



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

## Trucker Safety on US 160— Wolf Creek Pass

**You Over Brake It. You Won't Make It.**

### Know the Pass

**Distance:** The distance from the summit (near Wolf Creek Ski Area), to the west base of the pass (near Treasure Falls) is just over eight miles.

**Steep Grade:** The west side of the pass is has a 7% downhill grade.

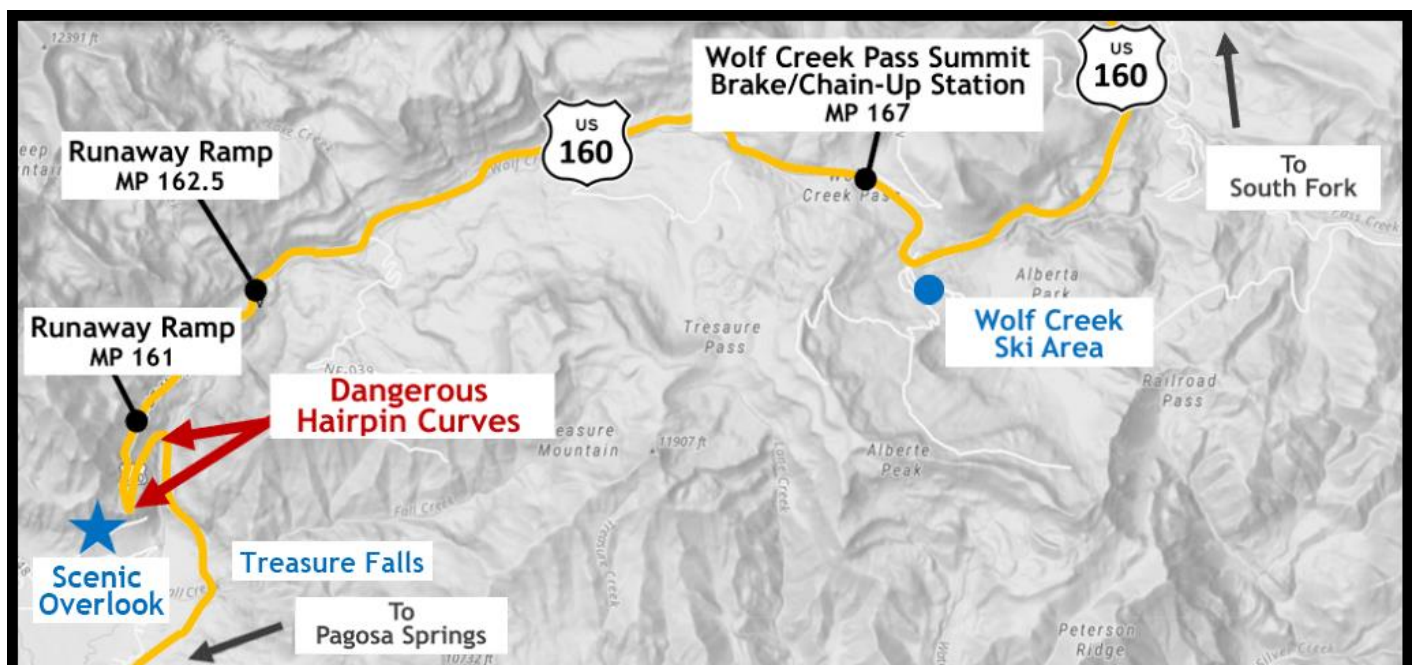
**Dangerous Curves:** Six and a half miles from the summit of west Wolf Creek Pass are dangerous curves.

**Speed Limit:** The posted speed limit for traffic traveling westbound, downhill from the summit, varies from 25 to 45 miles per hour. Commercial trucks must maintain 25 mph.

**Traffic:** Wolf Creek Ski Area, forest roads and a scenic overlook are all points of access along US 160 Wolf Creek Pass. Truckers may encounter vehicles attempting to enter or exit the roadway.

#### Brake/Chain-Up Stations and Runaway Truck Ramps:

- A wide shoulder at the summit, available to all motorists, can be used as truck brake/chain-up station.
- Two runaway ramps are available for out-of-control trucks. One is at mile point (MP) 162.5, approximately 4.5 miles from the summit. The other is at MP 161, approximately 6 miles from the summit. **This ramp is a trucker's last chance.**



**Never Hesitate. Runaway Truck Ramps Can Save Lives.**



## Maintain Control

- Check brakes before descending the pass.
- Maintain a low speed, in low gear. Use flashers to warn other vehicles of truck's low speed.
- Do not “ride” the brakes. This will cause overheating and possible loss of the brake system.
- Jake Brakes (compression brakes) can be useful to help control the speed of a heavy truck. However, the best practice is to remain in low gears to avoid overheating.
- Keep brakes cool by pulling into brake stations or onto the shoulder of the road, if a safe spot can be found.

## Runaway Ramps

- Do not hesitate to use if truck is out of control.
- Maneuver truck into far right lane before approaching ramps.
- As truck approaches ramp, steer straight and keep wheels aligned.
- Ramps are narrow. Stay in the center of the ramp to avoid rolling over.
- Once the truck is stopped, call 911 to report the incident, even if there are no injuries.

## More Information for Truckers

CDOT Website: [codot.gov/travel/commercialvehicles/wolfcreekpass](https://www.codot.gov/travel/commercialvehicles/wolfcreekpass)

COtrip Website: [cotrip.org/home](https://cotrip.org/home)

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