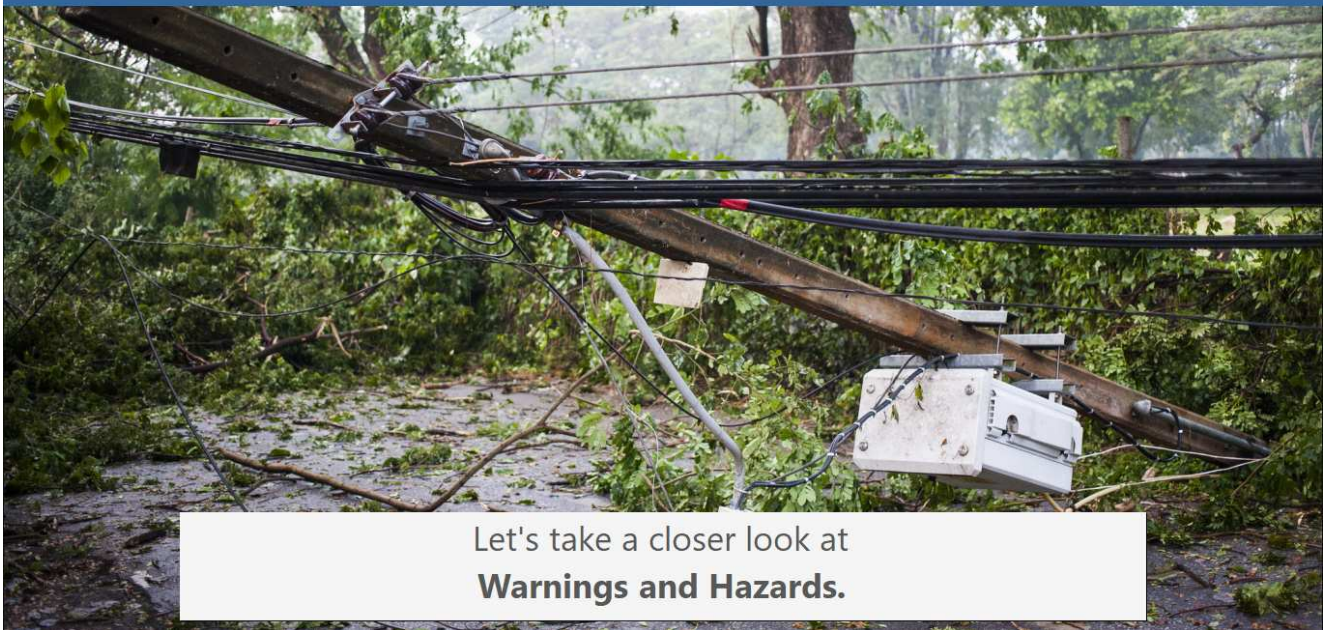


Warnings and Hazards

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **Warnings and Hazards**.

Warnings and Hazards



Let's take a closer look at
Warnings and Hazards.

Warnings and Hazards

Warnings and Hazards

When driving, hazards can appear out of nowhere. Luckily, many potential hazards you will get some advance warning of. Here, we'll have a look at some of the warning signs you might see, and what they mean.

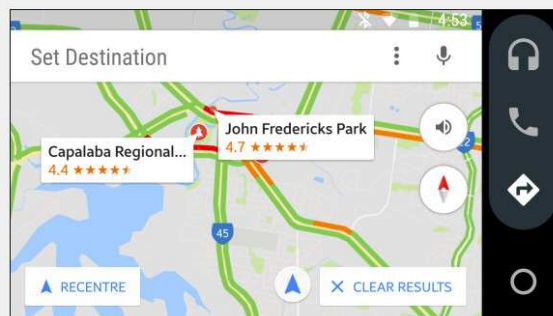


Warnings and Hazards

Check Online

Before you start your journey - particularly in busy times, or after a storm, for example, check your phone Satellite Navigation system for traffic information.

These days, the SatNav programs do more than just provide directions. They can tell you about traffic, and real-time road closures and hazards. So you can avoid the hazards by taking a suggested alternate route.



Warnings and Hazards

No Need to Panic

Most of the signs we discuss in a moment are warnings, but they are there so you know what is around the corner - another road, an intersection, that sort of thing. Generally, common sense would dictate that you slow down until you reach any obstacle the warning sign may have mentioned.

There are more road signs than you'll see in this lesson, but these are discussed in other lessons.



Warnings and Hazards

Reporting a Hazard

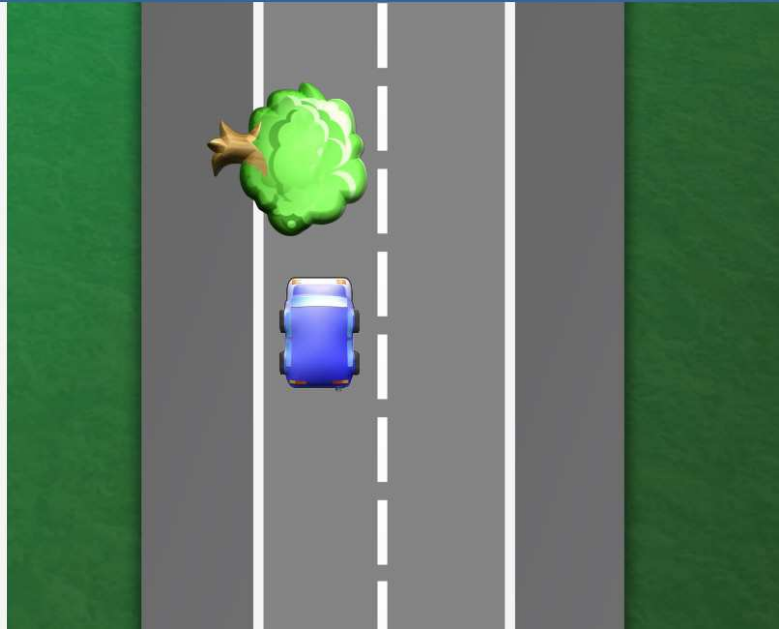
If you spot a hazard on the road - maybe a fallen tree, a recent accident, downed power lines - you should report that hazard to police if an emergency (assuming they are not already on the scene), or the local council if not so serious.



Warnings and Hazards

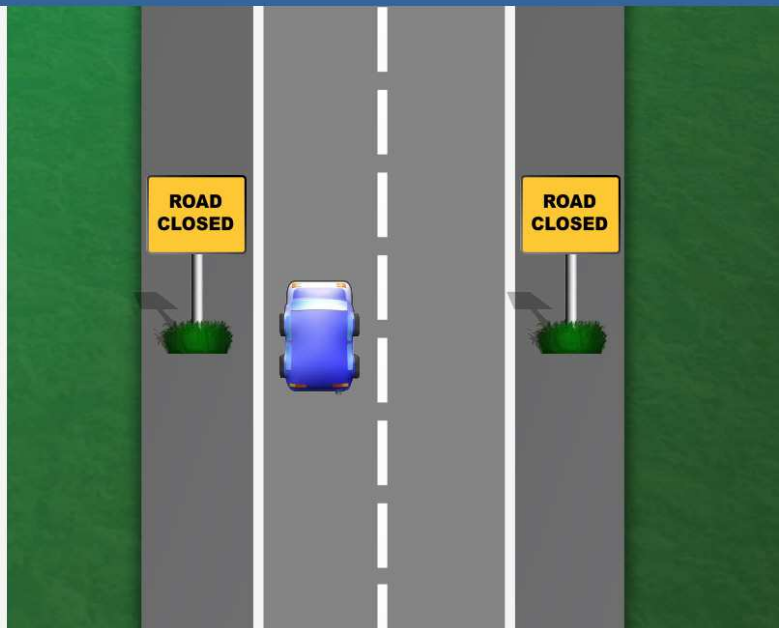
Hazards. Ensure you are always keeping an eye out for hazards on the road ahead - trees, branches, boxes, even animals.

After storms, or floods, particularly, hazards can appear out of nowhere, and there may be no time for any emergency services to have attended yet, or any temporary warning signs erected.



Warnings and Hazards

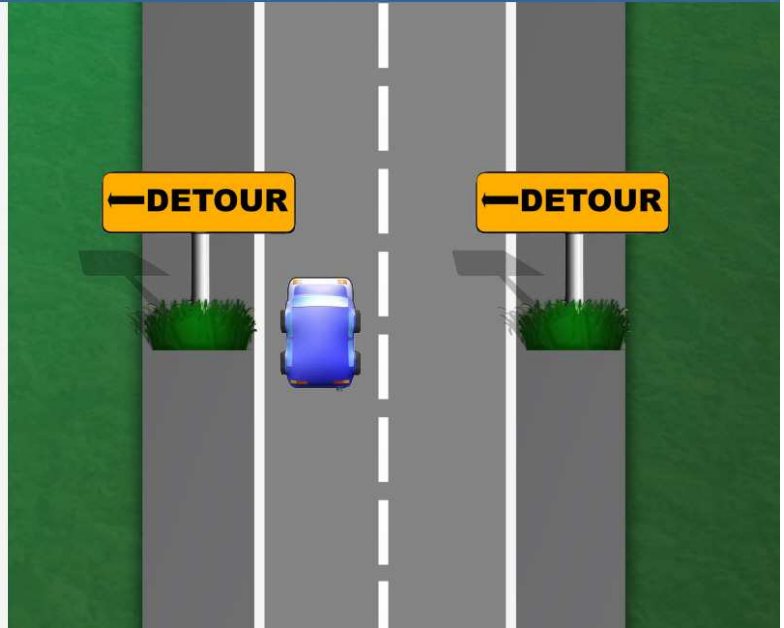
A **ROAD CLOSED** sign is clearly an important one - failure to react to this will result in an accident. A detour may be in place, or emergency personnel or council workers on the scene to help direct traffic.



Warnings and Hazards

Detour. During road works, or for special events, or for unforeseen hazards, a detour may be in place where a road is restricted or closed.

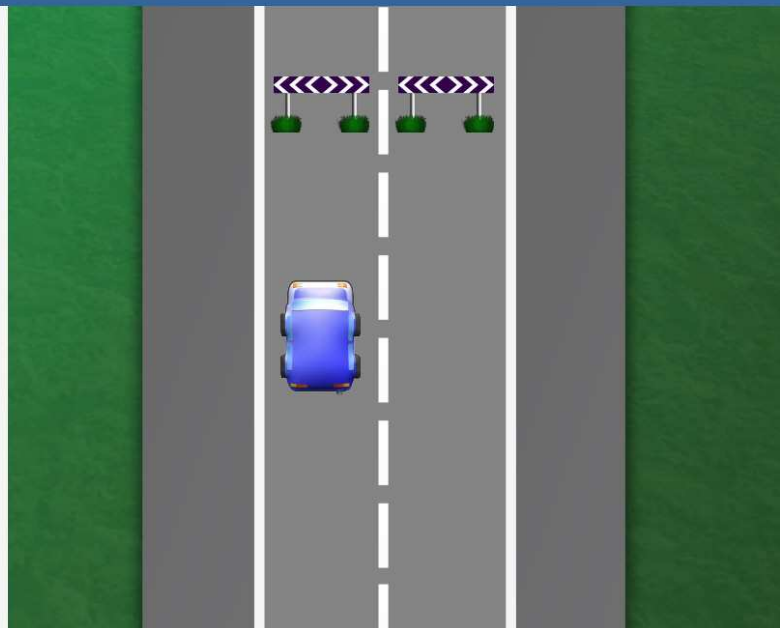
You'll need to follow the detour signs to get to your destination.



Warnings and Hazards

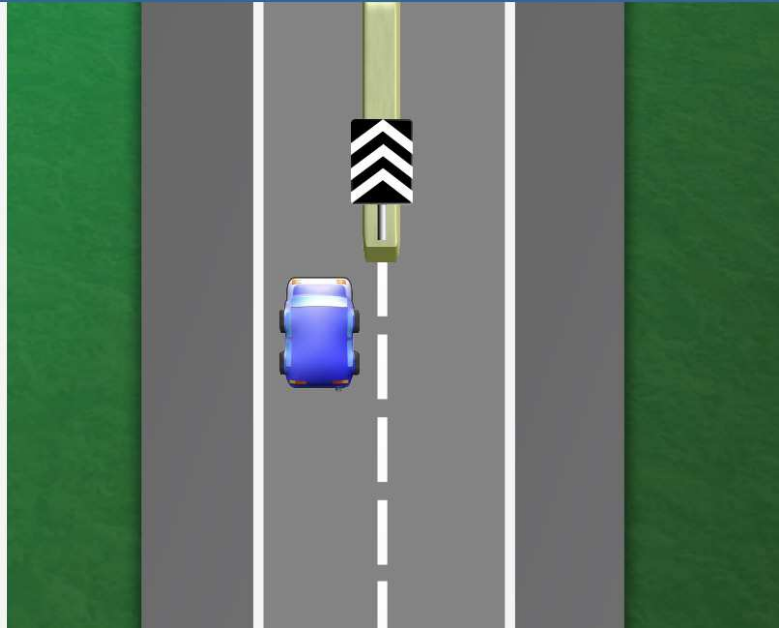
General Hazard Signs. The signs illustrated here are general hazard signs, and indicate an area where you cannot drive.

In this case, these signs indicate that the road is closed.



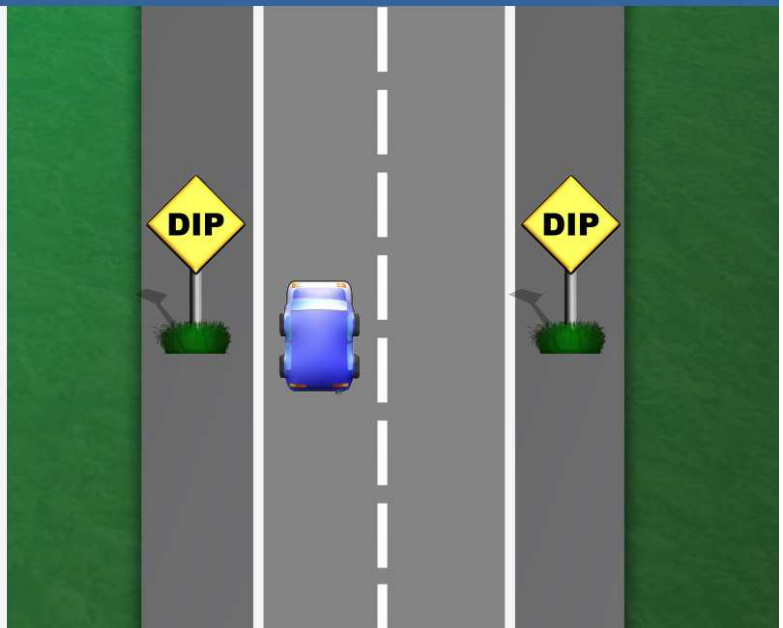
Warnings and Hazards

Here is another example of the general hazard sign. Here, the hazard sign is used to inform drivers there is a pedestrian island on the road. It may also be a nature strip, but in any event it is an area that you must not drive on, for your own safety.



Warnings and Hazards

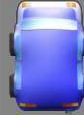
A **DIP** sign indicates a depression in the road up ahead. If you see this sign, slow down - a sharp dip at high speeds may damage your tires or undercarriage of your car.



Warnings and Hazards

Slippery conditions. This sign indicates that the road ahead may be slippery. There are several variations of this sign - perhaps **SLIPPERY WHEN WET** will be added.

If you see this sign, slow down and drive to conditions.



Warnings and Hazards

Smoke Hazard. At certain times of the year in certain areas, the bush fire brigade will conduct controlled burns to reduce bushfire fuel (to prevent larger, uncontrolled fires).

During these times, smoke may be thick, and reduce visibility. So slow down, and again, drive to the conditions.



Warnings and Hazards

Traffic Hazard Ahead. These signs are generally temporary, and in response to an unforeseen event, such as a storm where debris may be across the road.

As with all signs like this, slow down, pay attention, and drive to the conditions.



Warnings and Hazards

Changed Traffic Conditions Ahead. This one is fairly self-explanatory, and indicates some new traffic control or device is in place.

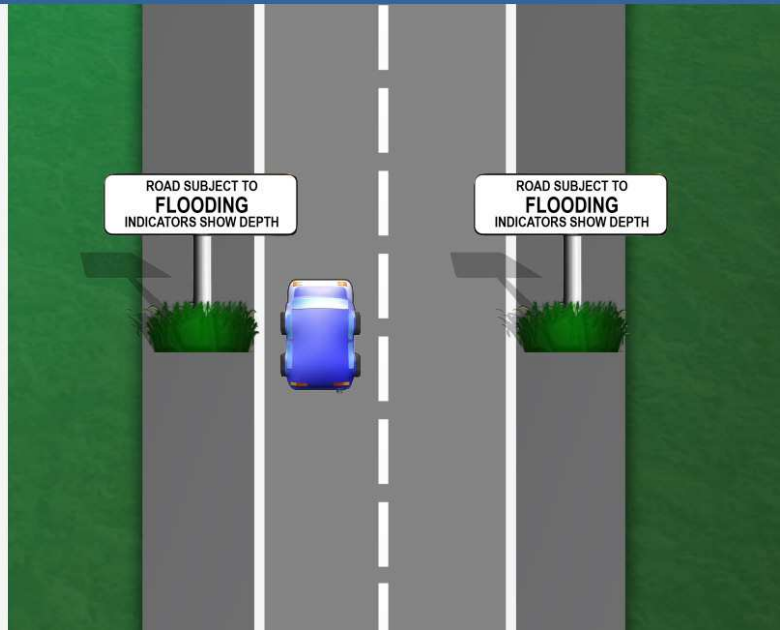
Perhaps traffic lights have been added, or a stop sign, a speed bump - something new, in any case.



Warnings and Hazards

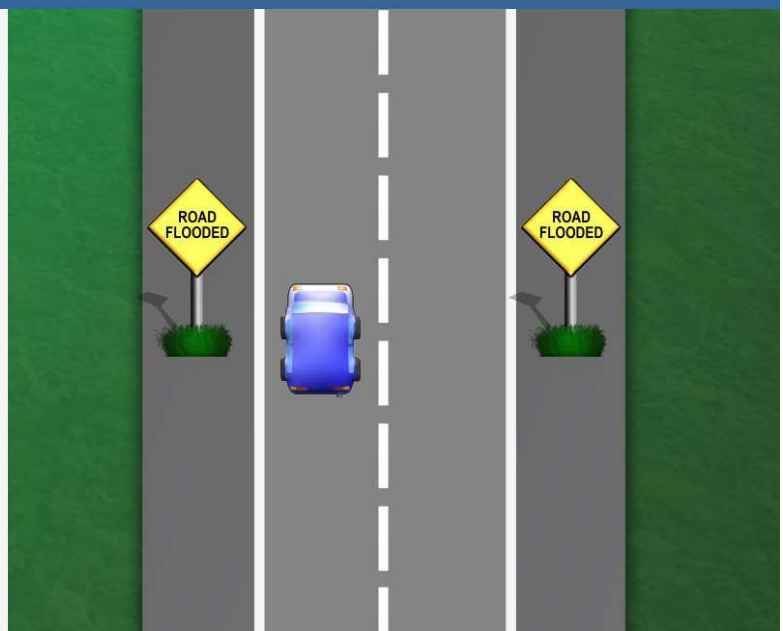
Flooding. A sign like this is only something to be concerned about - in general - where there has been a lot of rain.

It indicates a flood prone stretch of road, and in wet conditions means you should slow down to ensure there is no water on the road.



Warnings and Hazards

Road Flooded. Seeing this sign will generally mean you cannot keep going on this road. The road is flooded and closed. You'll have to turn around and try another route.



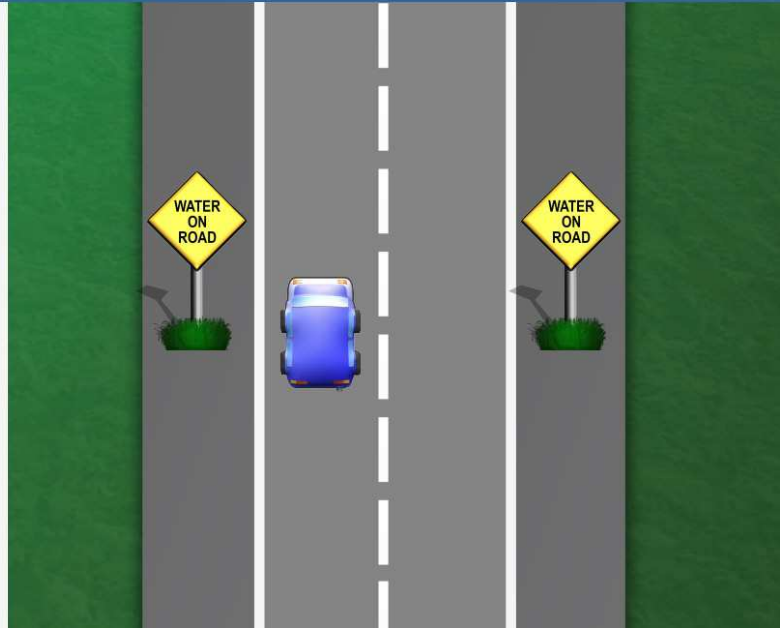
Warnings and Hazards

Water on the Road. Water on the road poses two dangers for drivers.

Where the water is very shallow - even an inch or so - your car may aquaplane (hydroplane) when attempting to stop. This means you are sliding over the surface of the water, unable to get any grip on the road, and is very dangerous.

Don't attempt to cross over deep water, no matter what. It may be deeper than you think. There may be a strong current. Whatever the case, it is a bad idea.

It is recommended that you do not use cruise control in conditions like this, as it can increase the likelihood of aquaplaning.



Warnings and Hazards

Wildlife and Animal Signs. Australia has no shortage of wildlife and other animals that may cross the road.

There is a wide variety of signs of the one seen in this example - warnings of kangaroos, koalas, wombats, emus, and many more.

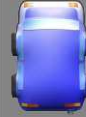
Slow down in areas where you see such signs. Hitting a large animal - even a kangaroo - can be very dangerous, not to mention traumatic.



Warnings and Hazards

Road Conditions Signs. Where a road is about to become a winding road, you'll see a sign like this, with a recommended speed to approach this stretch of road.

Other variations may indicate a sharp turn, or steep decline or incline - in which case trucks may be asked to adopt a low gear for safety.

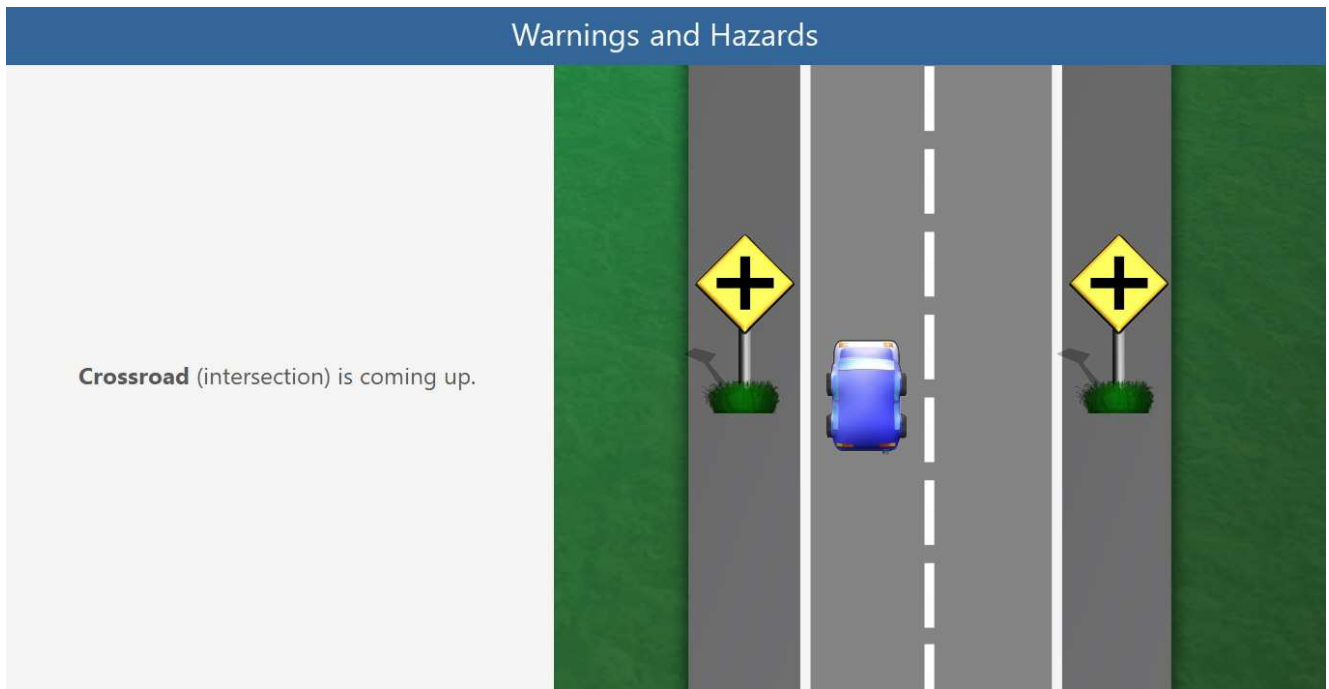


Warnings and Hazards

Falling Rocks. Perhaps there is not a lot you can do to avoid a falling rock, but at least this sign warns you of the hazard.

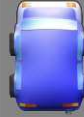
It may indicate rocks over the road, so be careful in this area.





Warnings and Hazards

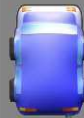
Road Curves. Here, this sign indicates that the road will curve to the right very shortly.



Warnings and Hazards

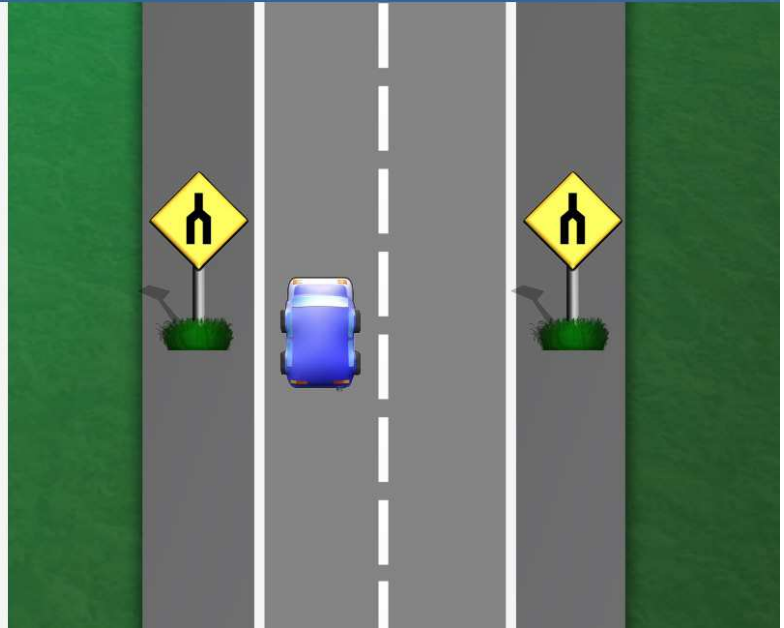
Divided Road. A divided road is one where the traffic travelling in opposite directions are separated by distance, or some sort of obstacle.

This sign indicates the current road will become a divided road shortly.



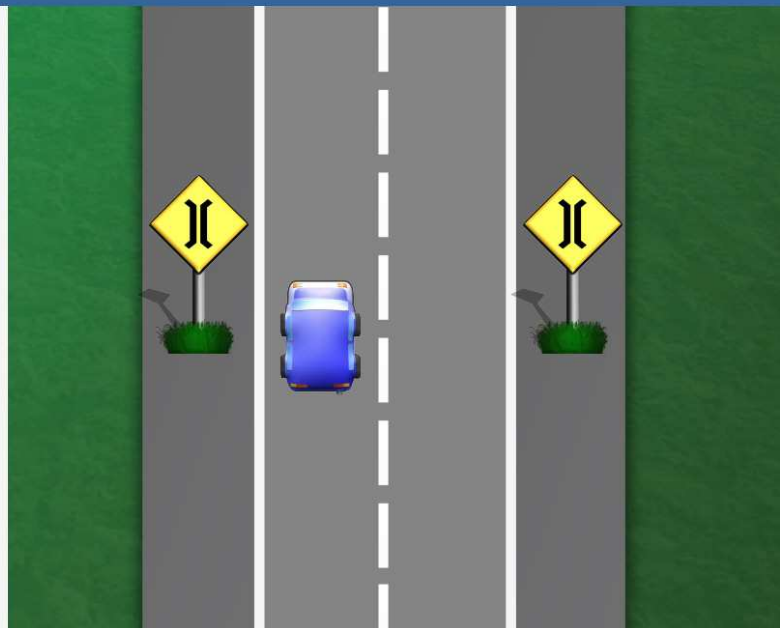
Warnings and Hazards

Divided Road Ends. This sign indicates that the currently divided road is about to end.



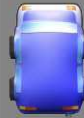
Warnings and Hazards

Bridge. This sign indicates a narrow bridge approaching. Be prepared - you may have to stop and give way to other drivers (if a single lane bridge, the first driver onto the bridge has the right of way).



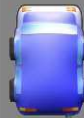
Warnings and Hazards

Bridge. This sign **also** indicates a narrow bridge approaching. Be prepared - you may have to stop and give way to other drivers (if a single lane bridge, the first driver onto the bridge has the right of way).



Warnings and Hazards

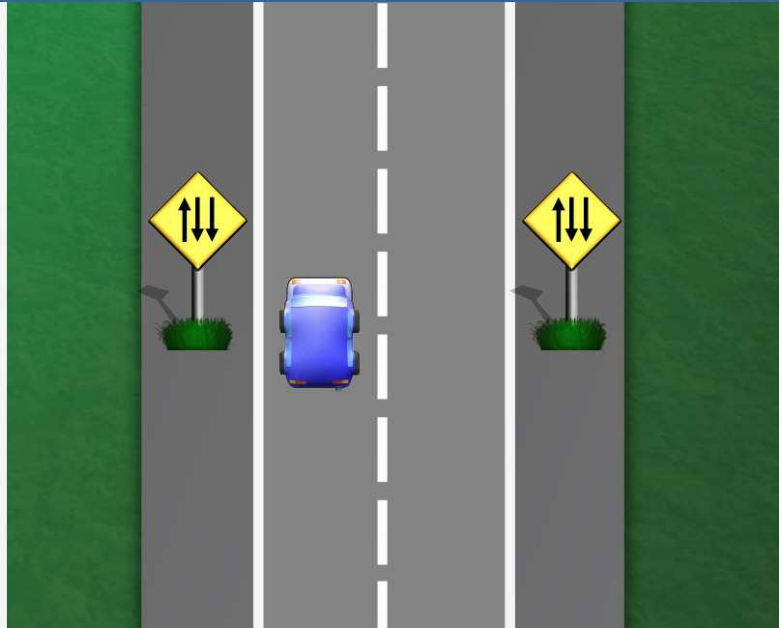
Sharp Turn. The arrow in this sign indicates a hard right turn coming up very shortly.



Warnings and Hazards

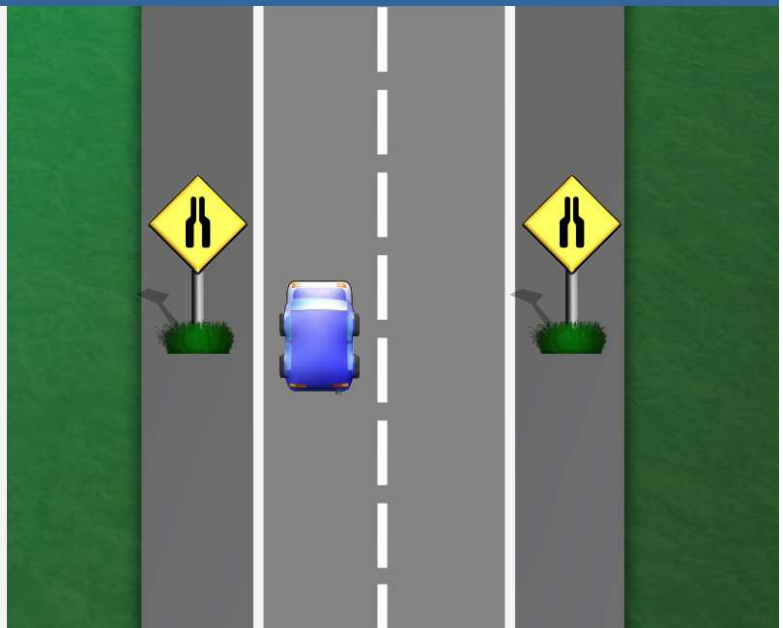
Changed Conditions Ahead. When a sign displays arrow like this, it indicates that the direction of the current lanes may change, or new lanes added.

Here, it tells the driver that shortly there will be one lane for their direction, and two lanes heading in the opposite direction.



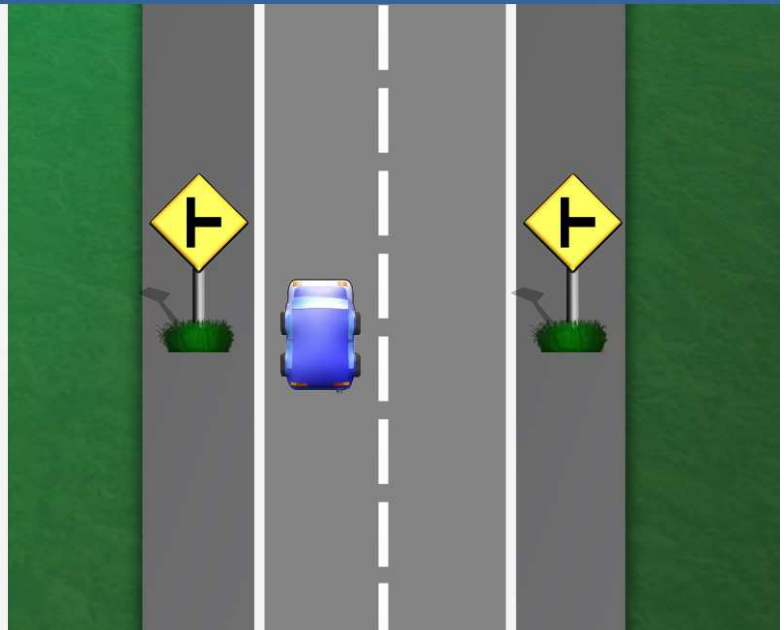
Warnings and Hazards

Road Narrows Ahead. Be careful.



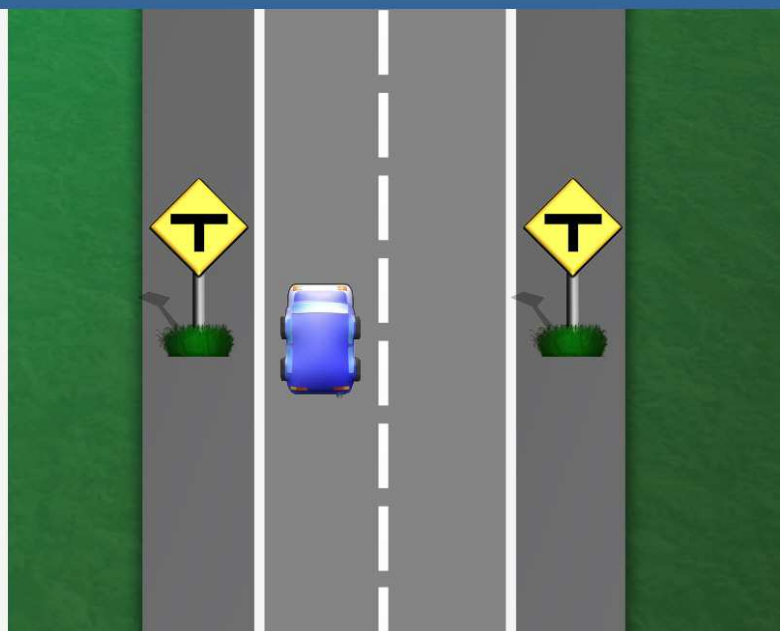
Warnings and Hazards

Side Road. The arrow here indicates the direction of a side road you will shortly be passing.



Warnings and Hazards

T-Intersection. Denotes a T-Intersection is approaching. You'll probably need to start slowing down.



Warnings and Hazards

Maximum Height. A **Max Clearance** sign like this one is placed shortly before a low bridge will be reached on this road. This generally will not apply to standard passenger cars - mainly to larger trucks who may need to find a detour should their truck be higher than the advertised height on this warning.

These sorts of signs are also found at the entrance of many public parking garages. Again, passenger cars are fine, but in some parking stations, a large 4WD may have some difficulty.



Warnings and Hazards

Obstacles. If you spot an obstacle ahead on the road, such as paper, or a cardboard box, be wary. Do not drive over it. A cardboard box may contain something very heavy or dangerous.

Drive around the obstacle.



Warnings and Hazards

Live Wires

Live electrical wires can be brought down during storm events. They are extremely dangerous, and should never be approached.

Should you spot downed power lines, call the local energy company, or the police, to report it.

If live electrical wires fall on your car as you are driving, stay in the car. You are much safer in the car than outside it. Call for help, but even without a phone, do not leave the car.



Warnings and Hazards

SUMMARY

A summary of what we've discussed in **Warnings and Hazards**:

- Various warning road signs you'll encounter, their meanings, and some tips.

[FINISH LESSON](#)

Warnings and Hazards

Warnings and Hazards

Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.

SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE

Warnings and Hazards

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we discussed **Warnings and Hazards**.



Warnings and Hazards

Feedback
User Feedback Area

Notes
User Note Area