APPROVED STANDARD MESSAGES REGISTER

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Acceptable Standard Messages

Example with Context	Notes
ASH FALLS	To indicate ash (e.g. volcanic eruption)
CAUTION	Used when high temperatures are
BLEEDING TAR	melting the road surface
TAKE EXTRA CARE	
BREAKDOWN	Used to describe a Breakdown and be
LANE CLOSED	more specific than "Incident"
HOLIDAY CONGESTION	
CRASH	CRASH (or INCIDENT) are to be used,
LONG DELAYS	and not ACCIDENT
CYCLISTS	
NEXT 10 KM	
PUBLIC EVENT	Event type may be put prior to EVENT
EXPECT DELAYS	like PUBLIC, RACING, RUNNING etc but should never advertise a specific event by name
TOTAL FIRE BAN	
	Used when it can be considered more than just Surface Water
HIGH SEAS	
TAKE EXTRA CARE	
HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS	
TAKE EXTRA CARE	
ICE/GRIT	
TAKE EXTRA CARE	
INCIDENT AT	INCIDENT should be used where the
SMITH ROAD	situation does not involve a crash
EXPECT DELAYS	
	ASH FALLS CAUTION BLEEDING TAR TAKE EXTRA CARE BREAKDOWN LANE CLOSED HOLIDAY CONGESTION CRASH LONG DELAYS CYCLISTS NEXT 10 KM PUBLIC EVENT EXPECT DELAYS TOTAL FIRE BAN HIGH SEAS TAKE EXTRA CARE HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS TAKE EXTRA CARE ICE/GRIT TAKE EXTRA CARE INCIDENT AT SMITH ROAD

INCIDENT CLEARED	INCIDENT CLEARED QUEUES AHEAD TAKE EXTRA CARE	
LOOSE ANIMAL	LOOSE ANIMAL	Valid for a small specific area only
	IN GORGE	
NEW ROAD LAYOUT	NEW ROAD LAYOUT	Used when the road layout has changed
	AHEAD	to a new permanent or semi-permanent alignment
OPEN	PRIOR CRASH	Only use for 15 minutes after the road
	ROAD NOW OPEN	re-opens. Do not use to show normal status of the road
OPENING	SH2 OPENING	Need to put the road name/ SH number after the work OPENING. Use time to
	APPROX 2PM	the nearest half hour increments for rural areas (may go shorter for motorway applications)
PEDESTRIAN	PEDESTRIAN AHEAD	
	REDUCE SPEED NOW	
QUEUES	QUEUES	Used for alerting that there is stopped
	LINK TO SH1 NORTH	traffic
	TAKE EXTRA CARE	
REDUCED VISIBILITY	REDUCED VISIBILITY	
	TAKE EXTRA CARE	
ROADWORKS	ROADWORKS	
	2 km AHEAD	
	EXPECT DELAYS	
SLIP	SLIP	
SPILLAGE		
SNOW	SNOW	Snow must be used in conjunction with
	CHAINS ESSENTIAL	another message
SNOW FORECAST	SNOW FORECAST Information from the Met Service	
STRONG WINDS	STRONG WINDS	To advise that strong winds are likely

STRONG WINDS FORECAST	STRONG WINDS To advise that strong winds may of FORECAST	
SURFACE FLOODING	SURFACE FLOODING ON SH6	Use SH number if information is for a different road
SURFACE WATER	SURFACE WATER SLOW DOWN	
TRAFFIC SIGNAL FAULT	TRAFFIC SIGNAL FAULT GIVE WAY RULES APPLY	
TUNNEL MAINTENANCE	TUNNEL MAINT CLOSED TONIGHT EXPECT DELAYS	Tunnel use only
WIND GUSTS	WIND GUSTS MOTORCYCLES TAKE EXTRA CARE	
WIDE LOAD VEHICLE	WIDE LOAD VEHICLE TAKE EXTRA CARE	Used in areas like the Remuaka Hill where over-dimensional trucks could cause issues.
WRONG WAY DRIVER	EXTREME DANGER WRONG WAY DRIVER SLOW DOWN	Used when there is a vehicle travelling on the wrong side of the road.
SNOW/ICE		Used when both impacting the road
WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS		Used for generic messaging which covers a multitude of weather situations.

CHAINS ESSENTIAL CHAINS ESSENTIAL CHECK YOUR HEADLIGHTS CONSIDER SH1 INCIDENT MAJOR DELAYS CONSIDER SH16/SH18 EXTREME DANGER WRONG WAY DRIVER SLOW DOWN FOLLOW DETOUR MAINTAIN A SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCE NO TOWING CHAINS ESSENTIAL/ NO TOWING PASS WITH CARE PASS WITH CARE FOAD WORKS QUEUES AHEAD PREPARE TO STOP REDUCE SPEED Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead Advance warning that motorists will need snow chains a long way ahead Used by itself to display for a short time to alert vehicles with no headlights on Used when best route is dependent on traveller destination Use when a detour is signposted Use when a detour is signposted Use when a detour is signposted Normally when contractors require chains there is also a resriction on towing vehicles. Used when there is an incident on the shoulder or the centre median not blocking but close to the fog line Used on the Overheight system In alignment with the terminology displayed on the D-signs for ramp signals. Useful for abrupt queues from roadworks REDUCE SPEED	Action Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
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TAKE EXTRA CARE	HIGH SEAS/DEBRIS TAKE EXTRA CARE	Use this instead of: drive with caution, drive with care etc.
USE	USE SH1, SH57, SH3 & SH2	Used when muliple SH are needed for the detour. Also used for message like USE RIGHT LANES
	CRASH	
	USE RIGHT LANE	

Location Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
PRIOR	SH2 PRIOR TO	
	PETONE	
AFTER	SH3 CLOSED	
	AFTER SMITH RD	
AHEAD	ROADWORKS AHEAD	Used ahead for situations where the
	TAKE EXTRA CARE	incident is in close proximity to the VMS.
AT	AT	Used when the mway is closed between
	CLYDE ROAD	the off and on ramps at an I/C
BEFORE	CRASH BEFORE	
	CLAY ST	
	EXPECT DELAYS	
BUS LANE	INCIDENT	
	BUS LANE BLOCKED	
	PASS WITH CARE	
CLEARWAY	CLEARWAY BLOCKED	Used when clearway times are not adhered to.
EXIT	ROADWORKS	
	MAHUNGA DR EXIT	
	TAKE EXTRA CARE	
	MOTORWAY CLOSED	
	AFTER MASSEY RD	
	AIRPORT USE EXIT 8	

WIND WARNING IN TUNNEL ROADWORKS LANE CLOSED IN TUNNEL LANE [NUMBER] INCIDENT ON HARBOUR BRIDGE LANE 3 BLOCKED INCIDENT AHEAD LEFT LANE // RIGHT LANE LINK QUEUES LINK TO SH1 SOUTH OFFRAMP OFFRAMP CLOSED USE TAYLORS EXIT ON INCIDENT ON HARBOUR BRIDGE LINK TO SH SOUTH OFFRAMP OFFRAMP CLOSED USE TAYLORS EXIT ON INCIDENT ON HARBOUR BRIDGE Interchange or flyover OFFRAMP OVERBRIDGE TO SPRINGFIELD ROAD CLOSED OVERBRIDGE TO SPRINGFIELD ROAD CLOSED ROADWORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER PASS WITH CARE Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend Incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend	FROM	FROM SPRING ST	
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PENROSE RD OVERBRIDGE TO TO SPRINGFIELD ROAD CLOSED ROAD WORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER PENROSE RD OVERBRIDGE Used when there are two possible routes downstream or identifying a specific stretch of road Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend	OFFRAMP	MURPHY ST OFFRAMP	
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TO SPRINGFIELD ROAD CLOSED ROADWORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER Used when there are two possible routes downstream or identifying a specific stretch of road Used when there are two possible routes downstream or identifying a specific stretch of road Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend		PENROSE RD	
ROAD CLOSED ROADWORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER routes downstream or identifying a specific stretch of road Very stretch of road Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend		OVERBRIDGE	
ROAD CLOSED specific stretch of road ROADWORKS MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend	ТО	TO SPRINGFIELD	-
MOTORWAY CLOSED GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend		ROAD CLOSED	
GREVILLE TO OTEHA SHOULDER INCIDENT LEFT SHOULDER Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend		ROADWORKS	
SHOULDER INCIDENT Used at times if an incident is in the shoulder on a blind bend		MOTORWAY CLOSED	
LEFT SHOULDER shoulder on a blind bend		GREVILLE TO OTEHA	
LEFT SHOULDER	SHOULDER	INCIDENT	
PASS WITH CARE		LEFT SHOULDER	shoulder on a blind bend
		PASS WITH CARE	

VIA	SH20A CLOSED	
	DETOUR VIA SH20	
VIADUCT	INCIDENT ON	
	NEWMARKET VIADUCT	

Information Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
BLOCKED	INCIDENT AHEAD LEFT LANE BLOCKED	Used when there are no emergency service vehicles or traffic management managing the incident
CLOSED	SH2 CLOSED	
	UPDATE AT 2PM	
EXPECT DELAYS	ROADWORKS	Use for delays.
	EXPECT DELAYS	Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
LONG DELAYS	SURFACE FLOODING	Use for long delays.
	LONG DELAYS	Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
MAJOR DELAYS		Use for major delays.
		Operator to use judgement of DELAYS, then LONG DELAYS and MAJOR DELAYS
NO LEFT TURN	ROADWORKS	Used when there is an incident or
	REDOUBT RD	roadworks on an arterial road directly off the motorway
	NO LEFT TURN	
STOP ON REQUEST	ROADWORKS	Often used for Stop/Go works
	STOP ON REQUEST	
TAKE EXTRA CARE		
TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS		Used by itself when check your headlights has not worked.
//		
TURN ON HEADLIGHTS		

XxMIN DELAYS	ROADWORKS	When delay times are known and
	30MIN DELAYS	unlikely to change

Audience Descriptor	Example with Context	Notes
DESTINATION NAME	CHRISTCHURCH	
	USE ALT ROUTE	
MOTORCYCLES		
TRUCKS	LINDIS PASS	
	CLOSED TO TRUCKS	
VEHICLES TOWING	FROM OTIRA	
	NO TOWING	

Acceptable Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning	Notes
ALT	Alternative	
AM	Ante Meridiem – time between midnight and noon	
APPROX	Approximately	
AVE	Avenue	
DR	Drive	
E-BND	Eastbound	Only to be used on D signs
ESTBND	Eastbound	
EXPWY	Expressway	
FRI	Friday	
FRM	From	
HBR	Harbour	
HWY	Highway	
INFO	Information	

Junction	Only use as part of a road or location name e.g. Hanmer Junction. This should not be used to indicate an intersection
Lane	Used in conjunction with the road name e.g. Truman Ln
Maintenance	
Minute / Minutes	
Monday	
Motorway	
Northbound	Only to be used on D signs
Northbound	
Place	
Post Meridiem – time between noon and midnight	
Road	
Saturday	
Southbound	Only to be used on D signs
Southbound	
State Highway	
Street	
Sunday	
Thursday	
Thursday	
Tuesday	
Westbound	Only to be used on D signs
Westbound	
Wednesday	
	Lane Maintenance Minute / Minutes Monday Motorway Northbound Northbound Place Post Meridiem – time between noon and midnight Road Saturday Southbound Southbound State Highway Street Sunday Thursday Thursday Tuesday Westbound Westbound

Unacceptable Messages

ALTERNATE ROAD CLOSED ALTERNATE ROAD OPEN AVALANCHE LOW AVALANCHE MODERATE BEYOND CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING SEVERE FLOODING	Message Term	Notes
AVALANCHE LOW AVALANCHE MODERATE BEYOND CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	ALTERNATE ROAD CLOSED	
AVALANCHE MODERATE BEYOND CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	ALTERNATE ROAD OPEN	
BEYOND CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	AVALANCHE LOW	
CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	AVALANCHE MODERATE	
CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	BEYOND	
DETOUR IN PLACE DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	CHAINS MUST BE CARRIED	
DETOUR VIA DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	CHECK FOLLOWING DISTANCE	
DUE TO FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	DETOUR IN PLACE	
FALLING MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	DETOUR VIA	
MAJOR FLOODING OPEN SNOW SEALING	DUE TO	
OPEN SNOW SEALING	FALLING	
SEALING	MAJOR FLOODING	
	OPEN SNOW	
SEVERE FLOODING	SEALING	
	SEVERE FLOODING	
SEVERE FLOODING HAZARD	SEVERE FLOODING HAZARD	
UNDER REPAIR	UNDER REPAIR	
USE OTHER ROUTE	USE OTHER ROUTE	
VARIOUS SITES	VARIOUS SITES	
WET SURFACE	WET SURFACE	
WIND WARNING	WIND WARNING	

Unacceptable Abbreviations

Unacceptable Abbreviation	Full Text
(E)	East
(N)	North
(S)	South
(W)	West
ACDNT	Accident
AVALANCH	Avalanche
BVD	Boulevard
CAN'T	Cannot
CNTR	Centre
DON'T	Do not
E/BND	East-bound
ЕВ	East-bound
EMER	Emergency
ENT	Enter
ENT	Entrance
FWY	Freeway
LN	Lane
LT	Left
N/BND	North-bound
NB	North-bound
NORM	Normal
PKING	Parking
POS	Possible
RT	Right
S/BND	South-bound
SB	South-bound
SERV	Service
SHLDR	Shoulder

SLIP	Slippery
SPD	Speed
TRAF	Traffic
TRVLRS	Travellers
W/BND	West-bound
WB	West-bound
WON'T	Will not