

# National winter vehicle near miss (correct use of parking brake) **SafetyAlert**

June 2014

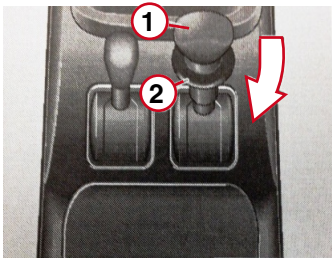
## Work activity description:

Two incidents have been reported where vehicle parking brake (handbrake) system have been incorrectly applied and unattended vehicles have moved causing damage.

## Investigation/findings:

Further investigation carried out by A-one+ and Amey following the incident highlighted that the handbrake could be susceptible to a build-up of detritus around the handbrake lever mechanism which may prevent the handbrake level catch from fully engaging in the locked position.

## Applying the parking brake:



Push the lever **1** backwards until it engages

The parking brake has been applied when the lever can no longer be moved forwards without pulling the lever catch **2**

### CAUTION

#### Danger of accidents!

Always check that the lever **1** has engaged completely

## Lessons learnt:

Service Providers must ensure that when operatives and drivers apply the handbrake within the winter vehicles, that a positive "click" is heard to confirm that the mechanism is working correctly. Drivers are reminded that leaving the vehicles in gear, with the engines turned off, will not offer any form of protection from the vehicle moving if the handbrake is not fully engaged.

During routine maintenance including Driver Operator Checks, it is essential the handbrake mechanism is checked for correct operation.

## For further information:

If you want to know more about these incidents, please contact

[steve.stace@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.stace@highways.gsi.gov.uk) or

[darren.clark@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:darren.clark@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

## Actions:

### Confirmation of handbrake application.

- Drivers, operatives and fitters must ensure that handbrakes are properly applied, prior to leaving any vehicles unattended.
  - This is done by pushing the lever backwards until it engages. This is confirmed by a positive "Click".
  - The parking brake has been applied when the lever can no longer be moved forwards without lifting the lever catch (collar).
  - Parking brake check lamp comes on.
- DRIVERS** should always check that the level is engaged completely. If in any doubt re check.
- If it cannot be applied correctly drivers should do everything possible to make the vehicle safe which may require remaining in control of the vehicle and hailing assistance.
  - We would not recommend undertaking any activities where others may be put at risk (such as using chocks) when a vehicle is not correctly braked.



## For further information please call

Wayne Mullin on 01234 796120

or email [wayne.mullin@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.mullin@highways.gsi.gov.uk)