

Breakdown safety

Glove box guide

Top tips to stay safe on any road

- Always activate your hazard lights (and parking lights in poor visibility).
- Find a safe spot to pull over, such as a hard shoulder or breakdown lane.
- Position your vehicle as far away from other traffic as possible.
- Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on and call roadside assistance.
- If you have to get out of your vehicle, always check for traffic – leave your vehicle from the safest side, away from the traffic, especially at night.
- Try to avoid crossing the road.
- Stand clear of the road and move behind a safety barrier if it is safe to do so.
- Do not attempt to change a tyre unless it is safe to do so. If possible, drive on a flat tyre to a safe spot away from the traffic.

Remember

- Check your fuel, oil, water and tyre pressures (including the spare) regularly.
- Carry a high-visibility vest and a torch inside your vehicle.
- Breakdown lanes are only for breakdowns.
- Use a rest area for making phone calls, toilet stops or attending to children.

Additional advice

While the top tips will help keep you safe no matter where you break down, extra precautions should be taken on freeways, motorways and country roads, and in tunnels.

On freeways, motorways or country roads

- Stay calm, help may take longer to arrive on these roads.
- Country roads can be narrow, for your safety move as far off the road as possible and activate your hazard lights.

In tunnels

- Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on.
- Stay calm, major tunnels are constantly monitored and operators will send help.
- Listen to your radio for instructions from the tunnel operator.

If you see a breakdown

- Always take extra care when driving near a breakdown.
- When passing a stopped tow truck, breakdown assistance or emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights, you must:
 - slow down to 40km/h if the speed limit is 80km/h or less
 - slow down safely and give space if the speed limit is 90km/h or more
- Before you help at a breakdown, find a safe spot to pull over and avoid traffic when you leave your vehicle.

More information

roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

© Transport for NSW October 2019 Stock No. 45094063

