

# WHAT SHOULD A DRIVER DO DURING A TRUCK BREAKDOWN?

1. Get the vehicle off the road if possible, preferably at least 3 metres from any passing traffic, but make sure you park it in a stable location (i.e. not on a soft verge where you risk it rolling over).
2. Put the [hazard warning lights](#) on and make sure they're clean so they're visible from a good distance.
3. Exit the vehicle on the side away from passing traffic, wearing at minimum a hi-vis vest. If your trucks are yellow, use pink or orange vests and vice versa. Don't stand in front of your lights.
4. Place hazard warning triangles at the mandated distances (see below). If you have cones, use those too. Don't use hazard warning triangles on a motorway as they will impede repair vehicles.
5. Contact your company via mobile phone, radio or GPS system to have them organise emergency repairs. Don't attempt repairs yourself unless you are authorised and can do so safely.
6. If the vehicle is in a dangerous position, has left slippery fluid on the road or is carrying dangerous goods that could cause a hazard, contact police for assistance.
7. If you can't get hold of your company, you may be able to get hold of nearby truck drivers on your radio who can relay a message, or a passing motorist may be able to help; provide a passing motorist written instructions.
8. Chock the wheels if you have had to stop on a hill.
9. If your load is time-sensitive, such as mixed concrete, chilled freight or livestock, you should have contingency plans.
10. Don't leave the truck unless absolutely essential.
11. Get the truck towed to a place where it can be repaired if attempting repairs on the side of the road will be too dangerous.

## Recommended distances for reflective warning triangles

It's best to store your warning triangles on the left-hand side of your truck.

Light trucks and cars: 50-100m in front and behind

Heavy trucks (GVM of 12 tonnes or more): 200-250m in front and behind and at the side of the rear of the truck