WINTER TRAVEL MADE EASIER

Public safety agencies and communities along the Interstate 70 corridor from Dotsero to Vail have come together this winter to join the Colorado Department of Transportation in activating new traffic incident management practices when travel along I-70 is impacted by severe weather, crashes and other circumstances. With multi-agency involvement along the 60-mile route, motorists will be directed to nearby services and facilities where complete and accurate updates will be available to assist with winter travel decisions.

TIPS FOR I-70 TRAVELERS

Use this guide to learn how Staged Closures and Staged Releases will impact your daily or cross country travel on I-70 through Eagle County.



During a prolonged eastbound closure, traffic will be distributed to communities along I-70 to prevent any one town from

being overwhelmed. It's designed to progressively close the interstate at points west of Vail as towns nearer the closure point begin to fill up with traffic. As an example, when Vail Pass is closed eastbound, as Vail becomes full of vehicles, electronic variable message signs will indicate Vail parking is full and advise throughtraffic motorists to exit at Avon and Edwards. Local traffic will be allowed to proceed. Only in rare cases will law enforcement actually staff closures on the interstate. As Avon and Edwards fill with cars, signs will direct motorists to exit at Eagle and Gypsum. The Staged Closures are reversed for westbound incidents.



The Staged Release program systematically reopens the interstate safely and efficiently so as not to create gridlock.

The program is based on the concept of releasing vehicles that have been stored on I-70 and in the towns closest to the closure point before allowing additional vehicles to enter the corridor. Once all stored traffic has been released, the interstate will be officially opened. Traffic will be seen moving along on I-70 before it is announced as "open."

INTERSTATE



The Winter Travel Guide has been produced as a public service by the Town of Vail Community Information Office. Call (970) 479-2115 for additional copies or visit www.vailgov.com for an online guide.

ROAD CONDITION INFORMATION

Eagle County Alert

Receive personalized road alerts from public safety dispatchers sent directly to your e-mail, cell phone pager, smartphone, PDA or other handheld device Visit www.ecalert.org to subscribe. Recommended fo Eagle, Summit and Lake County residents.

State - 511 or (877) 315-7623 Local - (970) 479-2226

Local Radio

89.9 FM, 92.3 FM, 93.1 FM, 97.7 FM, 101.7 FM, 104.7 FM

and 1610 AM

www.cotrip.ora

Cable TV

Cable Channels 10/21 and 18 in Eagle County provide ive feeds of the interstate and weather conditions.

Electronic Highway Signs

1 variable message signs, 6 eastbound and 5 west-bound, from Dotsero to Vail provide real-time status eports on conditions ahead.

When roads are snowy or icy, the chain law is often enacted along I-70 over Vail Pass as well as other mountain highways. The chain law applies to commercial vehicles and carries heavy fines for non-compliance. A chain-up area is located alongside easthound I-70 at milemarker 178 in Vail, while a chain-down station is located westbound at milemarker 179 in Vail. When the chain law is in effect, new electronic speed limit signs will be used to lower the speed limit through these areas. Please use caution and passenger vehicles should travel in the left lane when possible



VISITOR CENTERS

Eagle

The Eagle Information Center is located at Chambers Park, 100 Fairgrounds Rd. The center is staffed 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Friday. Restrooms are accessible 24/7. Call (970) 328-5220.

The Avon Tourist Information Center is located at Traer Creek Plaza, 101 Fawcett Rd., Suite 240. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday with extended hours until 9 p.m. during traveler emergencies. Call ahead for details, (970) 476-1000.

The Vail Visitor Information Center, 241 S. Frontage Rd., Suite 8150, is located on the top deck of the Vail Village parking structure and is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During prolonged road closures, the center will remain open until 10 p.m. to provide traveler information, including discounted lodging, Call (970) 476-4790 for details.

The LionsHead Visitor Information Center 395 S. Frontage Rd. West, is located at the LionsHead parking structure and is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (970) 476-4941.

FREE WINTER STORM ASSISTANCE FOR THE STRANDED MOTORIST



During extended closures of I-70, the Salvation Army will open one or more free centers in the Vail area for stranded motorists:

· Vail Chapel

19 Vail Rd., south of the Main Vail Roundabout, Exit 176.

Vail Municipal Building

75 S. Frontage Rd., west of the Main Vail Roundabout, Exit 176.

St. Patrick's Church

476 Pine St., Minturn, Exit 171.

These centers are available to anyone who needs a warm place to stay until I-70 has been reopened. Motorists are discouraged from sleeping in their vehicles due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning. Pets are welcome, but must be leashed or in a crate

Always listen to 1610 AM radio in Vail or call first for availability status and directions, (970) 479-2226 or (970) 479-2200.

WEATHER DEFINITIONS

Heavy Snow Warning - Snow accumulations of 6 inches or more within 12 hours or 8 inches or more within 24 hours are expected at lower elevations, with 8 inches or more in 12 hours and 12 inches or more in 24 hours expected in mountain areas.

Winter Storm Warning - Heavy snow is expected, aggravated by blowing and drifting conditions.

Blizzard Warning - Sustained or frequent wind gusts of 35 mph or more for at least 3 hours, reducing visibility to less

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Maintain Traction

Start and stop gradually to avoid losing traction in wet or slippery conditions.

Drive at steady speeds, avoiding sudden starts or stops. Accelerate slightly when approaching a hill, then maintain steady speed going up. Gearing down ahead of downgrades can avoid brake wear and reduce the chances of sliding.

CE,

SNOW

Driving sensibly and steadily will avoid most skids. Anticipating turns or lane changes will help. If your vehicle begins to skid, remove your foot from the accelerator or brake and steer in the direction of the skid. When the vehicle steadies itself, turn the wheels straight and proceed.

Be gentle with braking pressure during slippery road conditions. Gentle pumping action on disc brakes will avoid locking the wheels and sending the vehicle into a skid or spin. Anti-lock braking systems provide this action for you. Avoid braking on curves by driving through them at a safe, steady speed. Gear down for going both uphill and downhill.

Four-wheel drive vehicles can't stop better or faster on ice and snow than 2WD vehicles, even if they're locked into 4WD. The heavier the vehicle, the longer it takes to stop, Many of the popular sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are heavy and require a greater stopping distance.

Pack a Readiness Kit

Your safety checklist should include:

- · flares/reflectors · blanket · shovel · scraper
- · jumper cables · snow brush · coat/gloves/hat
- · chain/tow strap · nonperishable food · tire chains
- · batteries · matches/lighter/candle · flashlight · sand/traction mats · sleeping bag · first aid kit

STUCK OR STRANDED - WHAT TO DO

- If the road ahead is clear and your car can be dug out, use your shovel and traction mat or sand to free the vehicle. Ease the vehicle out gently and steadily to avoid spinning the tires.
- If the road ahead is not clear or you slid off the road, and there is no shelter in sight, you are stranded. Do not leave your vehicle. Be sure the vehicle exhaust is clear of snow and keep a window slightly open for ventilation. Run the vehicle only a few minutes at a time to stay warm. Dress in layers for warmth and cover your entire body with a blanket or sleeping bag. If there are two or more persons, huddle together
- If you are stranded, do not panic, CDOT maintenance crews will. be working to open the highways and look for stranded motorists. If you are stranded on a secondary or backcountry road, remain in the shelter of your vehicle until the storm passes so you can be spotted or can proceed safely on foot.

ALTERNATE ROUTES TO DENVER

If I-70 is closed over Vail Pass, call 511 to check if the following alternate routes are open:

- · The shortest detour around Vail Pass is to use exit 171 from I-70 (U.S. 24 - Minturn/Leadville) and south over Tennessee Pass to Leadville, then north on State Highway 91 over Fremont Pass, returning to I-70 at Copper Mountain (53 miles).
 - · A longer detour around both Vail Pass and the Eisenhower Tunnel is via U.S. 24 (exit 171), south through Leadville to Buena Vista, then north on U.S. 285 to Denver (172 miles).
 - · A third detour route is State Highway 131. From I-70, use exit 157 (Wolcott/Steamboat Springs), north on Highway 131 to Toponas. east on State Highway 134 over Gore Pass to U.S. 40, south on U.S. 40 to Kremmling. Two options at Kremmling: south on State Highway 9 to I-70 at Silverthorne (total - 103 miles) OR east on U.S. 40 through Granby and over Berthoud Pass, returning to I-70 near Empire (total - 139 miles).

All three routes are primarily two-lane highways. Even if they are open to travel, these highways cross mountain passes and drivers should be prepared for winter driving conditions

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Chambers of Commerce

Vail Chamber & Business Association (970) 477-0075 Vail Valley Partnership.(970) 476-1000 Eagle Valley Chamber of Commerce (970) 328-5220

Road Condition Hotlines

. (970) 668-0600 Colorado Avalanche Info Center Colorado State Patrol (Western Slope). . . . Eagle County Airport (970) 524-9490 Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance) Public Safety Non-Emergency (970) 479-2200 Vail Parking Information. (970) 479-2104

24-hour Emergency Medical Care in Eagle County Vail Valley Medical Center. (970) 476-2451

Immediate Medical Care Services in Eagle County Avon Medical Center (970) 949-6100

RESPONDING AGENCIES

The new I-70 Incident Management Plan involves the cooperation and coordination of local and regional agencies representing more than 200 first responders throughout Eagle County:

more than 200 Irist responders throughout Eagle County:

Town of Avon, Avon Police Department, Colorado Department of Revenue (Motor
Carrier Inspectors), Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Motor
Carriers Association, Colorado State Patrol, Eagle County Office of Emergency
Management, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, Eagle County Ambulance District,
Greater Eagle Fire Protection District, Town of Eagle, Eagle Police Department,
Eagle River Fire Protection District, ECO Transit, Federal Highway Administration,
Town of Gypsum, Gypsum Fire Protection District, Town of Minturn, Minturn Police
Department, Town of Vall, Vall Fire & Emergency Services Department, Vall Police
Department, Vall Police
Department Ail Public Safety Communications Center. Western Faalle County Department, Vail Public Safety Communications Center, Western Eagle County Ambulance District.

I-70 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR STAGED ROAD CLOSURES & STAGED RELEASES

AVON Exit 167/168 1 1 1 1

If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate route.

 During a Staged Release, EB traffic will be released after Vail traffic is released, while WB traffic will be released after releasing Wolcott,

Avon

Exit 168

Minturn

Exit 171

Avon/

xit 167

Beaver Creek

WOLCOTT Exit 157

- If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to use suggested exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate route.
- If communities to the east or west fill to capacity and cause situations that affect public safety, I-70 could be physically closed at this exit.
- Local traffic and deliveries will be allowed to continue on I-70 after stopping and showing proof of residency to law enforcement personnel. • During a Staged Release, EB traffic will be released after Vail traffic is released, while WB traffic will be among the first to be eleased.
- State Highway I3I north of Wolcott is one possible alternate route.

will advise travelers to stop at

Eagle

EAGLE Exit 147

• If WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs

nded exits from Gynsum to Vail or to find an alternate rou

- . If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from here to Gypsum or to find an alternate route
- During a closure at Vail, avoid parking on the North or South Frontage Roads.
 Free parking will be made available in the Vail Village and LionsHead structures
- During a Staged Release, all EB Vail traffic will be released after the trucks



staged on the interstate at Exit 180

and Ford Park parking lot.

West Vail

staged on the interstate.

Village and LionsHead structures and Ford Park.
Only residents and those with business in the East
Vail area will be allowed to proceed beyond Ford Park to prevent congestion on the limited access residential streets during pass closures. Any EB trucks that arrive at this location that were not stopped in Dotsero will be stored in the right

EAST VAIL Exit 180 1 =

If EB I-70 is closed ahead at Vail Pass, no vehicles will be allowed to continue past this point. Avoid parking on the North or South Frontage Roads.

Free parking will be made available in the Vail

lane of I-70 between Exits I76 and I80. EB trucks staged here will be the first to move

during a Staged Release.

East Vail

Vail

1-70 **Eagle County** Winter

- **Travel Guide** • Road Condition Information
- Traveler Assistance
- Winter Driving Tips





DOTSERO Exit 133

GYPSUM [] Exit 140

ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate route.

• If EB or WB I-70 is closed

Dotsero

 EB tractor trailer trucks will be required to park here when road closures farther east trigger required parking and staging at Dotsero. The layover capacity is 180 trucks.

Gypsum

Fxit 140

- Signs will advise remaining travelers to exit at designated locations from Gypsum to Vail depending on parking capacity, or to find an alternate route.
- After the parking lot and West Frontage Road at Dotsero fill up with trucks, U.S. 6 from Dotsero to Gypsum will be shut down to WB traffic and switched to one-way traffic EB. Trucks will be parked in the right lane and the left lane will be used for EB traffic.
- When a Staged Release is activated, tractor trailer trucks stored at Dotsero and between Gypsum and Dotsero will use on-ramps at Gypsum and Dotsero to continue FR travel
- WB trucks will be held here when there is a WB closure in Glenwood Canyon and will be the first to be released.

EDWARDS Exit 163 1 1 =

Wol

If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate route.

Edwards Exit 163

EAGLE-VAIL Exit 169 📋 🕦

If WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate rou

MINTURN Exit 171 . If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from Gypsum to Vail or to find an alternate route.

Eagle-Vail

Exit 169

- If Vail fills to capacity, I-70 EB could be physically closed at this exit if the gridlock poses a public safety threat. Local traffic and deliveries will be allowed to continue on I-70 after stopping and showing proof of residency to law enforcement personnel.
- . U.S. Highway 24 south of Minturn to State Highway 9I EB is one possible alternate route to Denver.
- If there is a WB I-70 closure that has filled communities ahead, I-70 could be physically closed at this exit. Local traffic and deliveries will be allowed to continue on I-70 after stopping and showing proof of residency or a delivery to law enforcement personnel.
- During a Staged Release, all EB traffic will be released after the trucks staged at Exit 180 on the interstate, while WB traffic will be released after releasing Wolcott.

MAIN VAIL Exit 176 🕕 🔚 🛈 📙 If EB or WB I-70 is closed ahead, signs will advise travelers to stop at recommended exits from here to Gypsum or to find an alternate route.

- EB vehicles other than trucks will be directed to exit here so they don't mix with the trucks that will be stored in the right lane of 1-70 east of the 176 exit. Any vehicles that continue past this point will be forced to exit at milemarker 180 and turn around.
- During a closure at Vail, avoid parking on the North or South Frontage Roads. Free parking will be made available in the Vail Village and LionsHead structures and Ford Park. During a Staged Release, all EB Vail traffic will be released after the trucks

Vail

Fxit 176