

511 Travel Information definitions

Strong Winds

Wind gusts of 40 mph with any road condition.

Blowing Snow

Snow propelled by the wind across or along the road surface at least 1 foot above the ground.

Reduced Visibility

Visibility of less than 400 feet for any reason.

Slick

Long, continuous sections of icy or snow-packed roads. Greater than 50 percent of the road section is icy or snow packed.

Slick in Spots

Short, non-continuous sections of icy or snow-packed road. Less than 50 percent of the road section is icy or snow packed.

Drifted Snow

Drifts of any size that cross the white line and cause a driver to feel a bump or a pull on the steering wheel.

Please comply with variable speed limit signs, vehicle blow-over advisories and closures.

To check road conditions visit www.wyoroad.info or dial 511 in Wyoming or 1-888-WYO-ROAD (1-888-996-7623) nationwide.



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Blow-over hazards

*Advisories,
closures and
definitions*



Blow-over hazards

Light trailers and high-profile vehicles often blow over on Wyoming highways due to high winds that can occur even during summer. Controlling a vehicle during a strong wind event can be even more difficult in winter, when roads are slick.

There is no specific research that shows at what wind speeds and load weights trucks will blow over. Therefore, when WYDOT issues a blow-over risk advisory or closure, it cannot cite a specific weight or wind speed that will cause a trailer to blow over.

However, research does show that, when wind gusts exceed 60 mph, it is almost certain multiple vehicles will be blown over or be involved in a crash caused by loss of control. These crashes often result in debris on the highway and a road closure to all vehicles.

Extreme Blow-Over Risk

In locations where wind gusts are 60 mph or higher, but adequate signage to indicate a closure to light, high-profile vehicles is not available, WYDOT will issue an “Extreme blow-over risk” warning.

This warning is targeted at vehicles prone to being blown over, such as moving vans, campers, recreational vehicles, small trailers and empty or lightly-loaded commercial vehicles.

Blow-Over Risk

“Blow-over risk” messages are posted on roadside electronic message boards when wind gusts are greater than 50 mph with any road conditions.

This advisory pertains to trailers of any size, commercial and non-commercial, and to recreational vehicles and other vehicles loaded with light materials or empty, and having a profile that is subject to catching wind gusts.

Drivers of such vehicles are advised not to travel when a “Blow-over risk” advisory is posted to avoid strong wind gusts that could result in the loss of control of their vehicle or the potential for the vehicle to blow over.

Any driver who fails to comply with a “Blow-over risk” advisory and is involved in a crash may be subject to a fine and can expect to pay the cleanup costs and fees associated with repairing any damage caused to public or private property.

Closure to Light, High-Profile Vehicles

In locations where wind gusts are 60 mph or greater and adequate signage to indicate the limited closure is available, WYDOT will initiate a closure to light, high-profile vehicles. This closure is targeted at vehicles prone to being blown over, such as moving vans, campers, recreational vehicles, small trailers and empty or lightly-loaded commercial vehicles.

Drivers who fail to heed this type of closure will be considered in violation of Wyoming Statute 24-1-109 and could be subject to a fine of up to \$750 and 30 days in jail.

No Unnecessary Travel

This advisory means the road is open, but travel is not recommended due to hazardous driving conditions.

Generally, this advisory is posted during winter months due to extremely icy conditions, when visibility is limited due to blowing snow, or when a combination of conditions makes travel ill-advised.

Only the most urgent of situations should warrant travel under a “No unnecessary travel” advisory. Drivers who attempt such travel should be familiar with local conditions and be very experienced with winter driving.

Oversize loads will not be allowed to move if the highway is restricted to no unnecessary travel. A load may proceed or return to the nearest parking area or town. At no time shall the move continue beyond those points unless approved by the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Traveling during a “No unnecessary travel” advisory may interfere with maintenance crews’ efforts to improve highway safety.

