

Breakdown safety

Glove box guide

Tips for staying safe in a breakdown

1. Always activate your hazard lights.
2. Find a safe spot to pull over, such as a hard shoulder or breakdown lane.
3. Position your vehicle as far away from other traffic as possible.
4. Activate your parking lights in poor visibility.
5. Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on and call roadside assistance.
6. If you have to get out of your vehicle, always check for traffic.
7. Leave your vehicle from the safest side, away from the traffic.
8. Do not attempt to change a tyre unless it is safe to do so.
9. Try to avoid crossing the road.
10. Stand clear of the road and move behind a safety barrier if it is safe to do so.

Remember

- Check your fuel, oil, water and tyre pressures (including the spare) before a long journey.
- 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.

Other situations

While the top 10 tips will help keep you safe if you break down, extra precautions should be taken on freeways and country roads, and in tunnels.

On freeways or country roads

- 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 traffic.
- Stay calm - help may take longer to arrive on freeways or country roads.
- Take special care to avoid traffic if you have to get out of your vehicle, especially at night.
- Country roads can be narrow and do not have footpaths.

In tunnels

- Always activate your hazard and parking lights.
- 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

- Slow down to about 30km/h below the posted speed limit.
- Before you help at a breakdown, find a safe spot to pull over and take special care to avoid traffic when you leave your vehicle.

More information

Phone 13 22 13 roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

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