

Mountain Rules

Truck Tips - Hot Brakes

PREPARE FOR THE TRIP

Check brake function and adjustment before descending. Maintain a low speed in low gear, and use flashers to warn other vehicles of your reduced speed.

Do not “ride” the truck’s brakes; this will cause overheating and possible loss of brake system.

Consider Jake Brakes (engine compression brakes) to control the speed of a heavy truck, but the best practice is to use low gears to avoid overheating brakes.

Keep brakes cool by pulling into brake check stations, or onto the shoulder of the road, if you can locate a safe spot.



USING RUNAWAY TRUCK RAMP

Maneuver the truck into the far right lane before approaching ramp.

As the truck approaches the runaway ramp, steer straight and try to keep the wheels aligned. Stay in the center of the ramp to avoid rolling over.

Once the truck is stopped, call 911 to report, even if there are no injuries.

There is NO fee, penalty, or fine for using runaway truck ramps.



ARM YOURSELF WITH KNOWLEDGE

Know the road. Take the time to familiarize yourself with mountain passes.

Obey the speed limit. Anticipate curves. Know how far you’ll travel.

Identify public-access roads. Know where to find brake and chain-up stations.

Inspect your brakes at the summit before descending. Know where to find runaway truck ramps.

Visit cotrip.org to find locations of runaway truck ramps and brake check stations.

