In 2019, Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 19-1265 into law, increasing penalties for motorists who pass snowplows.

It is now a Class A traffic offense to pass a snowplow operated by a state, county, or local agency when the truck is displaying its lights and operating in a tandem formation with one or more snowplows.

What is the bill?
- It is illegal for a driver to pass a snowplow that is operating in a tandem formation with one or more snowplows. The snowplows have the right-of-way.
- A Class A traffic offense includes fines ranging from $15 to $100 plus a surcharge. The Colorado DMV may also add points to the offender’s driver’s license.

What does it mean?
- In tandem formation, snowplows are arranged diagonally. Each snowplow is stationed behind and to the right or left of the unit ahead.
- Tandem formation staggers multiple plows to cover all lanes and clear the entire roadway in one sweep. This is the safest and most efficient snow removal method.
- Bow to the plow! It is extremely dangerous for motorists to try and pass plows in this formation because you could encounter white-out conditions and ridges of snow between lanes.

Stay back 3 to 4 car lengths from snowplows.

More Snowplow Information
For more information about how to stay safe around snowplows, visit winter.codot.gov, COtrip.org, or call 511 for traffic updates, weather forecasts and additional travel resources. To track snowplows in your area, visit cotrip.org/snowplow.htm.