

Emergency Stop

No matter how much you plan to drive smoothly and prevent harsh braking. It will be inevitable that something or someone will force you to take evasive/emergency action one day. It could be a child running after a ball, a group of school children messing about, a cyclist swerving to avoid hitting a bad pothole, pets and wild animals appearing from nowhere. The list of potential reasons is very long.

This document will explain to you on how to bring the car to a complete stop and move off safely.

When someone/something suddenly appears inside your typical stopping distance, you know you have to brake a lot harder to stop in time.

Using the appropriate parts of the system of safe driving you know you won't have time to check your **Mirrors** and give a **Signal**. You may not have time to change your road **Position**.

If you did change your road position without knowing what is beside you, how do you know it is safer to do it that way?

The only part you have time to do is the **Speed** part. Stop the car as quickly as possible.

With your arms locked, and gripping the steering wheel firmly, you press the brake pedal very hard. The best way to explain how much pressure you put on the pedal, it must be hard enough to make the car come to a harsh stop. The tyres will do the best to stop you. If you ask too much of your tyres to stop you in time, they will go into a skid. Don't panic. Anti-lock Braking Systems are fitted to all modern cars. They are designed to recognise the wheels going into a braking skid and adjust the brakes accordingly to reduce the risk of skidding.

This link from Mazda Australia explains ABS quite well: <https://youtu.be/ru4JIZ-x8yo>

Now you have stopped the car, your heart rate may be going very fast. You must regain focused control of the situation. The car is in a vulnerable situation (Engine running, in Drive, Parking Brake off but foot on brake pedal). Take a big deep breath in and ensure the car is stationary.

If necessary, apply the parking brake. If not, keep your foot firmly on the brake pedal.

Check:

Is the engine still running? If not, restart engine.

Is it still in Drive? If not, select Drive.

Is it ok to drive off? Or do you need to stay where you are?

If it is ok for you to drive off, do full and effective observations (making sure you are checking the blind spots) to make sure it is safe before pulling away.

Once you have moved off, get back to your normal driving position and carry on with your journey.

So how is this simulated on your Driving Test?

The Examiner will do and say to you the following:

“Pull up on the left please” (they will either specify a location or use normal stop wordings)”.

“Shortly I shall ask you to carry out an emergency stop. When I give this signal, (simultaneously demonstrate a visual signal, and say) ‘Stop,’ I’d like you to stop as quickly and as safely as possible. Before giving the signal, I shall look round to make sure it is safe,

but please wait for my signal before doing the exercise. Do you understand the instructions?"

Once you have confirmed with the Examiner, They will ask you to move off when safe.

Prepare the car, observe, and move. Once you are moving off, get up to speed like you are driving normally. If you are moving off too slowly, you are defeating the point of the emergency stop exercise.

The Examiner will be looking around to make sure if it is safe for you to do the exercise. If it isn't safe, they may tell you to forget the exercise and carry on driving. If it is OK, They will say loud **"STOP!"** and give a visual signal. Stop the car as if it in an emergency.

The Examiner will then give you the following instructions:

"Thank you. I will not ask you to do that exercise again. Drive on when you are ready.

Prepare
Observe
Move