



### Did you know?

In adverse weather conditions, CDOT can implement a **Traction Law** for all passenger vehicles to encourage safe travel on state highways. This includes the section of US 36 between Lyons and Estes Park. When a Traction Law is put into effect for passenger vehicles, a Chain Law is put into effect for commercial vehicles. Should conditions further deteriorate, CDOT could enact a **Passenger Vehicle Chain Law** as the final safety measure before closing the highway.

### What does this mean?

When a Traction Law is put in place, it means your vehicle must have at least one of the following:

- Snow tires
- Tires with the mud/snow (M+S) designation on the sidewall
- An alternative traction device such as chains or autosocks
- Four-wheel or all-wheel drive capability

All tires must have a minimum one-eighth inch tread. You can test your tread depth with a simple quarter test. Insert a quarter upside down (with George Washington's head going in first) at several points around the tire. If the top of his head is covered by rubber, your tread is adequate. If the top of his head is visible at any point around the tire, you can't drive when a Traction Law is in place.

You don't necessarily have to buy new tires to drive under a Traction Law. It simply means that if you're going to be out on the roads, you need to be equipped for the conditions.

### What about all-season tires?

If you don't drive a four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicle and have all-season tires, the tires must have the mud/snow (M+S) designation on the sidewall. All-season tires without this rating do **not** meet the requirements of the Traction Law. While all-season tires are made to handle a variety of roadway conditions - dry roads, wet roads and light snow - the tread compound on these tires hardens in low temperatures. This means there is less traction between the road and these tires when the mercury falls.

### How do I know if the Traction Law is in effect for US 36?

There are several ways you can check on the Traction Law status before you head up US 36:

- Log onto [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org) and select travel alerts from the pulldown menu at the top
- Look for roadside variable message boards just west of downtown Lyons and just east of Mall Road in Estes Park

### What might happen if I don't heed the law?

- You increase the likelihood of spinning out on the road and/or getting in an accident.
- You increase the likelihood of your vehicle not being able to climb hills and stalling out on the road.
- You run the risk of being fined. Driving with inadequate equipment carries a fine of at least \$130 and blocking a roadway due to inadequate equipment carries a fine of at least \$650.

### Where can I get more information on Traction and Chain Laws?

- [Click here for more information about the state's Passenger Vehicle Traction and Chain Laws](#)
- [Click here for winter driving preparedness tips](#)