

## Safety tips during the taxi strike

Taxi drivers are wreaking havoc on the roads as they stop transporting commuters and protest the measures put in place by the government to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and which have affected them economically.



Image supplied by [motorpress.co.za](http://motorpress.co.za)

Roads have been blocked off and authorities have been called in to alleviate traffic and manage the situation. Drivers are advised to avoid the strike all costs, but some drivers may find that this is impossible.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Listen to the news and look at alerts on social media and apps before choosing a route.
- Wherever possible find routes that go around the conflict.
- Do not to engage with protestors negatively by inciting further conflict.
- Listen to authorities who are trained to defuse the situation and protect all citizens from harm.
- If protestors are damaging vehicles try and turn around where possible and without endangering yourself or other motorists or breaking the law.
- While you will want to keep your vehicle undamaged, the most important priority is your personal safety.
- Look out for people gathering at the side of the road or on bridges to avoid being caught up in a strike unaware or before authorities arrive.
- Drive watching 12 seconds ahead of you so that you can identify any volatile situations immediately.
- If you are forced to stop or slow down because of a protest, be careful not to block yourself in.
- Leave room between yourself and the car ahead of you and identify an escape route.
- This will help you avoid getting trapped in by traffic and give you an option to escape the trouble when a safe opportunity arises.

- Be ready to quickly get out of the car if necessary. The car, however, is normally the safest place to be.
- Remaining calm is key.

“The objective is to avoid the strike completely. Never let a potentially volatile strike catch you by surprise or block yourself in when things can go wrong. South African drivers should be prepared for every scenario,” advises Eugene Herbert, managing director of MasterDrive.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>