

511 TRAVEL INFORMATION DEFINITIONS

Blowing Snow

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

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.

GVW – Gross Vehicle Weight

GVW is the total weight of the truck and payload at a point in time, including any persons in the vehicle and all contents of the tractor and trailer.

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.

Strong Winds

Wind gusts of 40 mph with any road condition.

Please comply with variable speed limit signs, weight-based wind closures, advisories and closures.

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

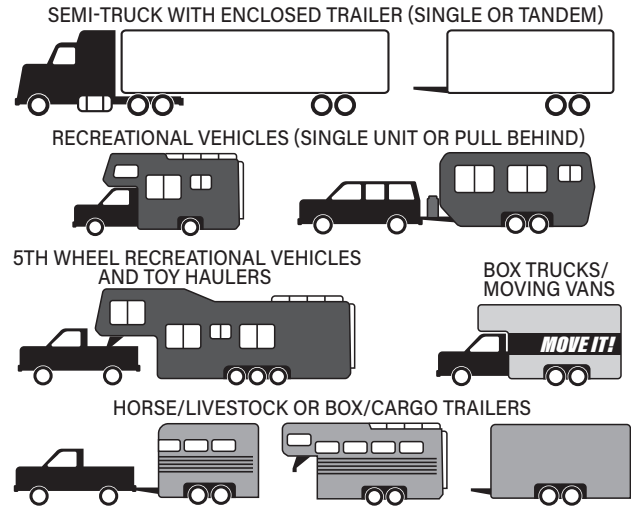
Download WYDOT's free 511 mobile app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Road and travel information tailored to commercial vehicles. Customized road weather forecasts to predict wind, visibility and surface impacts. Sign up at: [cvop.wyoroad.info/cvop/register](http://cvop.wyoroad.info/cvop/register)

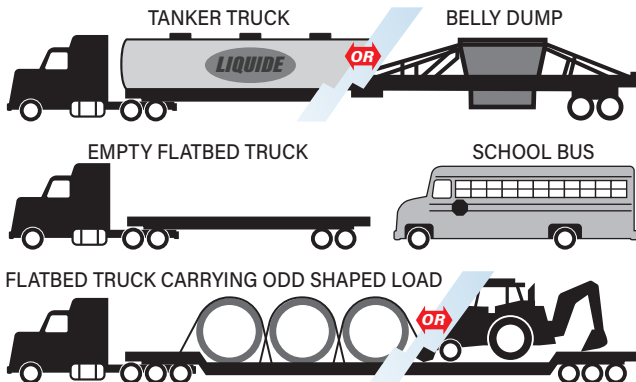


# BLOW OVER HAZARDS

TRUCK TYPES PRONE TO BLOWING OVER:



TRUCK TYPES NOT PRONE TO BLOWING OVER:



## WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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[WWW.DOT.STATE.WY.US](http://WWW.DOT.STATE.WY.US)

## Weight-based Wind Closures, Advisories & Definitions



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## BLOW-OVER HAZARDS

Light trailers and high-profile vehicles often blow over on Wyoming highways because of 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.

WYDOT has been closing sections of highway to light, high-profile vehicles since 2011 due to strong crosswinds and extreme blow over risk.

However, given the large amount of out-of-state commercial vehicle traffic and the hurricane-force winds often seen in Wyoming, WYDOT has received feedback over the years to define light, high-profile vehicles.

Recent research from the University of Wyoming, funded by WYDOT's Research Advisory Committee, helped the agency more confidently list actual weights with the restrictions. The weight-based wind closure system started in 2023.

Blow over 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 extreme, but adequate signage to indicate a closure to light, high-profile vehicles is not available, WYDOT will initiate a closure to vehicles at or below a specific gross vehicle weight.

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. Tankers and flatbed trailers that are unloaded or are not hauling a high-profile load, such as cargo containers, are less risky and typically not included in the weight-based wind restrictions.

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.

## WEIGHT-BASED WIND CLOSURES

In locations where wind gusts exceed research-based risk levels and where adequate signage is available, WYDOT will initiate a closure to vehicles at or below a specific weight. 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.

## PARTIAL CLOSURE

This occurs when the road is closed to some but not all vehicles or the road is closed in only one direction. This type of closure can include no trailer traffic, closure to light, high-profile vehicles, and local traffic only.

## ROLLING CLOSURE

The small towns along Interstate 80 have limited resources in terms of parking, fuel, hotel rooms and other amenities. When a town is at capacity, which can happen during a long-duration closure, the closure will be rolled back to the next town to avoid stranding travelers in a location without adequate services. The road may be open in the direction leading away from the affected area. WYDOT attempts to make accommodations for travelers who do not put a demand on an affected community's resources by issuing local traffic only restrictions and through the WYDOT Authorized Travel program.

## LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY

In some cases, a road may be closed to through-traffic but commuters and local residents may be permitted to travel. In these cases, WYDOT will issue a "Local Traffic Only" restriction.

## 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 because of extremely icy conditions, when visibility is limited because of 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.

