

# Truck Tips: Hot Brakes

## COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



### Prepare for the Trip

- Check brake function and adjustment before descending. Maintain a low speed in low gear, and use flashers to warn other vehicles of your reduced speed.
- Do not “ride” the truck’s brakes; this will cause overheating and possible loss of brake system.
- Consider Jake Brakes (engine compression brakes) to control the speed of a heavy truck, but the best practice is to use low gears to avoid overheating brakes.
- Keep brakes cool by pulling into brake check stations, or onto the shoulder of the road if you can locate a safe spot.



### Using Runaway Truck Ramps

- Maneuver the truck into the far right lane before approaching ramp.
- As the truck approaches the runaway ramp, steer straight and try to keep the wheels aligned. Stay in the center of the ramp to avoid rolling over.
- Once the truck is stopped, call 911 to report, even if there are no injuries.
- There is NO fee, penalty, or fine for using runaway truck ramps.



### Arm Yourself with Knowledge

- Know the road. Take the time to familiarize yourself with mountain passes.
- Obey the speed limit. Anticipate curves. Know how far you’ll travel.
- Identify public-access roads. Know where to find brake and chain-up stations.
- Inspect your brakes at the summit before descending. Know where to find runaway truck ramps.
- Visit [cotrip.org](http://cotrip.org) to find locations of runaway truck ramps and brake check stations.



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THE MOUNTAIN RULES



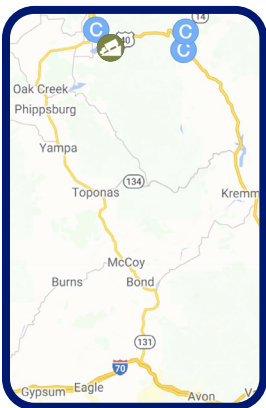
COLORADO  
Department of Transportation

## Brake Cooling and Runaway Truck Ramp Locations

### Colorado I-70 Mountain Corridor



### Colorado Northwest



### Colorado Southwest



### Colorado Southeast



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