

Predictive Automotive Safety

By Thabo Maqelepo

Hello I was wondering if you (or anyone) was by any chance be working on pre-emptive accident avoidance because to my knowledge, most modern automobiles have array of sensors and systems to avoid an impending collision with a vehicle or large animal, but in my view, this approach does not go far enough because it only addresses an obvious and “up-front” or “in-your-face” danger. But there are other equally dangerous situations which are often oblivious to motorist until its past the point-of-no-return, and the major factors that cause these accidents in my view are unknown or misjudged road obstacles, an over relaxed concentration level while behind the wheel and **SPEED**.

But an innovative system or feature could be added whereby all known road obstacles or rather hazards could be incorporated to an onboard geo database of which the system would constantly monitor for the one(s) which are being approached at an excessive speed and thus promptly warn the driver about the potentially hazardous situation ahead thus allowing the driver to take action without any hard braking or swerving, these on-road hazards may include potholes, humps or significantly uneven surfaces.

The system could go a step further by computing whether the vehicle would safely negotiate an upcoming curve by comparing the approach speed to the theoretical cornering speed plus a safety buffer. This cornering speed can be calculated because it is function of centrifugal forces around the corner's centre versus the known maximum side friction limit of the vehicle, so if the approach speed is dangerously close to or at the cornering limit, the vehicle should again warn the driver while there is still a comfortable slowing-down margin to avoid an “Oooh F@&K” situation. Also such a safety innovation could help avoid dangerous incursion at T-junctions, Cross-Junctions, Rail crossing or even at road construction sites.

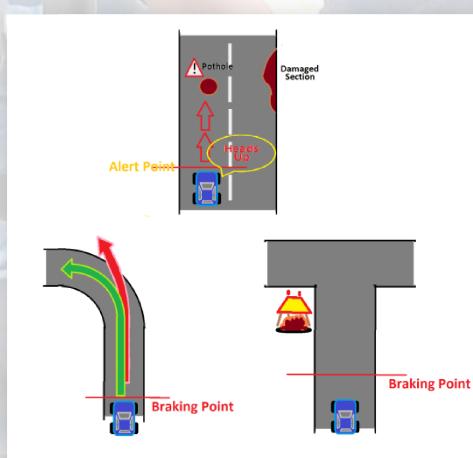


Figure 1. Obstacle Alerts.

This is not a farfetched safety concept because all the key technologies that can be used to successfully implement this innovation are already commonly available and are affordable, for example nearly all medium to high end vehicles have some form of satellite navigation and most have Smartphone style media centre that have decent processing power and some form of connectivity to the world. So for this to work it becomes a question of gathering the obstacle locations in a database, appropriately disseminating the information to the motoring public and letting the vehicle system do its thing.

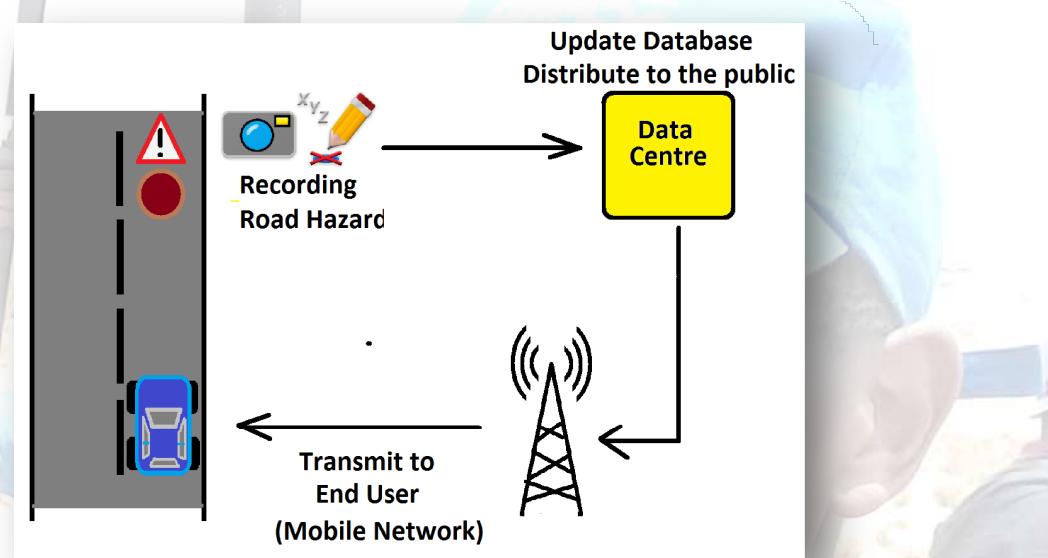


Figure 2. Data collection and dissemination

This safety feature meant to relieve motorists of their key responsibility which is driving in a safe manner nor will it eliminate road accidents, but an improvement of the safety aspect no matter how big or little will always have a positive feedback on the end-user and the industry in general and for an automotive manufacturer's standpoint this is a selling point that cannot be ignored.

I have been working on this issue on Android as part of a larger Geo-Mobile App that deals with mapping, navigation and tracking, basically a Geographic systems “Swiss Army Knife” and so far with the limited testing a have been able to conduct the results were promising and the following page show a screenshot of the mobile application (MyGIS.apk) in action alongside it is an extract of the road hazard database, below that is a sample image of the hazard points and following that is a code extract of the

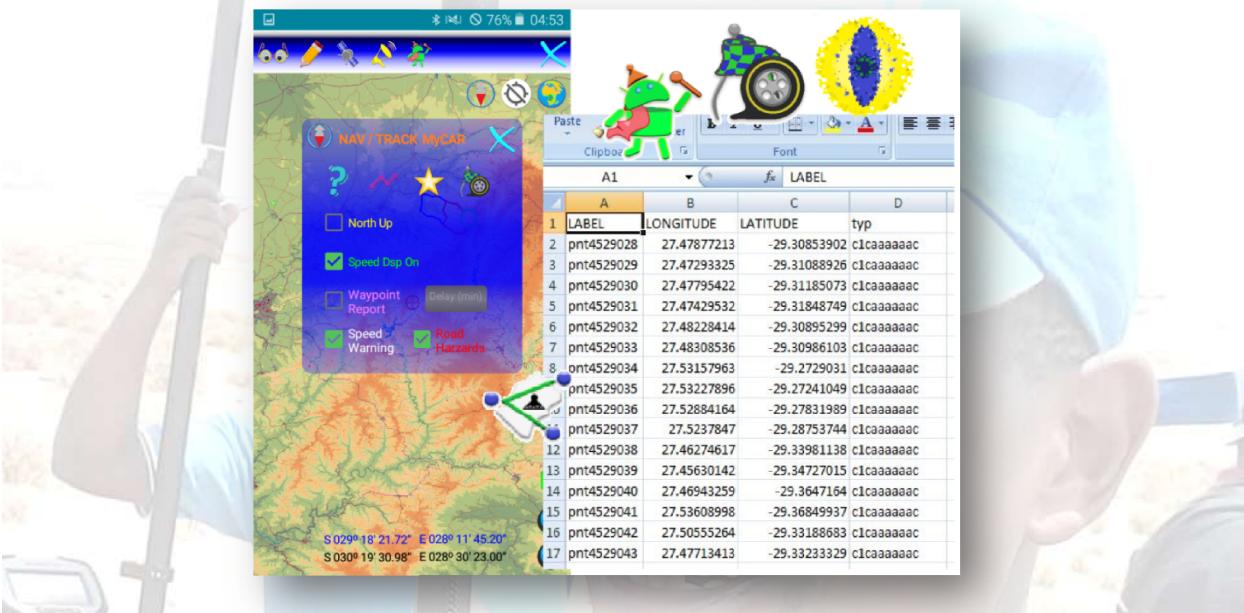


Figure 3. MyGIS.apk Drive Mode Options



Figure 3. Road Hazard Points

MyGIS.apk Drive Hazard Modules (B4Android)



```

Sub OtherDrvHazTggCfg
    '*****'
    'toggle road hazr'
    '*****'
    If(NavModDrvHazOptEn=False)Then      'set off
        If(DtLdOK=False)Then
            GetRhzAlrt=True
            DrvHazDatSetup
            If(DtLdOK=True)Then
                SetRhzAlrt=True
                RhzAlrtOmn=True
                DrvHazDatSetup
                If(HrzAlrtCfgDisbl=False)Then
                    SetDrvHrzAlrt=True
                    HrzAlrtOptEn=True
                    DrvHrzSetup
                End If
            Else If(DtLdOK=True)Then
                SetRhzAlrt=True
                RhzAlrtOmn=True
                DrvHazDatSetup
                If(HrzAlrtCfgDisbl=False)Then
                    SetDrvHrzAlrt=True
                    HrzAlrtOptEn=True
                    DrvHrzSetup
                End If
            End If
        Else If(NavModDrvHazOptEn=True)Then
            SetRhzAlrt=True
            RhzAlrtOmn=False
            DrvHazDatSetup
            If(HrzAlrtCfgDisbl=False)Then
                SetDrvHrzAlrt=True
                HrzAlrtOptEn=False
                DrvHrzSetup
            End If
        End If
    End If
End Sub

Sub MyGISDrvHazCfg
    '*****'
    'Safe Drive Config check
    '*****'
    GetDrvHrzAlrt=True
    DrvHrzSetup
    If(HrzAlrtOptEn=True)Then
        GetRhzAlrt=True
        DrvHazDatSetup
        If(NavModDrvHazOptEn=False)Then
            HrzAlrtCfgDisbl=True
            RhzAlrtSnd=True
            OtherDrvHazTggCf
            HrzAlrtCfgDisbl=False
        End If
    End If
End Sub

Sub DrvHazDatSetup
    '*****'
    'check road hazr dict and op settings
    '*****'
    If(GetRhzAlrt=True)Then
        GetRhzAlrt=False
        If(DtLdOK=False)Then
            DrvHazDatLod
        End If
        If(DtLdOK=True)Then
            If(RhzAlrtOmn=True)Then
                NavModDrvHazOptEn=True
            Else If(RhzAlrtOmn=False)Then
                NavModDrvHazOptEn=False
            End If
        Else
            HazardDatRemv
        End If
    End If
    If(DtLdOK=True)Then
        If(SetRhzAlrt=True)Then
            SetRhzAlrt=False
            If(RhzAlrtOmn=True)Then
                NavModDrvHazOptEn=True
            Else If(RhzAlrtOmn=False)Then
                NavModDrvHazOptEn=False
                HazardDatRemv
            End If
        End If
        Else
            If(SetRhzAlrt=True)Then
                SetRhzAlrt=False
                HazardDatRemv
            End If
        End If
        If(chkNavDrvHz.Initialized)Then
            If(NavModDrvHazOptEn=True)Then
                chkNavDrvHz.Checked=True
                If(RhzAlrtSnd=False)Then
                    RhzAlrtSnd=True
                    AlrtSnd="wrn_highspd.mp3"
                    HazardDatSnd
                End If
            Else If(NavModDrvHazOptEn=False)Then
                chkNavDrvHz.Checked=False
            End If
        End If
    End If
End Sub

```

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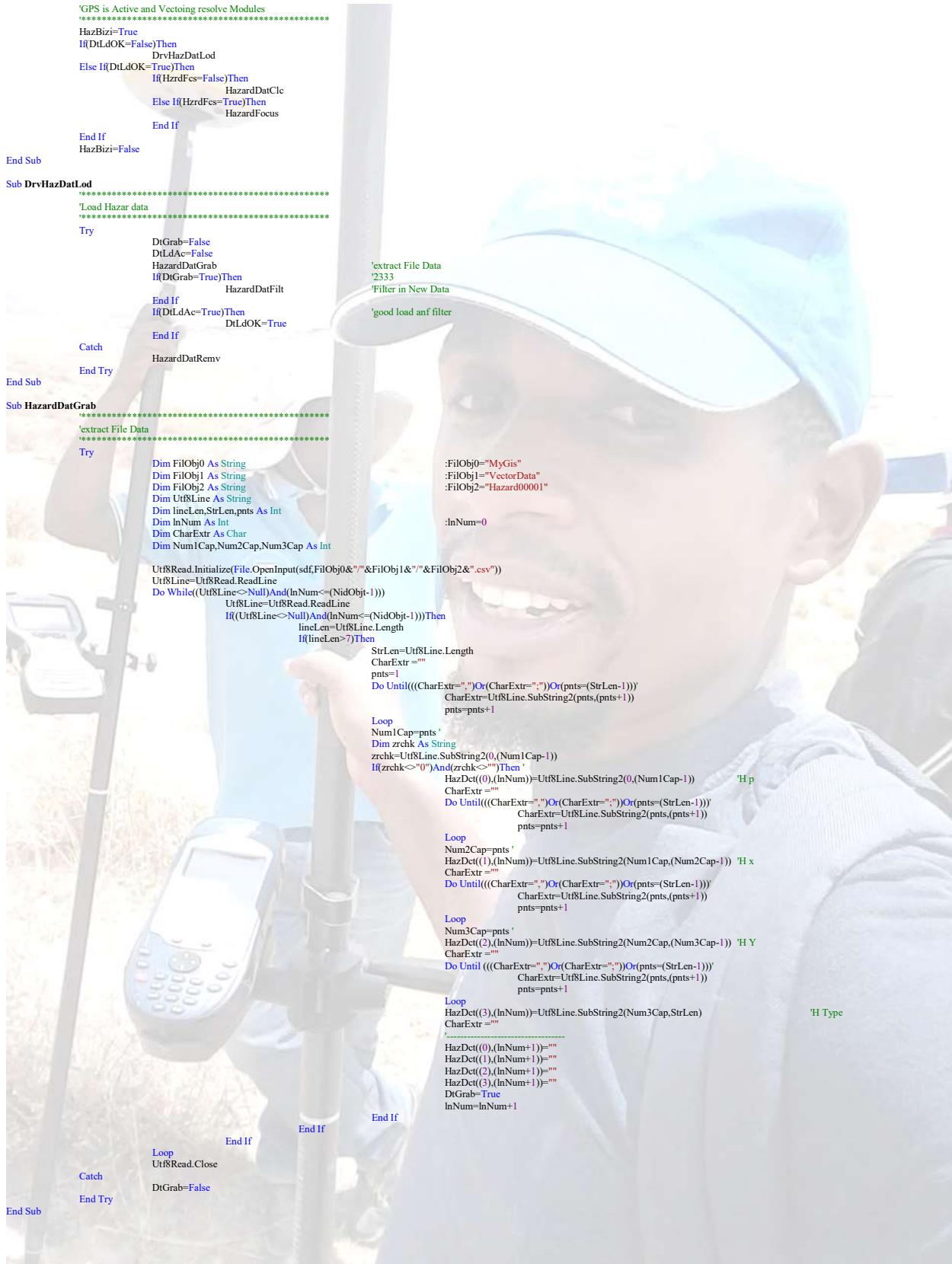
Sub DrvHazGpsScan
'*****
'GPS is Active and Vectoring resolve Modules
'*****
HazBizi=True
If(DtLdOK=False)Then
    DrvHazDatLod
Else If(DtLdOK=True)Then
    If(HzrdFcs=False)Then
        HazardDatClc
    Else If(HzrdFcs=True)Then
        HazardFocus
    End If
End If
HazBizi=False
End Sub

Sub DrvHazDatLod
'*****
'Load Hazar data
'*****
Try
    DtGrab=False
    DtLdAc=False
    HazardDatGrab
    If(DtGrab=True)Then
        HazardDatFilt
    End If
    If(DtLdAc=True)Then
        DtLdOK=True
    End If
Catch
    HazardDatRemv
End Try
End Sub

Sub HazardDatGrab
'*****
'extract File Data
'*****
Try
    Dim FilObj0 As String
    Dim FilObj1 As String
    Dim FilObj2 As String
    Dim Utf8Line As String
    Dim lineLen,StrLen,pnts As Int
    Dim lnNum As Int
    Dim CharExtr As Char
    Dim Num1Cap,Num2Cap,Num3Cap As Int

    Utf8Read.Initialize(File.OpenInput(sdf,FilObj0&"\&FilObj1&"&FilObj2&".csv"))
    Utf8Line=Utf8Read.ReadLine
    Do While((Utf8Line<>Null)And(lnNum<=(NidObjt-1)))
        Utf8Line=Utf8Read.ReadLine
        If((Utf8Line<>Null)And(lnNum<=(NidObjt-1)))Then
            lineLen=Utf8Line.Length
            If(lineLen>7)Then
                StrLen=Utf8Line.Length
                CharExtr ="""
                pnts=1
                Do Until(((CharExtr=""")Or(CharExtr=","")Or(pnts=(StrLen-1)))
                    CharExtr=Utf8Line.SubString2(pnts,(pnts+1))
                    pnts=pnts+1
                Loop
                Num1Cap=pnts '
                Dim zchk As String
                zchk=Utf8Line.SubString2(0,(Num1Cap-1))
                If(zchk<>"0")And(zchk>="")Then
                    HazDet((0),(lnNum))=Utf8Line.SubString2((0,(Num1Cap-1))) 'H p
                    CharExtr ="""
                    Do Until(((CharExtr=""")Or(CharExtr=","")Or(pnts=(StrLen-1)))
                        CharExtr=Utf8Line.SubString2(pnts,(pnts+1))
                        pnts=pnts+1
                    Loop
                    Num2Cap=pnts '
                    HazDet((1),(lnNum))=Utf8Line.SubString2(Num1Cap,(Num2Cap-1)) 'H x
                    CharExtr ="""
                    Do Until (((CharExtr=""")Or(CharExtr=","")Or(pnts=(StrLen-1)))
                        CharExtr=Utf8Line.SubString2(pnts,(pnts+1))
                        pnts=pnts+1
                    Loop
                    Num3Cap=pnts '
                    HazDet((2),(lnNum))=Utf8Line.SubString2(Num2Cap,(Num3Cap-1)) 'H Y
                    CharExtr ="""
                    Do Until (((CharExtr=""")Or(CharExtr=","")Or(pnts=(StrLen-1)))
                        CharExtr=Utf8Line.SubString2(pnts,(pnts+1))
                        pnts=pnts+1
                    Loop
                    HazDet((3),(lnNum))=Utf8Line.SubString2(Num3Cap,StrLen) 'H Type
                    CharExtr ="""
                    HazDet((0),(lnNum+1))=""
                    HazDet((1),(lnNum+1))=""
                    HazDet((2),(lnNum+1))=""
                    HazDet((3),(lnNum+1))=""
                    DtGrab=True
                    lnNum=lnNum+1
                End If
            End If
        Loop
        Utf8Read.Close
    End If
    DtGrab=False
End Try
End Sub

```



```

Sub HazardDatFilt
'*****
'Filter Data based on 140kph dist over 1min pol
'*****
If((MockLocation=True)And(PposX<>"")And(PposY<>"")Or(MockLocation=False))Then
    Dim ln As Int :ln=0
    Dim Nm As Int :Nm=0
    Dim Hp,Hx,Hy,ht As String

    DtLdAc=False
    Hp=HazDct(0),(Nm)
    Do Until((Hp="")Or(Nm=(NidObjt-1)))
        Hp=HazDct(0),(Nm)
        Hx=HazDct(1),(Nm)
        Hy=HazDct(2),(Nm)
        Ht=HazDct(3),(Nm)
        If((Hp<>"")And(Nm<=(NidObjt-1)))Then
            If(MockLocation=False)Then
                YWgsCoord1=posY
                XWgsCoord1=posX
            else if(MockLocation=True)Then
                YWgsCoord1=(PposY)
                XWgsCoord1=(PposX)
            End If

            YWgsCoord2=(Hy)
            XWgsCoord2=(Hx)
            DistCalc=True
            WGS84_Vect_Calculator
            If(WgsOutPutDist<=2500)Then '2333/2500
                HazAct((0),(ln))=Hp
                HazAct((1),(ln))=Hx
                HazAct((2),(ln))=Hy
                HazAct((3),(ln))=Ht
                HazAct((4),(ln))="0"

                HazAct((0),(ln+1))=""
                HazAct((1),(ln+1))=""
                HazAct((2),(ln+1))=""
                HazAct((3),(ln+1))=""
                HazAct((4),(ln+1))=""
                DtLdAc=True
                ln=ln+1
            End If
        Nm=Nm+1
    End If
Loop
End If
End Sub

Sub HazardDatRmv
'*****
'Remove Harzard Data
'*****
Dim ln As Int :ln=0
Dim Hp As String

Hp=HazAct((0),(ln))
Do Until((Hp=""Or(ln=(NidObjt-1)))
    Hp=HazAct(0),(ln))
    If((Hp<>"")And(ln<=(NidObjt-1)))Then
        HazAct((0),(ln))=""
        HazAct((1),(ln))=""
        HazAct((2),(ln))=""
        HazAct((3),(ln))=""
        HazAct((4),(ln))=""
    End If
    ln=ln+1
Loop

ln=0
Hp=HazDct(0),(ln)
Do Until((Hp=""Or(ln=(NidObjt-1)))
    Hp=HazDct(0),(ln))
    If((Hp<>"")And(ln<=(NidObjt-1)))Then
        HazDct((0),(ln))=""
        HazDct((1),(ln))=""
        HazDct((2),(ln))=""
        HazDct((3),(ln))=""
        HazDct((4),(ln))=""
    End If
    ln=ln+1
Loop
DtLdOK=False
DtGra=False
DtLdAc=False
RhzAlrtOnn=False
NavModDrvHazOptEn=False
End Sub

Sub HazardDatIsnd
'*****
'Play Init Sound
'*****
Try
    If(File.Exists(Filc.DirAssets,""&Alrtsnd)And(AudioEN=True))Then
        Mp.Initialize2("MP")
        Mp.Load(File.DirAssets,Alrtsnd)
        Mp.SetVolume(1.0,1.0)
        Mp.Play
    End If
Catch
    Alrtsnd=""
    Mp.Stop
    Mp.Release
End Try
End Sub

```

Sub HazardDatCIC

```

'*****
'TWS of Harzard
'*****
Dim Nm As Int :Nm=0
Dim Hp,Hx,Hy,Hz,Hh As String
Dim hli,hlf,hri,hfh As Int
Dim dpi,RelSp As Int
Dim tp As Char
Dim sp,up,dp As String

Hp=HazAct((0),(Nm))
Do Until((Hp=""")Or(HzrdFcs=True))
    Hp=HazAct((0),(Nm))
    Ht=HazAct((3),(Nm))
    If((Hp>"")And(Ht>"")And(HzrdFcs=False))Then
        Hp=HazAct((0),(Nm))
        Hx=HazAct((1),(Nm))
        Hy=HazAct((2),(Nm))
        Ht=HazAct((3),(Nm))
        Hb=HazAct((4),(Nm))
        tp=Ht.SubString(2,1)harz type
        sp=Ht.SubString(1,2)approach speed
        up=Ht.SubString(4,6)direction1
        dp=Ht.SubString(6,9)direction2

        YWgsCoord1=posY
        XWgsCoord1=posX
        YWgsCoord2=(Hy)
        XWgsCoord2=(Hx)
        DistCalc=True
        BrgnCalc=True
        WGS84_Vect_Calculator
        hli=HDGd+20
        If(hli<0)Then
            hlf=360+hli
        Else
            hlf=hli
        End If
        hri=HDGd+20
        If(hri>360)Then
            hrf=(hri-360)
        Else
            hrf=hri
        End If

        If(tp="h")Then 'Hump h i caaaaaac
            If((WgsOutPutDist<=BufDist)And((hli<WgsOutPutBRG)And(hrif>WgsOutPutBRG)))Then
                hi=(Hh)
                If(hi>=4)Then
                    HzrdFcs=True
                    FocHp=Hp
                    FocHr=FocHr
                    FocHx=Hx
                    FocHy=Hy
                    FocHt=Ht
                    FocHb=Hh
                    FocHf=FocHh
                    hFoc=True
                    iFoc=False
                    vFoc=False
                    WnFlash=0
                    WnRecur=0
                Else
                    Hh=(hi+1)
                    HazAct((4),(Nm))=Hh
                End If
            Else
                HazAct((4),(Nm))="0"
            End If
            Else If(tp="i")Then
                If(up<>"aaa")Then
                    dpi=(up)
                Else If(dp<>"aaa")Then
                    dpi=(dp)
                End If
                If((WgsOutPutDist<=BufDist)And((hli<dpi)And(hrif>dpi)))Then
                    hi=(Hh)
                    If(hi>=4)Then
                        HzrdFcs=True
                        FocHp=Hp
                        FocHr=FocHr
                        FocHx=Hx
                        FocHy=Hy
                        FocHt=Ht
                        FocHb=Hh
                        FocHf=FocHh
                        hFoc=False
                        iFoc=True
                        vFoc=False
                    Else
                        Hh=(hi+1)
                        HazAct((4),(Nm))=Hh
                    End If
                Else
                    HazAct((4),(Nm))="0"
                End If
            Else If((tp="c")And(tp="s"))Then 'Speed Conflict s2aaaaaaaaac / c5aaaaaaaaac
                RelSp=0
                If(sp=1)And(SKPS>20)Then
                    RelSp=SKPS-20
                Else If(sp=2)And(SKPS>40)Then
                    RelSp=SKPS-20
                Else If(sp=3)And(SKPS>60)Then
                    RelSp=SKPS-20
                Else If(sp=4)And(SKPS>80)Then
                    RelSp=SKPS-20
                Else If(sp=5)And(SKPS>100)Then
                    RelSp=SKPS-10
                End If
                If(RelSp>0)Then

```

```

RckDist=((RelSp*RTm)/3.6)
'reaction distance 0.5-2.0
BrkDist=((RelSp*RelSp)/(250*0.8))
'break distnce 0.8-1
SafDist=((RckDist+BrkDist)*Cmf)
BufDist=(SafDist*2)
If((WgsOutPutDist<=BufDist)And((hlf<dpi)And(hr>dpi)))Then
    hli=(Hh)
    If(hli>=4)Then
        'confirmed conflict
        HzrdFcs=True
        FocHp=Hp
        FocHp=FocHp
        FocHx=Hx
        FocHy=Hy
        FocHt=Ht
        FocHh=Hh
        FocHh=FocHh
        hFoc=False
        iFoc=False
        vFoc=True
    Else
        'unconfirm but likely conflict
        Hh=(hli+1)
        HazAct((4),(Nm))=Hh
    End If
    Else
        'unlikely conflict
        HazAct((4),(Nm))="0"
    End If
End If
Nm=Nm+1
Loop
End Sub

Sub HazardFocus
'Zero on Hazard
Dim hli,hlf,hri,hrf As Int
Dim dpi,RelSp As Int
Dim tp As Char
Dim sp,up,dp As String

tp=FocHt.SubString(2,1)hazr type
sp=FocHt.SubString(2,1)approach speed
up=FocHt.SubString(2,4,6)direction1
dp=FocHt.SubString(2,6,9)direction2
tp=tp

YWgsCoord1=posY
XWgsCoord1=posX
YWgsCoord2=(FocHy)
XWgsCoord2=(FocHx)
DistCalc=True
BrgnCalc=True
WGS84_Vect_Calculator

hli=HDGd-20
If(hli<0)Then
    hlf=360+hli
Else
    hlf=hli
End If
hri=HDGd+20
If(hri>360)Then
    hr=(hri-360)
Else
    hr=hri
End If

If(hFoc=True)Then
    'Hump h1aaaaaaaa
    If((WgsOutPutDist<=BufDist)And((hlf<WgsOutPutBRG)And(hr>WgsOutPutBRG)))Then
        If(WrnFlash=0)Then
            Alrtstd="wrn_hgspd.mp3"
            HazardDatlnd
            WrnFlash=WrnFlash+1
        Else If(WrnFlash>0)Then
            If(WrnFlash<6)Then
                WrnFlash=WrnFlash+1
            Else If(WrnFlash=6)Then
                WrnRecur=WrnRecur+1
                WrnFlash=0
            End If
            If(WrnRecur=2)Then
                HzrdFcs=False
            End If
        End If
        Else
            HzrdFcs=False
        End If
    Else If(iFoc=True)Then
        If(up<>"aaa")Then
            dpi=(up)
        Else If(dp<>"aaa")Then
            dpi=(dp)
        End If
        If((WgsOutPutDist<=BufDist)And((hlf<dpi)And(hr>dpi)))Then
            If(WrnFlash=0)Then
                Alrtstd="wrn_hgspd.mp3"
                HazardDatlnd
                WrnFlash=WrnFlash+1
            Else If(WrnFlash>0)Then
                If(WrnFlash=6)Then
                    WrnFlash=WrnFlash+1
                Else If(WrnFlash=6)Then
                    WrnRecur=WrnRecur+1
                    WrnFlash=0
                End If
            End If
            If(WrnRecur=2)Then
                'alarm sound
            End If
        End If
    End If
End If

```

