

Wheels: An e-mail from Rich says, “I have enjoyed reading your articles for a long time plus using your advice to other people for my benefit. Now I need to ask your advice on my problem with my 1996 S-10 Chevy pickup truck. When driving my truck to work or just around the area, I have a problem with acceleration. When operating temperature is reached, the truck has a hesitation that starts at 45 mph. It is like I am letting on and off the accelerator. It seems like it is not getting enough fuel. If I give it more gas, it goes away but it will also do it at higher speeds. I might note this is a 2.2 liter engine. I would welcome any advice that you could give me.”

Haldeman: This problem could have many causes and I do not want you to start “throwing parts” at this problem. Because you are able to “drive through” the problem, the computer is commanding a leaner than normal air/fuel ratio or there is an ignition problem. The first thing I would do is make sure that all of the basics are in good shape such as the air filter, fuel filter, and spark plugs. If the problem is still occurring, consult an experienced service technician who can look at the scan tool data and determine what is happening. Possible causes include a defective exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system, degraded oxygen sensor, or a fuel system fault such as a partially clogged fuel injector or fuel pressure regulator.

