

# PRESS RELEASE

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Date: November 9, 2012  
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## **NATIONAL ELEVATOR & ESCALATOR SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK IS NOVEMBER 11 - 17**

*Division of Oil and Public Safety oversees inspections and the  
safety of conveyances in Colorado*

(DENVER) –According to the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation, there are approximately 700,000 elevators and escalators in use in North America. These conveyances are used approximately 210 billion times each year, which is equivalent to moving twice the population of the United States and Canada each year. Elevators, escalators and moving walkways are among the safest ways to transport pedestrians. However avoidable accidents still occur.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and Mayor Michael Hancock of Denver, both signed proclamations declaring November 11 through 17 as National Elevator and Escalator Safety Awareness Week to promote public awareness of the safe and proper use of elevators, escalators and moving walks.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment’s Division of Oil and Public Safety regulates conveyances in Colorado to ensure safety of the riding public. State law requires that these elevators and escalators be regularly inspected by a qualified and licensed conveyance inspector, and the installation and maintenance be completed according to industry codes and standards.

“While elevators and escalators are among the safest means of transportation, it’s important that persons properly and safely use these conveyances” says Division Director Mahesh Albuquerque. “The elderly and children are the most at-risk groups involved in incidents on conveyances, particularly escalators, so it’s important that they are careful getting on and off, hold handrails, and that parents supervise their children. The week of November 11 is an opportunity for us to join with the conveyance industry in raising awareness about public safety.”

Albuquerque notes that the Division is always available to respond to questions or concerns about the operation of any conveyances in Colorado. Individuals can contact Conveyance Program staff at 303-318-8530 or via email at [conveyance@state.co.us](mailto:conveyance@state.co.us).

(More)

To obtain additional information about the Conveyance Program or to access the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation website, visit the program website at [www.colorado.gov/cdle/conveyances](http://www.colorado.gov/cdle/conveyances)

Among the safety tips that help prevent incidents:

**Elevators**

- Watch your step
- Leave closing doors alone
- If doors don't open, ring the alarm button and wait; don't try to open the doors
- If there is a fire in the building, use the stairs

**Escalators**

- Step on and off carefully
- People only – no strollers
- Hold the handrail
- Take care of younger children
- Don't touch the sides below the handrail
- Stand facing forward

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