

**Wheels:** Richard writes, “We have a 1996 Chevy Blazer, 4-wheel-drive, 4-door. We’ve had it for about 8 years and about 2 years after purchase, we had the fuel pump replaced. Since then everything was okay. About 4 months ago, the fuel pump went out. We had it towed to a shop. They replaced the fuel pump and since then we have had 4 more fuel pumps go with a total of 5 all together in the last 4 months. They tested the gas and it was okay the first time, then tested it again on the fifth fuel pump and said it looked a little strange, but did not elaborate. We have always gotten gas at the same gas station for years and never had a problem. Testing the gas a second time sounded as if we were being brushed off regarding the fifth fuel pump. However, no contaminants showed up in the testing. When they put the 4th fuel pump in they suspected maybe a bad ground so they added another ground wire. This did not cure the problem. They even tried different brand names of fuel pumps. Something is killing the fuel pumps. When these 5 fuel pumps went out, it was all different types of weather and the tank was almost full on 3 of the occasions. The shop is advising me to purchase gas elsewhere. This is our family vehicle and for work also. So far, we had to pay for 3 different tows and the initial fuel pump replacement. We need an expert opinion.”

**Halderman:** What can kill fuel pumps? The most common reason is caused by operating the vehicle with a low level of fuel in the tank. The pump is cooled by the fuel and the lower the level of fuel, the hotter it runs. Try to keep the tank above one quarter.

Another reason is low voltage due to a corroded connector. Check to see that there are at least 12 volts at the pump feed wire with the engine running.

Another possible reason is caused by using gasoline containing alcohol. While it is hard to avoid operating the vehicle with a low fuel level, it will cause the alcohol to be drawn into the pump. I hope this helps.

