

Have a safe journey!



**Careful!
Considerate!
Correct!**

HA HIGHWAYS
AGENCY

Highways Agency Publication Code PR122/09.
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Useful information and tips to help you enjoy today's roads.

Introduction

Welcome to 'Careful! Considerate! Correct!' In this programme we join Hubert, Hetty and Gerald on their journey as they are transported from 1959 to the modern day motorway. Here, they discover that the motorway and road network has changed significantly since 1959, as have the driving behaviours of road users.

During their journey they learn about new technologies and experience first hand how to safely negotiate the motorway. In true family tradition they adhere to the virtues of being careful, considerate and correct to see them through.



Things to consider before your journey

Before making your journey, make sure you have considered the following:

Have you checked over your vehicle – Petrol, Oil, Water, Damage, Electrics and Rubber? (POWDER)

How well do you know your route?

Do you have an alternative route should there be a hold-up?

Have you tried the journey planner at www.transportdirect.info to see if there is an alternative to taking the car?

Before you go, check on traffic, weather, incidents and road closures.

You can find this on Ceefax, Teletext or online at www.trafficradio.org.uk (also on DAB digital radio) or www.highways.gov.uk – just click on traffic information.

You can also ring the Highways Agency on 08700 660 115 for traffic information, or 08457 50 40 30 for other enquiries. You can access both numbers via Tynetalk. The Highways Agency is also developing a text service for mobile phones – you can find out more at their website (see inside back cover for call charges).



In case of an emergency, you may like to carry things like...

- Mobile phone and a spare battery
- Warm clothes
- High visibility vests
- Breakdown service details
- Printed maps or atlas
- Drinks and snacks

What would you do if you broke down?

For your guide to handling a breakdown, view or download the Safety Card at www.highways.gov.uk/cc

If you come across road works, what can you expect?

- There may be lots of flashing lights, machinery and extra noise
- Different road surfaces
- Road workers on the carriageway
- Lane changes
- Speed restrictions

Safe driving at roadworks

The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads. For the safety of road workers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the road works.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front.
- Observe all signs - they are there to help you.

Make the most of the signs

Information displayed on the motorway is there to do three things: provide location information, advise road users of upcoming conditions (traffic management) and provide emergency support.

Distance and Location Markers



There are distance marker posts at 100 metre intervals along motorway hard shoulders. As well as a location reference, they point the way to the best emergency phone to use. In addition, driver location signs (above right) are being installed on the road every 500 metre. They provide a detailed location reference with the road number at the top, the distance (in km) from the start of the road at the bottom and the letter in the middle denotes your direction. Use these signs to tell the emergency services where you are if you have, or witness, a breakdown or incident.

Variable Message Signs



Located on the central reservation, on the roadside, on overhead gantries and on slip roads, these tell you about road conditions ahead so you can make informed decisions en route. They range from fog warnings, speed limits and lane closures up to more detailed messages aimed at improving safety and minimising the impact of congestion, incidents or road restrictions, as well as information about journey times.

Managed Motorways



Modern hi-tech communications and roadside cameras now enable the Highways Agency to take practical and safe measures to ease traffic flow when it's getting busy. As well as road signs, these include variable speed limits, hard-shoulder running and ramp metering (traffic lights on motorway entry slip roads to regulate the flow onto the main carriageway). For now these measures have only been introduced on certain motorways but watch this space for a national rollout over the next few years.

Emergency Roadside Telephones (ERT's)



The latest generation of phones allow motorists better access to make an emergency call. They have volume control and the handset contains an inductive coupler for users with a hearing aid, as well as a display to allow operators to communicate by text if need be. To use the ERT, open the door and pick up the receiver and you'll automatically be connected to the Highways Agency operator, who will know your location. After you have made the call, the operator can contact you again by using a light and an alarm sound on the phone. If you leave an ERT off the hook, the operator will assume you are in difficulty or deaf and prioritise a response. Instructions for using ERTs are found on the inside of the doors.

Emergency Refuge Areas (ERA's)



ERAs are additional refuges beyond the traditional hard shoulder. They provide a safer place to stop in an emergency and act as an additional stopping area if the hard shoulder is being used as an extra lane. Most have sensors and/or CCTV to alert the Highways Agency when vehicles enter. And don't fear if you are genuinely stranded; the motorway network is patrolled by HA Traffic Officers 24 hours a day. They will assist you, call your breakdown service or liaise with emergency services to get you safely off the highway.

A Good Read

Many drivers may not have looked at the Highway Code for years and this could mean they are not up-to-date with current road signs or rules of the road.

For a refresher, check out the latest version at www.direct.gov.uk and search for The Highway Code, or try your local book shop.



Facts about the Motorway

Did you know...

- On 5th December 1958 the Preston by-pass was opened. It was eight miles long and Britain's first motorway. There are now over 2,015 miles of motorway network in England alone.
- The M25 is 118 miles.
- Highways Agency Traffic Officers are now patrolling all of England's motorways from 7 Regional Control Centres and 32 outstations.
- The motorway network in England continues to be among the safest in the world.
- 25% of all congestion is caused by incidents.
- Over 70% of incidents are proactively spotted by on-road Highways Agency Traffic Officers or CCTV.



Brush up on your Driving Skills

A driving refresher course or refresher training can be very useful for you, or someone you know if...

- You passed your test some years ago but rarely drive
- You have had a break from driving due to circumstances or ill health
- You feel your driving skills are a little rusty
- You may have lost your confidence

A qualified instructor can quickly get you back on track and help you regain the skills and confidence required to drive safely. The length of the course will be tailored to your needs. Sometimes all that is needed are a few refresher training lessons, rather than a full blown course.



Refresher driver training will help you to:

- Read the road ahead more effectively
- Build confidence for motorway driving
- Plan for and negotiate junctions and crossings
- Overtake smoothly and effectively
- Prepare for and interact with other road users
- Understand lines and signs

For your nearest driver training team or instructor visit www.driving-schools-directory.co.uk/refreshertraining or contact your local council road safety officer by visiting www.roadsafetygb.org.uk/contacts/

If you have a disability or illness that may affect your driving you can get an assessment by contacting the Forum of Mobility Centres at www.mobility-centres.org.uk

A Sight for Sore Eyes

It goes without saying that driving a vehicle or riding a motorcycle requires the user to clearly see the road ahead, which is why regular eyesight checks are crucial.

Your vision can change so gradually you may hardly notice. A new pair of glasses could help correct that, especially at night when peripheral vision can decrease.

For further information about eyesight and driving, visit www.direct.gov.uk and search DVLA Driving Eyesight Requirements.

Medication

Medication may affect your driving. Prescription and over-the-counter medicines can cause drowsiness and affect concentration which, in turn can affect a driver's safety on the road. Consult your GP or pharmacist first or for more information visit www.direct.gov.uk and search DVLA.

For further information or to view this film online, please visit www.highways.gov.uk/ccc

Questions and Comments

Please call: 08457 50 40 30* (direct or via RNID Tynetalk) or email: ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Traffic Information

For live traffic information call: 08700 660 115* or visit www.highways.gov.uk/traffic

Route Planning

For route planning advice visit www.transportdirect.info

You can use these information services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

And if you need help with any Highways Agency Information, please call: **08457 50 40 30*** and we will assist you.

*Calls from landlines to 08457 and 08700 numbers can cost up to 8p per minute, but are free from some landline providers: mobiles usually cost more. Please check costs with your service provider.