

I-70 EAGLE COUNTY WINTER TRAVEL TIPS



ROAD CONDITION INFORMATION

Phone

State - 511 • Local - (970) 479-2226

Radio

89.9 FM, 92.3 FM, 93.1 FM, 95.3 FM, 97.7 FM, 101.7 FM, 104.7 FM, 850 AM and 1610 AM

Web

www.cotrip.org
www.GoI70.com
www.ecalert.org (Eagle County) or
www.scalert.org (Summit County) or www.pitkinalert.org (Pitkin County) for personalized road alerts

TRAVELER ASSISTANCE

During extended closures of I-70, the Salvation Army will open one or more free centers in the Vail area for stranded motorists. Call first for availability status and directions, (970) 479-2226 or (970) 479-2200.

- **Vail Municipal Building**, 75 S. Frontage Rd., west of the Main Vail Roundabout, Exit 176.
- **Vail Chapel**, 19 Vail Rd., south of the Main Vail Roundabout, Exit 176.
- **St. Patrick's Church**, 476 Pine St., Minturn, Exit 171.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Chambers of Commerce

Vail Chamber & Business Association (970) 477-0075
Vail Valley Partnership. (970) 476-1000
Eagle Chamber of Commerce. (970) 328-6464

24-hour Emergency Medical Care in Eagle County

Vail Valley Medical Center (970) 476-2451

Immediate Medical Care Services in Eagle County

Avon Urgent Care (970) 949-6100
Gypsum Urgent-Emergent Care (970) 777-2800

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 released.
- State Highway 131 north of Wolcott is one possible alternate route.

WEST VAIL Exit 173

- 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 and Ford Park parking lot.
- During a Staged Release, all EB Vail traffic will be released after the trucks staged on the interstate at Exit 180.

EAST VAIL Exit 180

- 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 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 lane of I-70 between Exits 176 and 180. No services available.
- EB trucks staged here will be the first to move during a Staged Release.

GYPSUM Exit 140

- 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 Exit 147

- 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 route.

AVON Exit 167/168

- 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.

DOTSERO Exit 133

- 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. EB drivers must carry chains.
- 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 EB 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

- 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 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.

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.
- If Vail fills to capacity, I-70 EB could be physically closed at this exit if the gridlock compromises public safety. 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 91 NB 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 I-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 staged on the interstate.

VISITOR CENTERS

Eagle

The Eagle Information Center is located at Chambers Park, 100 Fairgrounds Rd. The center is staffed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Restrooms are accessible 24/7. Call (970) 328-6464.

Avon

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. For information, call (970) 476-1000.

Vail

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.

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.

