KNOW THE PASS

SPEED LIMIT — The posted speed limit for traffic traveling westbound, downhill from the summit varies from 25 to 45 MPH. Commercial trucks must maintain the lower speed of 25 MPH.

STEEP GRADE — The west side of the pass is at a 7% downhill grade.

DISTANCE FROM SUMMIT TO WEST BASE — 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.

DANGEROUS CURVES — A dangerous hairpin curve is located six and a half miles from the summit of west Wolf Creek Pass.

OTHER TRAFFIC — A ski area, forest roads and a public scenic lookout are all points of access along US 160 Wolf Creek pass in which truckers may encounter other vehicles attempting to enter or exit the roadway.

BRAKE/CHAIN-UP STATIONS and RUNAWAY ESCAPE RAMPS

♦ Truck drivers should inspect their brakes at the summit, before descending the eight mile trip down the pass. A wide shoulder area is available to all motorists traveling both west and eastbound. This area can also be used as chain-up station.

♦ Two runaway ramps are available for out-of-control trucks at mile points (MP) 162.5 and 161.

MAINTAIN CONTROL

• Check brakes before descending the pass.
• Maintain a low speed, in low gear. Use flashers to warn other vehicles of the truck’s low speed.
• Do not “ride” the truck’s brakes. This will cause overheating and possible loss of the brake system.
• Jake Brakes (or compression brakes) can be a useful braking mechanism 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 located.

RUNAWAY ESCAPE RAMPS Two ramps on west side

⇒ MP 162.5 - approximately 4.5 miles from the pass summit.
⇒ MP 161 - approximately 6 miles from the pass summit. This ramp is a trucker’s last chance!

If drivers are forced to use a runaway ramp:

• Maneuver the trucks into the far right lane before approaching upgrade ramps.
• As the truck approaches the runaway ramp, steer straight and try to keep the wheels aligned.
• Ramps are narrow. Attempt to stay in the center of the ramp to avoid any risk of rolling over.
• Once the truck is stopped call 911 to report the incident, even if there are not injuries associated with the episode.

NEVER HESITATE

◊ If brakes fail, runaway ramps are the ONLY way the truck will STOP!
◊ Not using the ramp can potentially result in the ultimate cost: LIFE!
INFORMATION FOR THE TRUCKING COMMUNITY

CDOT WEBSITE:  www.codot.gov/travel_center/Wolf_Creek_Pass

COtrip WEBSITE:  www.COtrip.org/truckers

Find information about:

- Traffic
- I-70 Corridor
- Chain Laws
- Permit Login
- Routes
- Hazmat
- Chain Stations
- Permit Info

YOU OVER BRAKE IT—YOU WON’T MAKE IT