Some Common Hand Signals

Stop
Arm extended straight down
palm facing back

Slow down
Motion arm from extended out, palm down
to extended straight down, palm back

Speed Up
Motion arm from extended
down, to extended up and forward,
with palm facing up

Follow Me
Arm extended
straight up
from shoulder
palm forward
You Lead or Come Forward
Swinging motion in arc from back to front with palm forward pointing with index finger

Single File
Arm and index finger extended straight up

Staggered Double File
Arm extended with index and middle finger extended straight up

Pull Off / Pull Over
Motion arm from $45^\circ$ position toward shoulder with forearm
Need Fuel
Arm extended to side
point to fuel tank
with finger extended

Hazard in Roadway
On the left, point with left hand
On the right, point with right foot
(Do not extend foot over the hazard)

Turn Signal On
Open and close hand with
fingers and thumb extended,
palm facing backward

Refreshment Stop
Fingers closed,
thumb to mouth
Turn Signals

Other drivers generally expect you to keep doing what you are doing. You must warn them when you are going to change direction or slow down. This will give them time to react (if necessary), or at least not be surprised by what you do.

Signal When You Change Direction. Signaling gives other drivers time to react to your moves. You should use your turn signals or hand signal before you change lanes, turn, merge into traffic, or park.

- Get into the habit of signaling every time you change direction. Signal even when you do not see anyone else around. It is easy to miss someone who needs to know what you are doing.
- Try and signal at least three seconds before you make your move.
- Be careful that you do not signal too early. If there are streets, driveways, intersections, or entrances between you and where you want to turn, wait until you have reached that point before signaling. For example: If you intend to turn into a driveway just after an intersection, wait until you reach the intersection before signaling.
- If another vehicle is about to enter the street between you and where you plan to turn, wait until you have passed it to signal your turn. If you signal earlier, the other driver may think you plan to turn where they are and they might pull into your path.
- After you have made a turn or lane change, make sure your turn signal is off. After small turns, the signals may not turn off by themselves. Turn the signal off if it has not clicked off by itself. If you don’t, others might think you plan to turn again.

Signal When You Slow Down

Your brake lights let people know that you are slowing down. Always slow down as early as it is safe to do so. If you are going to stop or slow down at a place where another driver does not expect it, tap your brake pedal quickly three or four times to let those behind you know you are about to slow down. Such as:

- Turning off a roadway that does not have separate turn or exit lanes.
- Parking or turning just before an intersection.
- Approaching an intersection where you expect to turn.
- Avoiding something in the road that a driver behind you cannot see, including stopped or slowing traffic.

Hand Signals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Turn</th>
<th>Right Turn</th>
<th>Slow or Stop</th>
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Vehicle Emergencies

All drivers will sooner or later find themselves in an emergency situation. As careful as you are, there are situations that could cause a problem for you. If you are prepared, you may be able to prevent any serious outcomes.

Use Emergency Signals. If your vehicle breaks down on a highway, make sure that other drivers can see it. All too often, crashes occur because a driver did not see a stalled vehicle until it was too late to stop. Notify authorities that your vehicle (or someone else’s) has broken down. If you are having vehicle trouble:

- Get your vehicle off the road and away from traffic if at all possible.
- Turn on your emergency flashers to show that you are having trouble.
- If you cannot get your vehicle off the roadway, try to stop where other drivers have a clear view of your vehicle (do not stop just over a hill or just around a curve).
- Try to warn other road users that your vehicle is there. Place emergency flares behind the vehicle. This allows other drivers to change lanes if necessary.
- If you do not have emergency flares or other warning devices, stand by the side of the road where you are safe from traffic and wave traffic around your vehicle. Use a white cloth if you have one.
- Never stand in the roadway. Do not try to change a tire if it means you have to be in a traffic lane.
- Lift the hood or tie a white cloth to the antenna, side mirror or door handle to signal an emergency.

Equipment Failure

There is always a chance of you having a vehicle problem while you are driving. You should follow the recommended maintenance schedule listed in the vehicle owner’s manual. Following these preventive measures greatly reduces the chance of your vehicle having a problem. Here are some possible equipment failures and what you can do if they happen: