

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0609

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0609

Park Brake Switch Circuit

C0609 indicates that the electronic brake control module (EBCM) or body control module (BCM) has detected an implausible signal from the park brake switch circuit, which monitors whether the parking brake is engaged or released. The computer expects a specific voltage or state change when the brake is applied or released, and it has seen a condition outside that expected range for a calibrated period.

SYSTEM

Chassis

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- The red brake warning light on the instrument cluster stays illuminated or flashes intermittently.
- The parking brake indicator may fail to turn on when the brake is applied, or stay on when it is released.
- A chime or message may appear on the driver information center warning of a brake system fault.
- Some vehicles may disable the automatic parking brake release or hill-hold assist function.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal braking performance otherwise unaffected.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty park brake switch, which can wear internally or stick in one position.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness between the switch and the control module, often at the switch connector or where the harness flexes.
- 3 Loose or disconnected electrical connector at the park brake switch or at the control module.
- 4 Blown fuse or poor ground connection serving the park brake switch circuit.
- 5 Water intrusion or debris in the switch or connector causing intermittent shorts or opens.
- 6 Failed control module (EBCM or BCM) that misinterprets a correct switch signal, though this is less common.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the parking brake indicator lamp operation and confirm the code with a scan tool that can read live data from the brake control module.
- 2 Inspect the park brake switch connector and wiring for corrosion, looseness, or physical damage, and repair as needed.
- 3 Check the fuse and ground connections for the park brake switch circuit using a wiring diagram.
- 4 Measure voltage and resistance on the switch signal circuit while operating the parking brake to compare against specifications.
- 5 Test the park brake switch itself with a multimeter for continuity in both applied and released positions, and replace if out of specification.
- 6 Clear the code and perform a road test to confirm the repair, ensuring the warning light stays off and live data shows correct switch status.

What the park brake switch code hides

- A park brake switch that tests fine on a bench can still set C0609 intermittently due to a worn plunger that fails only when the pedal or lever is at a specific position.
- The switch circuit often shares a ground with other interior components, so a corroded ground point can cause this code along with unrelated electrical gremlins.
- On vehicles with electronic parking brakes, the switch signal is also used by the hill-start assist and automatic release functions, so a fault can disable those features without any change in braking feel.
- Technicians sometimes replace the switch only to find the real problem is a chafed wire behind the pedal assembly or under the center console, so a thorough harness inspection is essential.
- C0609 can be set by a momentary voltage spike during battery service or jump-starting, so always check for a stored history code before condemning parts.

Can I keep driving with C0609?

The vehicle remains safe to drive under normal conditions because the service brakes are unaffected, but the parking brake warning light may not accurately indicate the brake's status. Avoid relying on the parking brake indicator and have the circuit inspected soon to prevent the fault from masking a real parking brake problem.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Wiring diagram for the park brake switch circuit
- Trim removal tools for accessing the switch
- Test light or jumper wires



Reading C0609

- C** Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 6** Brakes, steering and suspension.
- 09** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

C0040 Left Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit · **C0050** Right Rear Wheel Speed Sensor Circuit Malfunction · **C0608** Steering Wheel Angle Sensor Circuit Performance · **C0610** Vehicle Communication Bus E (Chassis Bus) · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How ABS Works: Anti-Lock Brakes in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0609/>

