



Injuries from Releasing Parking Brakes on School Buses

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Attention: Washington State School Districts

Setting and releasing school bus parking brakes over and over throughout the work shift can leave drivers with sore or seriously injured right shoulders, elbows or wrists.

This is because:

- the parking brakes on most buses require an extended reach and a high push/pull force to operate; and
- drivers must repeat this action with each pickup and drop off

Fortunately, school districts can take action to prevent or minimize risk for injuries like these. You can:

- request design changes from the school bus manufacturer for a before-market, permanent solution.
- install an after-market product designed to reduce forceful pulling. Search online or email us at ergonomics@Lni.wa.gov for possible options.
- check the PP-1 (Push/Pull-1) valve on buses; if faulty, repair may reduce pushing and pulling forces.
- seek an approved retrofit kit for existing buses from the bus and brake system manufacturers.

Get 1-on-1 assistance from L&I or visit L&I's Safety & Health webpage for training, videos, and other resources to help strengthen your safety program.

Share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety network.

*This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSHS) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. **This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations.** The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSHS recommends you also check related rules for additional requirements.*

#3HB2010 revised as #3HeB2016