



**DOSH Hazard Awareness eBulletin**  
**August 26, 2010**

#3HB2010

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.
- ✓ reduce forceful pulling by adding the Maxie Brake Release Lever as an after-market, temporary fix. <http://www.maxiebrakerelease.com/>
- ✓ 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.

**Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks.**

*This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) 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 injuries. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.*

*Get another copy of this document and find other resources for preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses on our web site: [www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety](http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety)*