



Please Don't Cut *the* Cable

For those of you who drive along the highways in Colorado, you may have noticed a new type of barrier being installed. This new barrier type is a cable guardrail that CDOT is using in the median and shoulder areas. This high-tension cable barrier is being installed in place of metal guardrails and concrete barriers.

This system has been very successful in stopping vehicles that could cross the median into oncoming traffic; the kind of crashes that often end up with devastating consequences. The cable guardrail has been shown to reduce the severity of crashes, and is very cost-effective safety measure when compared to other barriers.

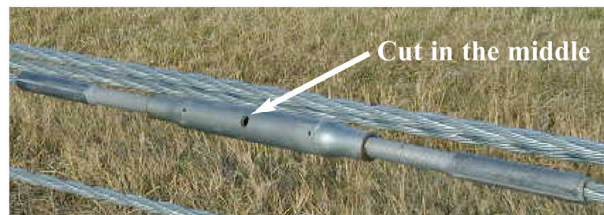
Besides providing protection to the public from cross-median crashes, the cable barrier also provides protection to emergency responders. As we have all seen, working along the freeway is extremely dangerous.

Keeping the Cable Intact

If vehicles get tangled in the cable, it may seem easy to just cut the cable to gain better access. However, there is a much better option. Because this barrier is so effective in preventing cross-median crashes, it is important that it stays intact - when possible. The cable is held in place by posts spaced at specific intervals.

The preferred method to loosen the cables is to take out the support posts. This will create slack in the cables and allow the cables to be moved out of the way. The cables can also be loosened at the turnbuckles.

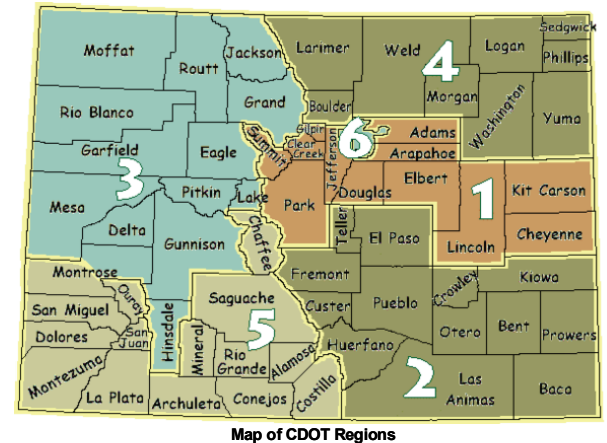
There is no clean way to splice the cables together once they are cut and would require a complete section replacement, which is costly. Additionally, ordering new cable sections could delay fixing the cable in a timely manner.



Each 1,000 foot section of cable is connected together, and tightened with, a metal turnbuckle (above). If the cable needs to be cut, cutting through the center of the turnbuckle will keep the cable intact and allow the repairs to be done more quickly.

If you have any questions or safety concerns regarding median cable guardrails, please don't hesitate to contact one of our CDOT Local Traffic Offices at:

Colorado Department of Transportation
HQ Safety and Traffic Engineering Branch
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, 3rd Floor
Denver, CO 80222



Region 1 Traffic Engineer
18500 E. Colfax Ave.
Aurora, CO 80011
303.365.7300

Region 2 Traffic Engineer
905 Erie Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81002
719.546.5411

Region 3 Traffic Engineer
222 South 6th St., #317
Grand Jct., CO 81501-2769
970.248.7213

Region 4 Traffic Engineer
1420 2nd Street
Greeley, CO 80632
970.350.2121

Region 5 Traffic Engineer
3803 N. Main Ave., #306
Durango, CO 81301
970.385.1449

Region 6 Traffic Engineer
(Denver Metro Area)
2000 South Holly St.
Denver, CO 80222
303.757.9511



Please Contact CDOT Maintenance for Assistance

CDOT Maintenance personnel can provide guidance and on-site help at a crash scene. CDOT's personnel are trained on how to safely add slack to cables by taking out posts and loosening turn buckles. Median cables are under thousands of pounds of tension pressure; if a cable is cut, it may whip back and cause injury.

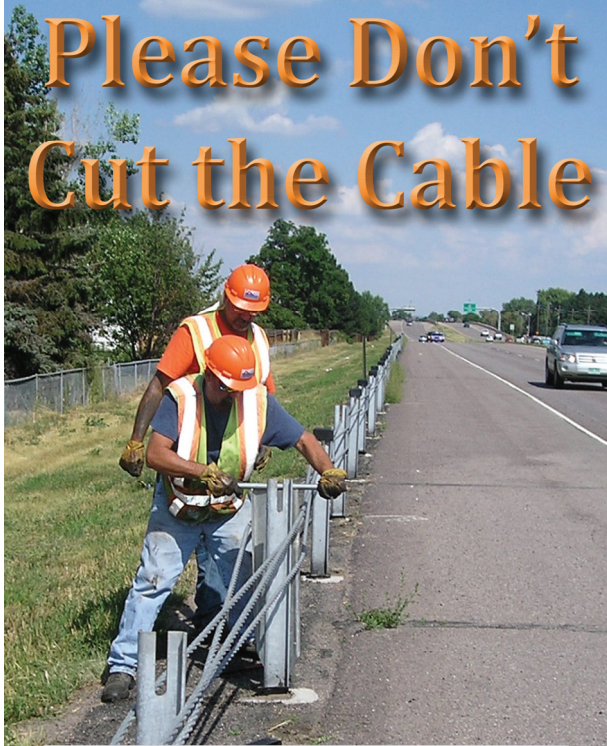


CDOT Maintenance personnel can assist you 24 hours, seven days a week through your local State Patrol or Law Enforcement Dispatch Center.

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Important Information for Emergency Responders