



Driving in Colorado Summer Driving Safety

Be prepared and have a plan



- Check COtrip.org for any construction projects on the roads where you'll be driving. Construction can mean delays or closures, even at night. Consider alternate routes.
- Know the weather forecast for where you will be driving.
- If you get stuck waiting for a road to be cleared, do not leave your car unless it's critical.
- Never hang out in the median between lanes. This can be hazardous. Emergency response and heavy equipment may need the median to move about.
- Emergency highway closures can be lengthy. Supply your car with an emergency kit that contains water, snacks, flashlight and a blanket. Remember to also carry water for pets if you are traveling with animals.
- Pack items to keep you or children occupied while waiting in the car. Activity books, colored pencils or a deck of cards can help pass the time.

Drive for conditions



- Never drive through flooded areas. You don't know how deep or fast the water is running. Even 8 to 10 inches of water can float an average-sized car, which can be easily swept off the road.
- Driving too fast on wet or hail covered roads, or in flooded areas can cause a vehicle to hydroplane. Never use cruise control during rainy conditions with standing water on the roadway.
- Any amount of flooding or mud can obstruct the roadway and make it hard for drivers to know where to drive. If you cannot see the roadway, wait for the water to subside.
- Water and mud can contain hazards under the surface – rocks, tree branches or other debris.

Leave extra room



- Leave extra room between your vehicle and others on the road.
- Give pedestrians and bicyclists room when you see them on the side of the road.
- Move over safely when approaching first responders or law enforcement attending to emergency incidents on the side of the road.
- In inclement weather, even vehicles with four-wheel/all-wheel drive can't stop any quicker on slick roads – especially if you do not have adequate tires.

Check your tires



- Check the air pressure in all tires, including your spare.
- Ensure your vehicle has adequate tires with good tread.
- Worn tires can't grip the road well and can be extremely hazardous.

Give your vehicle a safety check



- Give your vehicle a tune-up before long trips.
- Check the oil level and oil filter. Get an oil change if necessary.
- Inspect the battery. Check battery cables for proper connections or erosion.
- Inspect your brakes and pads.
- Make sure the wiper blades work properly.

For more information visit codot.gov or COtrip.org

Report impaired or aggressive drivers to
Colorado State Patrol Dial: *CSP (*277)

