



## **Avon mountain opens runaway truck ramp**

Posted by News Channel 8's Jamie Muro  
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Avon (WTNH) \_ Making their move ahead of the weather, the DOT opens Connecticut's first runaway truck ramp on Avon mountain. Chopper 8 was overhead as the barriers blocking the entrance were removed in time for the afternoon rush.

It has been called Connecticut's version of dead man's curve -- a peg that unfortunately sometimes fits.

Route 44 - Avon Mountain - a steep grade that some drivers avoid all together and truck driver Kurt Hemme is no exception. "I would never come down that hill fully loaded. It's such a steep grade, it's unsafe."

Perhaps Thursday was the first step in changing that reputation. "It's beneficial to everybody, keep everybody safe," Hemme noted.

To avoid problems with a potentially strong snow storm, the DOT opened up a new runaway truck ramp a day early. A four month, \$2.8 million project complete with concrete barriers and a reinforced drag net system that could stop a future disaster.

"I'm happy they pulled this off unbelievable fast," Sean Daigle, a restaurant owner, said. A collective sigh of relief was felt up and down and around the mountain, but the work is just beginning.

"I'm not sure it's the most important," John Carlson, Town Chairman, said. "I think the overall correction on top of the mountain, as well as enforcement of speeding laws and enforcement of truck inspection, are all part of the solution there."

But it's a start, although not enough of one for Hemme to drive his truck on the so-called dead man's curve. "Safety is always first," Hemme said.

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