

184 trucks towed from I-70 this winter

Blocked lanes of traffic were cleared more than 200 times this winter

VAIL DAILY STAFF REPORT

VAIL, CO COLORADO,

INTERSTATE 70 — Blocked lanes of traffic were cleared more than 200 times during the first winter of the Colorado Department of Transportation's quick towing program.

Heavy-duty wreckers stationed along Interstate 70 from the Front Range to Vail Pass towed 184 trucks between Thanksgiving and the end of April.

The wreckers were in place to quickly tow trucks during busy winter weekends and holidays, the Colorado Department of Transportation says.

It took the wreckers about 23 minutes to tow the trucks. Before the program began, towing took about twice that much time.

"It can cost thousands of dollars in lost revenue and hours of travel delays, even when just one lane of I-70 is closed, impacting trade, travel, tourism and recreation," says Regional Transportation Director Tony DeVito. "The program provides benefits that far outweigh the cost, which is about \$500,000 a year."

Heavy Tow is scheduled to begin again over the Thanksgiving weekend but will resume at an earlier date if there is bad weather.

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