

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY



Ouray County backcountry is vast and beautiful, but it can change in an instant. Be prepared. Recreate responsibly for your safety and the safety of others.



## GETTING THERE

[www.COtrip.org](http://www.COtrip.org)



COLORADO  
Department of Transportation

- Route Information • Speeds limits • Estimated Trip Times
- Travel Alerts • Road Closures • Road Cams
- Road Conditions • Traction Laws

## PARKING

*Backcountry users should park in clearly marked and designated parking areas, and use extreme caution when leaving vehicles or trailers on the side of the road. Vehicles may be ticketed or towed in no parking areas.*

*Hwy 550 parking is limited. Look for designated parking at the summit of:*

- Red Mountain Pass Summit– Near mile marker 80
- Ironton Park – Near mile marker 86
- Idarado Mine Overlook – Just south of mile marker 82 between 82 and 81

*Watch for marked No Parking areas that are designated for snow removal & plow turnarounds.*

*When parking, look for caution signs at avalanche areas that indicate no stopping or standing at the location.*



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Know Your Destination
- Know Your Equipment
- Know The Weather
- Know Your Limits

## RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

- Recreate Knowledgeably
- Recreate Inclusively
- Recreate Considerately

## CARE FOR COLORADO

- Pack It In, Pack It Out
- Leave It As You Found It
- Be Careful With Fire
- Keep Wildlife Wild



## BACKCOUNTRY QUICK SAFETY TIPS CHECK LIST

- ✓ Tell someone where you are going
- ✓ Wear a backpack, proper clothing & helmet
- ✓ Bring water & food
- ✓ Bring avalanche transceiver/beacon
- ✓ Bring snow shovel & avalanche probe
- ✓ Bring first aid kit, headlamp, & goggles
- ✓ Bring emergency road pack in vehicle  
(Food, water, blankets, extra gloves, and boots, etc.)
- ✓ Proper tires (HWY traction laws and restrictions; snow tires/chains)
- ✓ Bring a map, Cell phone, GPS locator or other devices (in case you have no cell coverage)
- ✓ Recreate with a buddy. Don't venture out alone.
- ✓ Watch for marked No Parking areas that are designated for snow removal and plow turnarounds.
- ✓ Check the weather & avalanche forecasts:  
[avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/north-san-juan](http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/north-san-juan)



Ouray County Sheriff Non Emergency Line  
970-252-4020

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

[Colorado.com/BackcountryPledge](http://Colorado.com/BackcountryPledge)

*"I pledge to follow the guidelines below so that I may understand the risks involved in exploring the backcountry and will do my best to play it safe."*

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY



## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Ways that you can continue to protect yourselves, family members, and community members:

- ✓ Stay home if you feel sick.
- ✓ Wash your hands frequently.
- ✓ Seek testing if needed.
- ✓ Practice social distancing.
- ✓ Wear a mask when around people you don't live with.



For local restrictions and COVID-19 guidelines please visit: [OurayCountyCo.gov](http://OurayCountyCo.gov)

And if you become sick or are a close contact of a confirmed case:

- ✓ Self-Quarantine. If possible, keep yourself isolated from other people in your household.
- ✓ Do not recreate. You put others at risk if you require emergency assistance.
- ✓ Call your healthcare provider if you have concerns about your symptoms.
- ✓ Seek testing if recommended by your healthcare provider.

## CORSAR CARD COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

The CORSAR card is available for only \$3 for a one-year card and \$12 for five-year card.

Colorado residents and visitors are well served by dedicated volunteer search and rescue teams. By purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card you are contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund, which reimburses teams for costs incurred in search and rescues activities across the State of Colorado.

The CORSAR card is not insurance and does not reimburse individuals nor does it pay for medical transport. The Search and Rescue fund (SAR) was created to reimburse political subdivisions and search and rescue organizations for the costs incurred in conducting search and rescue operations and to provide funding for the purchase of search and rescue related equipment.

Support our local Ouray Mountain Rescue Team by purchasing and downloading your CORSAR Card today at: [Dola.colorado.gov/sar/cardPurchase.jsf](http://Dola.colorado.gov/sar/cardPurchase.jsf)



## KNOW THE WEATHER

Weather can be unexpected and change quickly, and avalanches can strike even the most prepared winter recreationist or outfitter. Check conditions with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center online to determine local mountain weather and safety risks.

**Staying off of and out from under slopes 30 degrees or more in steepness greatly reduces your risk from avalanches. Get weather and avalanche forecasts here:**

[avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/north-san-juan](http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/north-san-juan)



[OurayCounty.gov/weather](http://OurayCounty.gov/weather)



Brochure design: gretadesign.com