

UNDER THE HOOD

WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 1994 Ford Ranger 4.0V6 auto 4wd. with 105000 miles. Upon a cold start have to crank engine for 10-15 seconds before it fires. Once warmed up starts immediately but if I let it set for couple hours has to crank over for 10-15 seconds again. If you turn the key on and wait 10-15 seconds it will start right away when cold. What do you think it could be? Thank you very much for your advice. I listen to you guys on KBHB am in Rapid City each week.

Steve R.

Thank you very much for your email Steve. From your good explanation of your problem it sounds like you have a fuel pump failing. The pump has a check valve inside that keeps the fuel from losing pressure when turned off. This pressure is what assures a quick start. Over time the check valve will either degrade or get covered in varnish from the fuel. This can be reduced by regularly cleaning the fuel system by adding a can of Justice Brother's fuel injection cleaner to the tank. The repair for this once it has occurred is to replace the fuel pump.

Thank you very much for the email and for listening to Under The Hood.

Take Care, Russ

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2003 Ford 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel that has a hard cold starting issue. When the temperature outside drops to below 50 degrees it takes a very long time to crank. If I crank it over and over again eventually it will fire but then runs ruff for about a minute. If I plug it in it is better but not great. I have been told many different things but wanted to ask you guys before I commit to a shop as I am new to the area and don't have a shop yet. I have listened to you guys on the air in Fargo and in Nebraska City and want to get a preliminary diagnosis although I know it can be hard over email. Thank you in advance for any advice you can give me.

Dave in Sioux Falls.

Thank you for listening to the show Dave. We see our share of diesel work and as it gets cold the hard starting issues really come out. The Powerstroke diesel is a great engine. They have been on the road for many years and have

proven to be a reliable engine but they are not without their quirks. Being a diesel they need some basic things in order to run. Good fuel quality is a huge issue. It must be clean and of correct type for the outside temperature. Regular filter changes are very important. When the temp drops using an anti-gel is a must. In diesels older than 2007 you should also run a fuel conditioner for lubrication to prevent damage to the injection system. Glow plugs are also very important also. If any are failing the engine will be hard to start. Oil is a big item with this engine as well because the oil pressure is responsible for opening the injectors. The oil must be changed regularly. That brings us to the High Pressure Oil Pump. This pump takes oil from the low side of the engine oil system and increases pressure to open the injectors. The pumps can leak and cause very hard starting. You can check this by looking at the level in the pump housing at the very front top of the engine. When cold before starting take out the plug and if it is low you have a leak. I hope this gives you some helpful ideas. Thank you for listening to the show and thanks for the email.

Take care, Russ

If you have questions for the Motor Medics email them to Help@underthehoodshow.com We will respond to your email quickly and may print it in The Motor Market. Listen to Under the Hood on KELO am 1320 Thursdays at 10:00 and Sundays at 5:00 or on a station near you. We can also be found on the internet at www.underthehoodshow.com.

Advice given by the Motor Medics is for use as a guide to repair. Always check with your favorite repair shop for verification. The motor medics have been operating a repair shop and answering questions on the air for 19 years. Russ is an ASE Master Certified Technician with extensive dealer and aftermarket training. Shannon is an ASE Certified Parts Specialist with more than 30 years in the automotive world. You can ask a question of The Motor Medics by going to help@underthehoodshow.com we will answer your question on line and you may see it appear in this publication. The Under The Hood Show can be heard each week on local stations with coverage reaching seven states and on www.underthehoodshow.com. Go to Underthehoodshow.com to find one near you. ^{TMM}

