

# UNDER THE HOOD

## WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear Motor Medics...

My son has a 2000 Buick Regal, he says the ABS, trac off, and service engine lights are on. It just came on this week, he lives in Sioux Falls and he noticed it when it was raining. He thinks he has to press down harder on the brakes now. Could it be wiring problems? Brake problems? Thanks for any help you can give us. My husband listens each week on KELO am 1320 in Sioux Falls.

Thank you, Roxanne in Madison

Thank you for listening to the show. GM cars built from 1997 to about 2003 have a common failure point in the abs wiring at the front wheel. This failure is so common that after we check the fluid the next step for us in diagnosis is to inspect the front wheel sensors for wire breakage. The sensor wires can sometimes be repaired but often the wires have been pulled out by ice and the hub must be replaced. Have the vehicle codes checked and if they come back as a wheels speed sen-

sor failure it is very likely that the cause is a broken wire.

Thank you again. Take care, Russ.

Dear Motor Medics...

I have a very strange situation. I have a 1999 Buick Park Avenue that I have owned for two years. It is well taken care of and has 80,000 miles on it. Everything on the car works very well, now I'd have to say too well. During the last really cold spell I came out of my office to leave work and found my car running with the lights on. I had just listened to your show that morning and heard you talk about remote starters and I had thought how nice it would be to have one on a cold day like today. As I approached the car it shut off and the lights went off. It did not do this again until a week later at my house. This time it started ran for 30 seconds, shut off, then started again. I got into the car and stepped on the brake and it stopped running. What is going on? Is there an electrical problem or is my car

possessed?

Thank you, Karen in Sioux Falls.

Thank you for listening to the show Karen. This problem is very rare, I have seen it only a couple of times over the years. In working on cars as long as I have, I have come across remote starters installed under the dash on numerous vehicles and come to find the owners were not aware of them. When they purchased the vehicle they did not get a remote control for whatever reason so they did not know they were there. Some remote starters have a second input controlled by a ground wire. If the wire were to come in contact with a ground under the dash the vehicle would self start. This is very rare but has occurred with some old starter models. The stepping on the brake to shut it off is a big clue. Get the car in to a shop that works on remote starters such as Audio Playground in Sioux Falls and have it checked.

Thank you for listening to the show.

Take care Russ

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*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](mailto: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](http://www.underthehoodshow.com). Go to [Underthehoodshow.com](http://Underthehoodshow.com) to find one near you. TMM*

