

**DRIVING SAFELY
WHEN A RED X
SIGNAL IS SHOWN**

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE RED X SIGNAL WHEN DRIVING ON ENGLAND'S MOTORWAYS?

It's there for your safety and it's illegal to ignore it.

A red X is one of the most important signals on a motorway. It tells you a lane is closed, to protect drivers in difficulty or when road workers and emergency services need a safe space to work.

Most drivers respect the red X signal. But those who don't put themselves and other road users at real risk.

It's been illegal to drive in a lane closed by a red X signal for several decades. Cameras can now automatically detect red X offences.

Highways England doesn't take the decision to close lanes lightly but when we do, you must move out of that lane. Please leave gaps in the traffic to let other drivers move into an open lane.

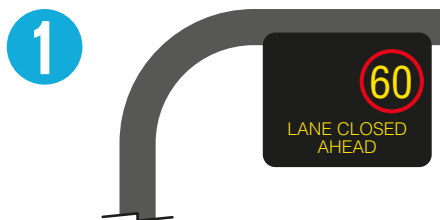
Signs will show when the lane is open - indicated by a national or variable speed limit or a message informing you of the end of the restriction. Do not move into a closed lane even if you have passed a hazard, there may be other hazards up ahead in the same lane.

OBSERVE THE RED X AND SPEED SIGNALS

The illustration shows a typical sequence of signs and signals you will see on the motorway when a red X signal is set. This helps to manage incidents or accidents.

Sometimes a red X signal needs to be set far in advance of an incident to provide access for emergency services, or to help you re-join the motorway from an emergency area.

If the first sign you see though is the red X, this means the lane is closed and you must not use it.



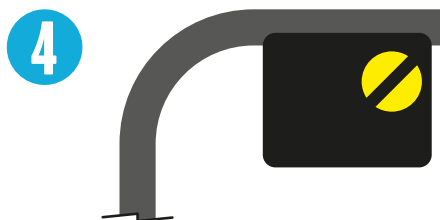
1 Lane closure warning. Stick to the speed limit displayed.



2 Move into the next available lane as indicated by the arrow. This may be repeated.

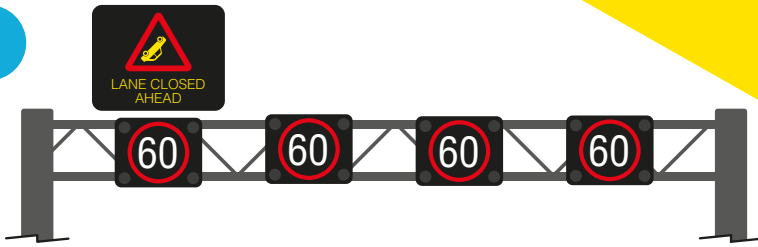


3 You must not enter or proceed in a lane closed by a red X signal.



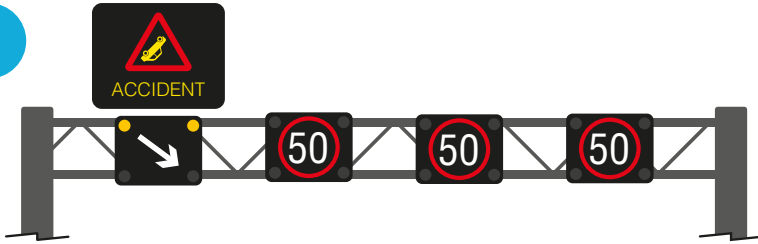
4 National speed limit, or a message informing of the end of any restrictions.

1



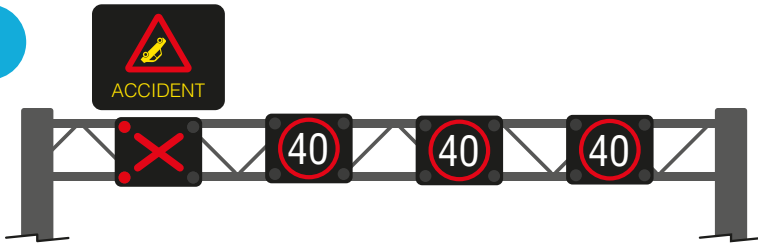
Lane closure warning. Stick to the speed limit displayed.

2



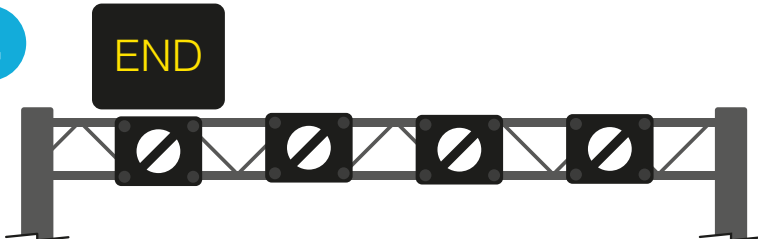
Move into the next available lane as indicated by the arrow. This may be repeated.

3



You must not enter or proceed in a lane closed by a red X signal.

4



National speed limit, or a message informing of the end of any restrictions.



**DON'T
IGNORE
THE RED X**

Remember, it's illegal and dangerous to drive in a red X lane. If you're caught, you could receive a fixed penalty of up to £100 and three points, and in some cases more severe penalties or a court appearance. More information can be found in the Highway Code (rule 258) and The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please visit www.highwaysengland.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.

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