

BEAR in MIND

UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

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Safety/Fire Focus

New Colorado Law Mandates Snow Chains for These Cars

A new Colorado rule could leave unprepared drivers paying fines this winter as chain laws expand to everyday vehicles. A new law now requires all two-wheel drive vehicles to carry snow chains or an approved alternate traction device when traveling on I-70 between September 1 through May 31. Drivers may face fines for lacking chains or blocking traffic during a winter storm. During winter storms, or when conditions require, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will implement the [Passenger Vehicle Traction Law](#) (Level 1) or Passenger Vehicle Chain Law (Level 2).

Passenger Vehicle Traction Law (Level 1) requires all commercial motor vehicles and 2 wheel drive vehicles to put chains or an approved alternate devices on tires. During a



Passenger Vehicle Chain Law (Level 2) requires every vehicle to have chains or an approved alternate traction device. This is the final safety measure before the highway is closed.

During a Passenger Vehicle Traction or Chain Law, all motorists are required to have:

1. AWD/4WD vehicles with tires designated as mud and snow (M+S icon) and 3/16-inch tread depth OR
2. AWD/4WD vehicles with winter tires (mountain-snowflake icon) and 3/16-inch tread depth OR
3. AWD/4WD vehicles with an all-weather rating by the manufacturer and 3/16-inch tread depth OR
4. Chains or an approved alternate traction device

Some examples of an Approved Alternate Traction Device are AutoSock, EasySox, and Alpha Trax. For additional information visit CDOT [FAQs](#).

For up to date Colorado Road Information visit [COTrip](#).



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Dates to Remember

January 12—Spring
Semester Begins

January 19— Martin Luther
King Jr. Day (Campus
Closed)

February 16—Presidents'
Day (Campus Open)

March 8—Daylight Saving
Time Begins

March 14-22—Spring Break
March 17—St. Patrick's Day

Safe Thought

*"Safety is Free
Use it Generously"*

Stay Safe from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Winter temperatures means that many people are turning up the heat and unintentionally putting themselves at risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Every year, more than 50,000 people visit emergency rooms because of accidental CO poisoning, and about 430 of these visits will be fatal. That is why everyone should take certain precautions when using any type of heater.

Carbon Monoxide Sources

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels like coal, wood, oil and gas are combustible and release several harmful toxins into the air, including CO. Common sources of CO are furnaces, generators, gas heaters, stoves, and motor vehicles. Because CO can come from so many sources, it can easily build up indoors and poison people and animals. That is why every home should have a working CO detector. Fire agencies recommend a CO detector on every floor, including the basement, and within 10 feet of each bedroom and near or over any attached garage.



Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Once inhaled, CO reduces red blood cells' ability to carry oxygen throughout the body. Identifying CO poisoning is particularly challenging in the winter because symptoms are similar to other viral respiratory illnesses like the cold and flu. Low-level exposure can produce headaches, sleepiness, fatigue, confusion and irritability. At high levels, breathing in CO can cause nausea, vomiting, irregular heartbeat, impaired vision and coordination of disorientation. Because of the seriousness of this toxin, if you suspect CO poisoning, it is essential to get emergency healthcare immediately.

Preparing for Winter Storms

Extremely cold weather can cause power outages which in turn means that using generators, stoves and other heating sources can increase the risk of CO poisoning. Below are some steps to take to keep you and your family safe:

- Have a qualified technician check and service your heating system, water heaters, flues, and other burning appliances every year. They should make sure that everything is installed and vented correctly.
- An adequate intake of outside air is essential to eliminating CO, so check to make sure all vents and flues are free of debris.
- Avoid using charcoal grills, kerosine lanterns, or portable camp stoves inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or camper.
- Never run a generator, motor vehicle or any gasoline-powered engine in an enclosed space, even if the doors or windows are open.
- If you must use a generator in an emergency, keep it as far away from the residents as possible.

For additional information visit the National Fire Protection Association [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#).

Carbon Monoxide (CO) The Invisible Killer

CO is an invisible and odorless gas emitted by fuel-burning products, including generators, gas appliances, water heaters, furnaces, charcoal grills, and engine-driven tools.

Generators produce hundreds of times more CO than cars.

More than 100 consumers die each year from CO poisoning caused by portable generators.

African Americans are at Higher Risk for Generator-related CO Death

Percent of Population	Percent of CO Deaths
12%	23%

CO Alarms Save Lives

Install battery-operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup in your home.

Don't be a Victim of CO Poisoning! Follow These Safety Tips:

- Never operate a portable generator inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, shed or on a porch; and never leave a car running in an attached garage.
- Operate portable generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from the house, and direct the generator's exhaust away from the home and other buildings.
- Ask retailers for a portable generator with a safety feature to shut off automatically when high CO concentrations are present. Some models with CO shut-off also have reduced emissions.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.

REPORT INCIDENTS to CPSC at: SaferProducts.gov (800) 638-2772 or (800) 638-8270 for people with hearing, speech, or language challenges

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

NSN-15-022022 rev032025

CPSC.gov

EnviroHealth

When Is Daylight Savings time In 2026?

Currently, the sun isn't coming up until after 7 a.m. and is setting around 4:45 p.m. As we long for more sunlight at the end of the day, here's the good news, on December 21, the shortest day of the year, we started to increase daylight by 1 to 2 minutes each day.

In a couple of months ,on Sunday, March 8, 2026, daylight saving time will begin and clocks will be set forward one hour. At that time, the sunrise will remain a little after 7 a.m. but the sunset will be around 7:00 p.m. We will have added over two hours of daylight.



Salty Streets = Salty Streams

Tis the season for snowy days here on campus and throughout Colorado! Snow can be beautiful during this time of year but can also be a maintenance headache for many. Shoveling and snow removal is not always a fun job, but it is necessary to ensure that pedestrians and bikers can travel safely and vehicles can be as safe as possible. Sometimes, people will apply salt or de-icers to walkways, trails, etc. to help the snow melt faster, but these ice melts are not always great for the environment and can runoff and pollute stormwater. When trying to protect your home, workplace, or business to ensure it is as safe as possible for not only pedestrians but also for stormwater, follow these simple tips:

- Shovel First and put snow and ice on pervious surfaces, like grass or mulch areas, to allow for the snow to melt into the ground and not run off.
- Reduce the amount of salt and de-icers used on impervious surfaces, like concrete or asphalt, by removing as much ice and snow manually and by only putting the amount of salt needed for the area being treated.
- Only apply salt and de-icers when the conditions are right, per the manufacturer's instructions. Always read the label before applying these products to ensure you are not applying too much and to ensure they work the way they're intended.

Please visit the [City of Greeley's Stormwater](#) website for more information on how to protect stormwater in your neighborhood.

Help to Prevent Stormwater Pollution in your neighborhood this winter!



Deicers break the bond between ice and pavement, making shoveling easier. However, they don't evaporate snow and ice, so adding more will not eliminate the need to shovel.



Shovel snow onto vegetated areas so it soaks into the ground instead of flowing into the street.

Health and Wellness

National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention week raises awareness of poison prevention nationwide during March 15 - 21, 2026. This year theme is "When the unexpected happens, Poison Help is here for you". This week aims to highlight the dangers of poisoning from common household items, such as disinfectants, pesticides, batteries, and other possible dangers.

In 1948, a national effort to reduce the number of accidents in children was started by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a committee was formed in Chicago to address this public safety need. In November 1953, the poison center at Presbyterian-St Luke's Hospital was formally recognized, and this poison program model spread nationwide. This awareness week was established in March 1962 with the aim of lowering accidental and unintentional poisoning and bringing more awareness to this issue.

From the American poison center, there are about 2 million potential poisonings reported in the U.S. every year, with most cases being children under the age of 5 years old. However unintentional poisoning can happen to anybody regardless of age. Poisoning remains the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S.

Below are some home safety tips:

- Keep cleaning products, and cosmetics away and out of reach
- Read product labels before use
- Supervise young children when using hand sanitizer
- Don't mix cleaning chemicals together

For more information and tips, visit the [America's Poison Centers](#) or the [Colorado Poison Center](#).



Bear in Mind (BIM) is a publication brought to you by your campus Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS). We are interested in your thoughts and submissions. Contact the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) department at 970-351-1149. Suggestions can also be sent by campus mail attention EHS, Campus Box 57. Bear in Mind issues are published every quarter. Find current and archived issues on-line at the [EHS Website](#).



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