

# INTRODUCING...



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# APPLICABLE COLORADO LAW

## 42-4-1602. Accident involving damage - duty

- (1) The driver of any vehicle directly involved in an accident resulting only in damage to a vehicle which is driven or attended by any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such accident or as close thereto as possible but shall immediately return to and in every event shall remain at the scene of such accident, except in the circumstances provided in subsection (2) of this section, until the driver has fulfilled the requirements of section 42-4-1603. Every such stop shall be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. Any person who violates any provision of this subsection (1) commits a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense.
- (2) When an accident occurs on the traveled portion, median, or ramp of a divided highway and each vehicle involved can be safely driven, each driver shall move such driver's vehicle as soon as practicable off the traveled portion, median, or ramp to a frontage road, the nearest suitable cross street, or other suitable location to fulfill the requirements of section 42-4-1603.

[C.R.S. 42-4-1602](#)

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# APPLICABLE COLORADO LAW

## 42-4-1803. Abandonment of motor vehicles - public property

(2) Whenever any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, marshal, Colorado state patrol officer, agent of the Colorado bureau of investigation, or agency employee finds a motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris, attended or unattended, standing upon any portion of a highway right-of-way in such a manner as to constitute an obstruction to traffic or proper highway maintenance, such officer or agency employee is authorized to cause the motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris to be moved to eliminate any such obstruction; and neither the officer, the agency employee, nor anyone acting under the direction of such officer or employee shall be liable for any damage to such motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris occasioned by such removal. The removal process is intended to clear the obstruction, but such activity should create as little damage as possible to the vehicle, or cargo, or both. No agency employee shall cause any motor vehicle to be moved unless such employee has obtained approval from a local law enforcement agency of a municipality, county, or city and county, the Colorado bureau of investigation, or the Colorado state patrol.

[C.R.S. 42-4-1803](#)

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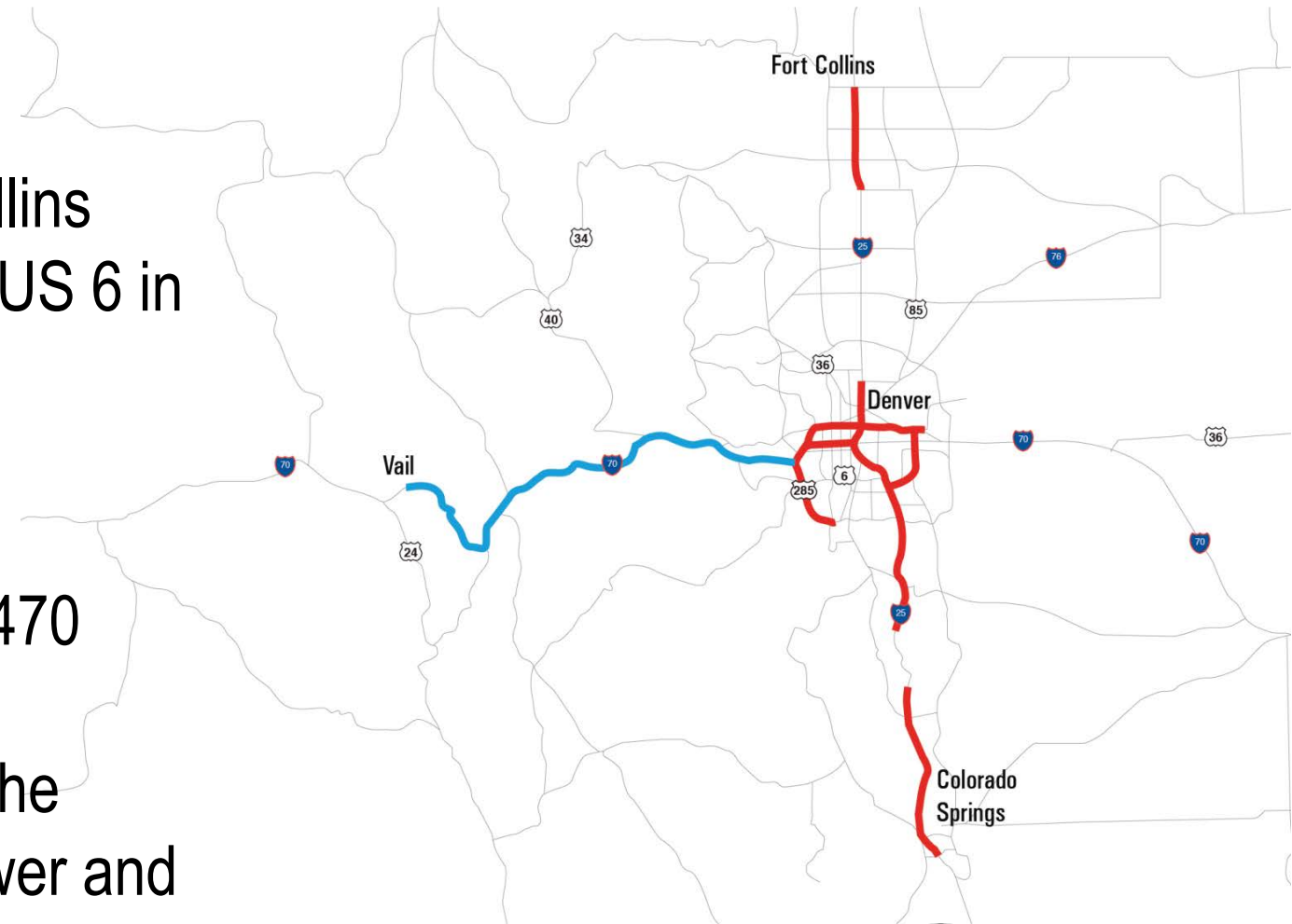
# CONTRACTED SAFETY SERVICE PATROLS

## 1. Metro Area Safety Patrol

- I-25 from Pueblo to Fort Collins
- I-70 and I-22, CO 470, and US 6 in the Denver Metro Area

## 2. Mountain Courtesy Patrol

- I-70 from Vail to the I-70/C-470 Interchange
  - Includes Vail Pass and the approaches to Eisenhower and Johnson Memorial Tunnels



# METRO AREA SAFETY PATROL

## ■ Service Trucks

- Ford F-250 pickup trucks (4x4 with extended cabs and full size beds)
- Equipped with solid steel “wrecker” type push bumpers along with two tow straps and two 6’ J-hooks with multiple hook clusters



## ■ Wreckers

- Chevy 3500 4x4 single cab chassis with combo wheel lift and sling booms
- Push bumpers to aid in quick clearance





# MOUNTAIN COURTESY PATROL

- **Three Truck Types**
  - Heavy Wreckers (50 ton or higher)
  - Rollbacks
  - Service Trucks
- **Service Trucks**
  - Ford F-150 crew cabs with 4x4 and push bumpers equipped with tow straps and chains



# PUSHING METHOD

- **Service Trucks**

- Metro Area's Preferred method for removing disabled and wrecked vehicles
- Wreckers or PD's rotational wreckers usually not far away
- Quicker and safer to push the vehicle onto the shoulder

- **Wreckers**

- Can push, but are encouraged to tow the vehicle since they are better equipped from towing off the highway

# PULLING METHOD

- **Metro Area Service Trucks**
  - Equipped and allowed to pull or “tow” vehicles out of traffic
  - Liability concerns and local towing regulations
- **Mountain Courtesy Service Trucks**
  - Pull vehicles more often than push
  - Vehicles on an uphill approach to the EJMT or a mountain pass





# DRAGGING & ANYTHING GOES

- Not a frequently utilized method
- Only to the closest shoulder wide enough for the vehicle
- Most common: Pushing a vehicle from the rear or moving a vehicle with a tow strap
- CDOT Snow Plows and Douglas County Road & Bridge Crews train to use snow plows to move vehicles out of traffic



# DRAGGING & ANYTHING GOES



- Dragging, pushing from the side, pushing from the roof, etc. opens up contracted providers and agencies for liability
- State law provides some indemnity in quick clearance
  - No knowledge of a successful lawsuit against CDOT (or its contractors) acting under statutes and at the direction of law enforcement



# DRAGGING & ANYTHING GOES

- Anything goes includes cars driving off the highway
  - Cars can receive significant damage and still “limp” off the roadway to safety
  - Not uncommon for damaged vehicles to drive a mile or more to safety
  - Heavily damaged vehicles followed by someone who can push them out of traffic in case the vehicle stalls
- Metro Area Rapid Response Team Leader developed a quick clearance course for maintenance personnel
  - Shows how to use heavy equipment to push and roll CMV’s out of traffic

# PERSONAL THOUGHTS



- Mix of service trucks and towing vehicle works really well for Colorado
  - Frees up law enforcement resources
  - Helps ensure each Safety Patrol truck has a backup unit when needed

# QUESTIONS?



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