

APPROVED STANDARD MESSAGES REGISTER

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Acceptable Standard Messages

Incident Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
ASH FALLS	ASH FALLS	To indicate ash (e.g. volcanic eruption)
BLEEDING TAR	CAUTION BLEEDING TAR TAKE EXTRA CARE	Used when high temperatures are melting the road surface
BREAKDOWN	BREAKDOWN LANE CLOSED	Used to describe a Breakdown and be more specific than "Incident"
CONGESTION	HOLIDAY CONGESTION	
CRASH	CRASH LONG DELAYS	CRASH (or INCIDENT) are to be used, and not ACCIDENT
CYCLISTS	CYCLISTS NEXT 10 KM	
DEBRIS		
EVENT	PUBLIC EVENT EXPECT DELAYS	Event type may be put prior to EVENT like PUBLIC, RACING, RUNNING etc but should never advertise a specific event by name
FIRE	TOTAL FIRE BAN	
FLOODING		Used when it can be considered more than just Surface Water
HEAVY RAIN		
HIGH SEAS	HIGH SEAS TAKE EXTRA CARE	
HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS	HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS TAKE EXTRA CARE	
ICE	ICE/GRIT TAKE EXTRA CARE	
INCIDENT	INCIDENT AT SMITH ROAD EXPECT DELAYS	INCIDENT should be used where the situation does not involve a crash

INCIDENT CLEARED	INCIDENT CLEARED QUEUES AHEAD TAKE EXTRA CARE	
LOOSE ANIMAL	LOOSE ANIMAL IN GORGE	Valid for a small specific area only
NEW ROAD LAYOUT	NEW ROAD LAYOUT AHEAD	Used when the road layout has changed to a new permanent or semi-permanent alignment
OPEN	PRIOR CRASH ROAD NOW OPEN	Only use for 15 minutes after the road re-opens. Do not use to show normal status of the road
OPENING	SH2 OPENING APPROX 2PM	Need to put the road name/ SH number after the work OPENING. Use time to the nearest half hour increments for rural areas (may go shorter for motorway applications)
PEDESTRIAN	PEDESTRIAN AHEAD REDUCE SPEED NOW	
QUEUES	QUEUES LINK TO SH1 NORTH TAKE EXTRA CARE	Used for alerting that there is stopped traffic
REDUCED VISIBILITY	REDUCED VISIBILITY TAKE EXTRA CARE	
ROADWORKS	ROADWORKS 2 km AHEAD EXPECT DELAYS	
SLIP	SLIP	
SPILLAGE		
SNOW	SNOW CHAINS ESSENTIAL	Snow must be used in conjunction with another message
SNOW FORECAST	SNOW FORECAST	Information from the Met Service
STRONG WINDS	STRONG WINDS	To advise that strong winds are likely

STRONG WINDS FORECAST	STRONG WINDS FORECAST	To advise that strong winds may occur
SURFACE FLOODING	SURFACE FLOODING ON SH6	Use SH number if information is for a different road
SURFACE WATER	SURFACE WATER SLOW DOWN	
TRAFFIC SIGNAL FAULT	TRAFFIC SIGNAL FAULT GIVE WAY RULES APPLY	
TUNNEL MAINTENANCE	TUNNEL MAINT CLOSED TONIGHT EXPECT DELAYS	Tunnel use only
WIND GUSTS	WIND GUSTS MOTORCYCLES TAKE EXTRA CARE	
WIDE LOAD VEHICLE	WIDE LOAD VEHICLE TAKE EXTRA CARE	Used in areas like the Remuaka Hill where over-dimensional trucks could cause issues.
WRONG WAY DRIVER	EXTREME DANGER WRONG WAY DRIVER SLOW DOWN	Used when there is a vehicle travelling on the wrong side of the road.
SNOW/ICE		Used when both impacting the road
WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS		Used for generic messaging which covers a multitude of weather situations.

Action Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
CHAINS ESSENTIAL	FROM SPRINGFIELD CHAINS ESSENTIAL	Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead
CHECK YOUR HEADLIGHTS		Used by itself to display for a short time to alert vehicles with no headlights on
CONSIDER	SH1 INCIDENT MAJOR DELAYS CONSIDER SH16/SH18	Used when best route is dependent on traveller destination
EXTREME DANGER	EXTREME DANGER WRONG WAY DRIVER SLOW DOWN	
FOLLOW DETOUR	ROAD CLOSED 2 KM AHEAD FOLLOW DETOUR	Use when a detour is signposted
MAINTAIN A SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCE	SURFACE WATER: MAINTAIN A SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCE	
NO TOWING	CHAINS ESSENTIAL/ NO TOWING	Normally when contractors require chains there is also a restriction on towing vehicles.
PASS WITH CARE	INCIDENT AHEAD PASS WITH CARE	Used when there is an incident on the shoulder or the centre median not blocking but close to the fog line
PULL OVER NOW		Used on the Overheight system
PREPARE TO STOP	ROADWORKS QUEUES AHEAD PREPARE TO STOP	In alignment with the terminology displayed on the D-signs for ramp signals. Useful for abrupt queues from roadworks
REDUCE SPEED		
SECURE YOUR LOADS		

TAKE EXTRA CARE	HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS TAKE EXTRA CARE	Use this instead of: drive with caution, drive with care etc.
USE	USE SH1, SH57, SH3 & SH2 CRASH USE RIGHT LANE	Used when multiple SH are needed for the detour. Also used for message like USE RIGHT LANES

Location Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
PRIOR	SH2 PRIOR TO PETONE	
AFTER	SH3 CLOSED AFTER SMITH RD	
AHEAD	ROADWORKS AHEAD TAKE EXTRA CARE	Used ahead for situations where the incident is in close proximity to the VMS.
AT	AT CLYDE ROAD	Used when the mway is closed between the off and on ramps at an I/C
BEFORE	CRASH BEFORE CLAY ST EXPECT DELAYS	
BUS LANE	INCIDENT BUS LANE BLOCKED PASS WITH CARE	
CLEARWAY	CLEARWAY BLOCKED	Used when clearway times are not adhered to.
EXIT	ROADWORKS MAHUNGA DR EXIT TAKE EXTRA CARE MOTORWAY CLOSED AFTER MASSEY RD AIRPORT USE EXIT 8	

FROM	FROM SPRING ST WIND WARNING	
IN TUNNEL	ROADWORKS LANE CLOSED IN TUNNEL	
LANE [NUMBER]	INCIDENT ON HARBOUR BRIDGE LANE 3 BLOCKED	Used mostly on the harbour bridge to specify the lanes
LEFT LANE // CENTRE LANE // RIGHT LANE	INCIDENT AHEAD LEFT LANE BLOCKED	Used to indicate which lane the blockage is
LINK	QUEUES LINK TO SH1 SOUTH	When one SH changes to another
OFFRAMP	OFFRAMP CLOSED USE TAYLORS EXIT	
ON	INCIDENT ON HARBOUR BRIDGE	Generally used on a structure i.e bridge, interchange or flyover
ONRAMP	TUAM ONRAMP CLOSED	
OFFRAMP	MURPHY ST OFFRAMP	
OVERBRIDGE	INCIDENT AFTER PENROSE RD OVERBRIDGE	
TO	TO SPRINGFIELD ROAD CLOSED ROADWORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA	Used when there are two possible routes downstream or identifying a specific stretch of road
SHOULDER	INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER PASS WITH CARE	Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend

VIA	SH20A CLOSED DETOUR VIA SH20	
VIADUCT	INCIDENT ON NEWMARKET VIADUCT	

Information Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
BLOCKED	INCIDENT AHEAD LEFT LANE BLOCKED	Used when there are no emergency service vehicles or traffic management managing the incident
CLOSED	SH2 CLOSED UPDATE AT 2PM	
EXPECT DELAYS	ROADWORKS EXPECT DELAYS	Use for delays. Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
LONG DELAYS	SURFACE FLOODING LONG DELAYS	Use for long delays. Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
MAJOR DELAYS		Use for major delays. Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
NO LEFT TURN	ROADWORKS REDOUBT RD NO LEFT TURN	Used when there is an incident or roadworks on an arterial road directly off the motorway
STOP ON REQUEST	ROADWORKS STOP ON REQUEST	Often used for Stop/Go works
TAKE EXTRA CARE		
TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS // TURN ON HEADLIGHTS		Used by itself when check your headlights has not worked.

XxMIN DELAYS	ROADWORKS 30MIN DELAYS	When delay times are known and unlikely to change
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Audience Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
DESTINATION NAME	CHRISTCHURCH USE ALT ROUTE	
MOTORCYCLES		
TRUCKS	LINDIS PASS CLOSED TO TRUCKS	
VEHICLES TOWING	FROM OTIRA NO TOWING	

Acceptable Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning	Notes
ALT	Alternative	
AM	Ante Meridiem – time between midnight and noon	
APPROX	Approximately	
AVE	Avenue	
DR	Drive	
E-BND	Eastbound	Only to be used on D signs
ESTBND	Eastbound	
EXPWY	Expressway	
FRI	Friday	
FRM	From	
HBR	Harbour	
HWY	Highway	
INFO	Information	

JCT	Junction	Only use as part of a road or location name e.g. Hanmer Junction. This should not be used to indicate an intersection
LN	Lane	Used in conjunction with the road name e.g. Truman Ln
MAINT	Maintenance	
MIN/S	Minute / Minutes	
MON	Monday	
MWAY	Motorway	
N-BND	Northbound	Only to be used on D signs
NTHBND	Northbound	
PL	Place	
PM	Post Meridiem – time between noon and midnight	
RD	Road	
SAT	Saturday	
S-BND	Southbound	Only to be used on D signs
STHBND	Southbound	
SH	State Highway	
ST	Street	
SUN	Sunday	
THU	Thursday	
THURS	Thursday	
TUE	Tuesday	
W-BND	Westbound	Only to be used on D signs
WSTBND	Westbound	
WED	Wednesday	

Unacceptable Messages

Message Term	Notes
ALTERNATE ROAD CLOSED	
ALTERNATE ROAD OPEN	
AVALANCHE LOW	
AVALANCHE MODERATE	
BEYOND	
CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED	
CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE	
DETOUR IN PLACE	
DETOUR VIA	
DUE TO	
FALLING	
MAJOR FLOODING	
OPEN SNOW	
SEALING	
SEVERE FLOODING	
SEVERE FLOODING HAZARD	
UNDER REPAIR	
USE OTHER ROUTE	
VARIOUS SITES	
WET SURFACE	
WIND WARNING	

Unacceptable Abbreviations

Unacceptable Abbreviation	Full Text
(E)	East
(N)	North
(S)	South
(W)	West
ACDNT	Accident
AVALANCH	Avalanche
BVD	Boulevard
CAN'T	Cannot
CNTR	Centre
DON'T	Do not
E/BND	East-bound
EB	East-bound
EMER	Emergency
ENT	Enter
ENT	Entrance
FWY	Freeway
LN	Lane
LT	Left
N/BND	North-bound
NB	North-bound
NORM	Normal
PKING	Parking
POS	Possible
RT	Right
S/BND	South-bound
SB	South-bound
SERV	Service
SHLDR	Shoulder

SLIP	Slippery
SPD	Speed
TRAF	Traffic
TRVLRS	Travellers
W/BND	West-bound
WB	West-bound
WON'T	Will not