



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

SLIDE INTO SAFETY, NOT!

Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are unprepared as the chances for frozen precipitation increases. Slips on snow and ice will occur, but the resulting fall doesn't have to.

Wearing shoes with non-slip soles, or better yet, ice cleats, may help to prevent what Mother Nature, Sir Isaac Newton and gravity has in store for us.

Use personal risk management by taking shorter steps while walking, maintain your balance, be careful of black ice, walk in others' footprints or search out drier pavement. Use handrails when walking up and down steps outside.

Likewise, driving on snow and ice is challenging. While driving, reduce your speed and keep safe distances between your vehicle and others around you, that so-called "margin of safety". Use caution driving down hills and leave yourself plenty of room to stop.

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Directorate of Safety



MANY CONTINUE TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF EXTREME OUTDOOR LOW TEMPS DURING THE WINTER

- Wear appropriate clothing, layers of light, warm clothing, gloves/mittens, hats or beanies, waterproof non-slip shoes.
- Work slowly when doing outside chores like shoveling snow, etc.
- Have a plan and check weather forecasts if heading up to the high country.
- Use the buddy system or Wingman concept and stay hydrated while participating in winter sports activities.
- Carry a cellphone and have a car charger handy in the event of an emergency or if you need assistance.
- Know the symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite and monitor yourself and others in your group.

Additionally, more information and resources are available at the following location:

<https://www.codot.gov/travel/winter-driving>



HAVING THE RIGHT TIRES CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE - WINTER TIRES VS. ALL-SEASON

Tire Stopping Distance

When it comes to winter driving, all-season tires simply can't compete with winter tires.

Dry-, wet- and snowy-pavement brake-test results show stopping distance with different tires. All stops were from 60 MPH.



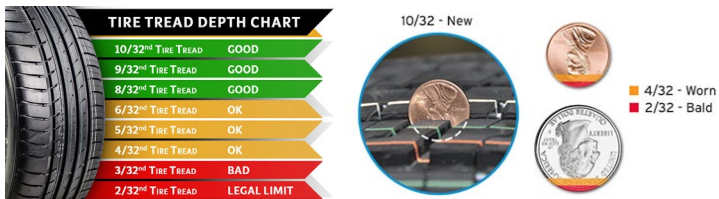
All data from Consumer Reports.

Road Conditions and Traffic Information		
Colorado	1-877-315-7623	www.cotrip.org
Arizona	1-888-411-7623	www.az511.com
Kansas	1-800-585-7623	511.ksdot.org
Nebraska	1-402-471-4533	www.511nebraska.org
New Mexico	1-800-432-4269	www.nmroads.com
Oklahoma	1-844-465-4997	www.odot.org
Utah	1-866-511-8824	www.udot.utah.gov
Wyoming	1-888-996-7623	wyoroad.info
Texas	1-800-452-9292	www.dot.state.tx.us

UNDER COLORADO LAW, YOU CAN BE FINED FOR HAVING BAD TIRES

Traction Law and Passenger Vehicle Chain Law - (Code 15) Use the Head to Check Your Tread

- If weather conditions require, CDOT will implement a Traction Law.
- Motorists will need to have either snow tires, tires with the mud/snow (M+S) designation, or a four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle — all tires must have 3/16" tread depth.



Fines

- Motorists driving with inadequate equipment during a Traction Law or Passenger Vehicle Chain Law could be fined more than \$130.
- If a motorist blocks the roadway because they have inadequate equipment during a Traction Law or Passenger Vehicle Chain Law, they could be fined more than \$650.

Snowplow Passing Law

It is illegal to pass a city, county or state-operated snow plow while it's working with its yellow lights flashing and is driving in tandem with one or more other snow plows.

What is tandem?

Snowplows arranged diagonally, with each snowplow behind and to the right of the one ahead. This formation is the safest, most efficient way to remove snow from the road.



THE HOLIDAYS

The winter Holiday season can be a very merry season. However, after the parties are over, and the aftermath dawns, the roads can be a very dangerous place. Drive defensively during holidays in order to mitigate your risk of drunk drivers running into you, paired with possible slippery road conditions. Have a plan to get home safely afterwards.

- Have a Designated Driver (DD) if you plan on drinking
- Ensure their car is prepared and capable of driving on snow and ice
- Make sure the DD knows how to drive on snow and ice
- Use a ride-sharing company or take a taxi

DANGER OF HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Are you ready to decorate for the holidays? No matter what or how you celebrate this time of year, decorations are a family tradition for many. It's easy to get caught up in the festivities, and while you're busy decorating your home or office, safety may be one of the last things on your mind.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were over 14,000 injuries related to holiday decorations in 2021. To ensure you have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season with your friends and family, here are some tips to keep in mind as you deck your home:

- * Keep live trees away from heat sources. Place your tree away from fireplaces and heaters. Live trees are highly flammable, due to dry needles and sap.
- * Hydrate your tree. A dried-out tree can catch fire faster than one that has been properly watered. Check the water level every other day to ensure proper hydration. This is especially true here in Colorado.
- * If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it's labeled "fire resistant." Fire-resistant trees are less susceptible to catching fire.
- * Double-check your lights for safety. Replace any lights with frayed wires, broken sockets, and loose connections.
- * Power down before you turn in. Turn off all lights when you go to bed and before leaving the house to avoid a short that could start an electrical fire.

- Snow Problem's Too Big When You Use Risk Management -