

Wheels: An e-mail from Vittal asks, “You are locked out of the car with the engine running, gear shift lever in park, and the hood up. How do you stop the engine? My friends say to disconnect the negative of the battery, which will work, but might surge the alternator and cause some damage. A better solution is to pull the fuel pump fuse. Please advise.”

Halderman: I agree that disconnecting the battery would cause harm. You are also correct that disconnecting the fuel pump fuse or relay will be the best way to stop an engine. Another way is to disconnect the fuel pump ignition relay. On Chrysler brand vehicles, disconnect the ASD (automatic shutdown) relay, and on Ford products, disconnect the EEC (electronic engine control) relay.

