

Tandem Snowplow Law

Fact Sheet

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.



COLORADO
Department of Transportation



Colorado Traction Law Updates

Fact Sheet

In 2019, Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 19-1207 into law, updating the Traction Law on particular sections of I-70 from September to May.

These updates are meant to alleviate delays and crashes along this corridor during the peak winter driving season. Electronic signs will notify the public when there are additional closures or restrictions along I-70 in addition to the Traction Law.

What is the bill?

- Requires all motorists to comply with the Traction Law on I-70 between Dotsero and Morrison from Sept. 1 through May 31.
- Violators will be given a citation, which comes with a \$100 fine and \$32 surcharge. That jumps to a \$500 fine with a \$156 surcharge if a violation results in the closure of one or more traffic lanes.
- The new law increases the minimum tread depth for tires on all vehicles — including those with four-wheel drive — from an 1/8" to 3/16".

What does it mean?

- All motorists are required to have **EITHER**:
 - 4WD or AWD vehicle and 3/16" tread depth
 - Tires with a mud and snow designation (M+S icon) and 3/16" tread depth
 - Winter tires (mountain-snowflake icon) and 3/16" tread depth
 - Tires with an all-weather rating by the manufacturer and 3/16" tread depth
 - Chains or an AutoSock
- The law focuses on passenger vehicles. Commercial vehicles have their own restrictions.
- It is unlawful to proceed when a state highway is closed or when a restriction is in effect and you lack the required traction equipment.

More Traction Law Information

For more information about the Traction Law, visit codot.gov/TractionLaw, COtrip.org, or call 511 for traffic updates, weather forecasts and additional travel resources.



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

