



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Freight Mobility & Safety Branch

CACA
COLORADO MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION



THE MOUNTAIN RULES

SLOW, STEADY, SAFE FOR THE LONG HAUL

Truck Safety Campaign

What is this Campaign?

- **A strategic safety partnership:** As part of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) *Whole System – Whole Safety* initiative, and in light of the recent runaway truck incidents that resulted in fatalities, CDOT has established a strategic partnership with the Colorado Motor Carriers Association, and the Colorado State Patrol with emphasis on educating safety to CDL drivers going through our great state.
- **A comprehensive safety-focused effort:** To inform and educate in-state and intra-state trucking companies and drivers of the challenges of driving in Colorado – what to beware of – and to remind them **SLOW, STEADY and SAFE FOR THE LONG HAUL.**
- **The first of its kind for Colorado:** The Mountain Rules utilizes short educational videos with a real Colorado CDL driver to give an overview of how to be prepared to drive through the technical regions of our state. With special appearances from the CSP Chief Col. Matthew Packard reinforcing the importance of safety.

Why Do We Need *The Mountain Rules*?

- Colorado's high elevation and topography can be challenging and require motorists to proceed with extra caution. Truckers have it especially hard in the mountains. When driving a vehicle that is up to 70 feet long and weighing up to 80,000 pounds, the terrain along the mountain corridor can increase the likelihood of brake failure.
- Colorado experiences severe weather events that make driving difficult in the mountains, with high winds and storms that can bring extreme snow and hail. Colorado is also susceptible to hazards such as rockfalls, fires and floods. All of these elements can cause additional challenges and problems for trucks along the I-70 Mountain Corridor.

The Mountain Rules Video Series

- o **I-70 Mountain Corridor Overview:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQNsvtUzpfk>
 - Overview of unique hazards of the technical I-70 mountain corridor through Colorado
 - What should be considered for your trip plan, and potential unforeseen challenges to be prepared for, such as unexpected weather
 - Chain Law requirements, and where chain stations are available
 - Steep Grade visuals, warnings, and what to be prepared for, including hot brake check locations
 - Runaway truck ramp overview and proper utilization instructions
 - Mountain Pass options alternative to what is along I-70
 - Tools and Resources

- o **Truck Safety & Winter Driving:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0N612BNrm1Q>
 - Sudden Weather Changes - what to be prepared for
 - Driver Etiquette
 - Chain law requirements, including when, how and where to use chains
 - How to best prepare yourself for Colorado winter travel
 - More!

- o **Hot Brakes, Runaway Truck Ramps & Summer Driving:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bzcXQFIk9I>
 - Not overheating your brakes is in the drivers control!
 - Pre-trip Inspection Procedures
 - Brake cooling stations, and where to find them
 - How to prevent hot brakes, go down the hill the same gear you climbed up!
 - How to safety use runaway truck ramps if necessary, and where they are

- o **Construction Zone Safety:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_9qpf6Ql7M
 - How to be prepared for upcoming work zones, and travel them safely
 - Speeding through construction zones is double the fine along with a ticket.
 - Overview of Colorado's Move Over Law - includes moving over for fellow truck drivers!



freight.colorado.gov