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Nov 1, 2008 5:03 pm US/Mountain

CDOT Practices For Winter On I-70 In The Mountains

Written by Stan Bush

VAIL, Colo. (CBS4) — Traffic officials are taking lessons from a fatal pile-up in March to protect the Interstate 70 corridor this winter.

In that 70-car pile-up, 39-year-old Lance Melting, a special education teacher at Heritage Middle School, was killed. Five others were injured.

Officials say the crash could have been much worse had agencies along the highway not performed a staged shut-down of the interstate.

From now on, when I-70 is closed, CDOT and local law enforcement will enact a section-by-section closure of the road. It will start with large trucks and then move to a full closure on all traffic. CDOT says they could shut down the highway as far west as Dotsero, which is at the end of the Glenwood Canyon.

Officials across the state this week are simulating the closures in the high country to fine-tune communications with multiple agencies for the winter.

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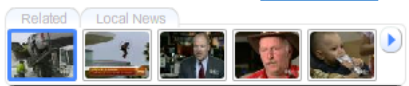
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