

Wheels: Frank L. writes by e-mail: “My 2001 Dodge Dakota (77K miles) is displaying a warning light “SERV 4WD”.

One problem is that this vehicle does not have 4 wheel drive.

I have been told by one mechanic to ignore the warning light. A second mechanic said that he had heard that this warning may be linked to my brake system or brake fluid.

Any advice you will offer will be appreciated.

Thank you in advance.”

Halderman: I checked for technical service bulletins (TSB) and found one relates to your situation. According to the bulletin issued by the manufacture (#08-032-00 dated December 29, 2000), the fix is to replace the instrument cluster (dash) with the correct one for a two-wheel drive vehicle. Apparently it is programmed to display the message at a given mileage interval such as at 75,000 miles. The TSB includes detailed instructions on how to remove the dash assembly and includes the part number of the correct dash.

Wheels: What can Frank do?

Halderman: I would call or visit a Dodge dealer and see if they can replace the dash for you. However, your truck is out of warranty and while there was a technical service bulletin issued this is covered only during the warranty period. Another possible solution is to purchase a dash from a two-wheel drive truck from a wrecking yard (automotive recycler) and have it installed by a local shop. The last option and the lowest cost include:

1. Ignore the warning light
2. Remove the bulb
3. Place a strip of black electrical tape over the light

