Driving safely
When you see a red X sign

How smart motorways work
Red X the ‘lifesaver’ sign

A red X shows that a lane is closed and MUST not be used. This is so we can manage an incident or roadworks while creating a safer environment for road users and road workers:

- Driving in a lane with a red X sign is dangerous both to you and anyone working or stopped on the carriageway ahead.
- We sometimes need to set red X signs far in advance of an incident in order to provide access for emergency vehicles.
- Digital cameras can be used by the police to enforce the red X sign.

The red X can be displayed on signs above each lane or large signs on the verge of the carriageway. The illustrations to the right show a typical sequence of signs we use in order to safely manage incidents. Any of the lanes may be closed by a red X and arrows will show the next available lane.

Never drive in a red X lane!
If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.