



Q. How do I get a “No Compression Brakes” sign installed?

A. Compression Brakes (also known as engine brakes, jake brakes, etc.) are legal in Idaho if they are muffled and used in the event of an emergency when postings prohibit use. Lakes Highway District can NOT post signs prohibiting the use of muffled brakes when used in case of an emergency. Compression brakes are considered a safety feature on trucks. We do have “No Compression Brake” signing available to remind drivers of the provisions listed in County Ordinance 497 and Lakes Highway District Resolution 2016-10, attached.

No Compression Brake signs can be installed in specified locations if they meet the following warrants:

1. The area has an established record of unmuffled engine brake noise complaints with a minimum of six different people complaining about four different incidents, supported by an investigation.
2. Signed concurrence from the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Office acknowledging an action plan to enforce the sign.
3. Approval of Lakes Highway District Commissioners.

Please note: Truck drivers are aware that unmuffled compression brakes are illegal in Idaho and it is unlikely signing without enforcement will address concerns for the noise created. Enforcement of current laws and the considered signage is a necessary component to correct this concern.

For additional information or to send in a request for signage, with the supporting documentation stated herein, please contact:

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