to keep us safe and keep the smart motorway flowing smoothly.



CONTACT

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Better tomorrow**