

What to do if your car brakes fail...

No Brakes?

Stay extremely calm.

If the cruise control on? If so, turn it off. Turn on the hazard lights, then head off the road to stop. Pump the brake pedal rapidly to build pressure. If that doesn't work, change down a gear so that engine drag slows the car. No matter if you have automatic or manual transmission, downshift to a lower gear. After you begin to slow down, shift to lower gears until your speed decreases.

Now, if you are slower than 30mph you can try the parking brake to slow down further. The parking brake has its own braking system - you can use this much like a parachuter uses his or her safety-chute.

When you slow to a virtual stop, pull onto the shoulder of the road and turn off the ignition.

If none of these measures halts the car, you may need to sideswipe something - a curb, a hedge, even a parked car - to stop it. Sound your horn and flash your lights to let other drivers to your emergency.