



## ROADSIDE MEMORIAL SIGN PROGRAM CRITERIA

Roadside memorials can help grieving families and friends deal with the loss of a loved one. They can also alert drivers to the very real and serious consequences of unsafe driving. Adams County's policy on roadside memorials is intended to accommodate these important interests, while at the same time helping to avoid legal challenges that can sometimes be presented when memorials are installed without approval or regulation.

The following criteria shall be utilized to issue roadside memorial signs and roadside memorial sign permits:

1. The program applies only to fatal crashes occurring on a county road in unincorporated Adams County. For state highway system traffic fatalities, an applicant may contact the Colorado Department of Transportation at 303.757.9662. Only one memorial sign will be installed or issued per crash, regardless of the number of fatalities. Available Roadside Memorial signs include the following:
  - PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY (for any fatalities)
  - PLEASE RIDE SAFELY (for motorcycle/bicycle fatalities)
  - PLEASE BUCKLE UP (for fatalities where victim was not wearing a seat belt)
  - DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE (note specific requirements in section 3.a)
2. Memorial signs may be requested only by the immediate family of the deceased, or by close friends when no immediate family members are available. The family may direct the Public Works Department in writing to remove a memorial sign at any time.
3. The applicant must provide a copy of the accident report with their application (This is needed to verify the date and location of the accident).
  - a. For "DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE" sign requests, additional documentation is required. There must be a conviction of the responsible driver involved in the fatal crash who was in violation of Colorado DUI laws, or a toxicology report showing the driver to have been in violation of Colorado's DUI laws. Note: An intoxicated driver who died does NOT qualify as a victim.
4. County-issued signs for approved applications will be deployed with the following criteria:
  - County-issued signs will be installed by the Public Works Department as close as practicable to the actual site of the fatal crash. It will generally be installed on the side of the road that represents the direction the vehicle was traveling at the time of the

crash. Signs will not be installed in medians, on bridge structures, or other locations deemed inappropriate or unsafe by the Public Works Department.

- County-issued signs will be maintained by the Public Works Department and remain in place for two (2) years. At the conclusion of the posting period, the sign will be retired by the Public Works Department and donated to the family.
    - The original applicant will be contacted to collect the sign following removal of the memorial sign.
    - Retired signs will be held for collection by the original applicant for thirty (30) days following removal at the Traffic Operations Office, 4955 E. 74th Avenue Commerce City, CO 80022.
  - The applicant shall pay \$100, due upon approval of the application. This fee represents partial coverage of the county's direct and indirect expenses with creating, installing and maintaining the sign. The fee shall be transmitted to the county treasurer and be credited to the applicable county highway or transportation fund.
5. Memorial signs are sometimes placed in close proximity to high speed/high volume motor vehicle traffic, family and friends are discouraged from visiting the crash site, leaving mementos, or otherwise adorning the roadside memorial sign. If this occurs and represents a hazard, the roadside memorial sign will be removed at the discretion of the Public Works Department.
  6. The Public Works Department will remove roadside memorials that are not permitted and issued by Adams County. Reasonable effort will be made to contact the family of a victim to provide information on how to request a sign or permit in accordance with the guidelines of this program.
  7. Questions about the county's roadside memorial sign program may be directed to the Adams County Public Works Department at 303.853.7135.