

**Wheels: Ruthann writes by e-mail:** *“I own a 2000 GMC Jimmy (I bought used a year ago) and on occasion the darn thing does not want to start. It is getting juice and everything it just does not start. If you wait 15-20 minutes and try again, it will start. I have taken it in to repair shop and they worked on it thoroughly not finding the problem. They suggested that maybe it had to do with the ‘security theft’ system and stated that maybe disabling that system may eliminate the problem. So my question to you is this something you have heard of happening before and is there an ‘easy’ reasonable cost fix to this problem? Is it possible that the dealership can disable the alarm security system, which by the way I have no idea how it works or if it does? Thank you”.*

**Halderman:** I do not think this problem is the result of the security system. The security warning lamp will be flashing and a scan tool can be used to find out if the system is active or not. It would be almost impossible to delete the security system because it is integral with the engine control and computer system.

There are several things that cause this problem and most will not set a diagnostic trouble code (DTC). If there was a code set, then normal diagnostic procedures are published showing the steps to follow to find the root cause. In this case, a technician has to check the basics and then perform tests to determine the root cause. You, as the driver, can help by telling the shop or dealer exactly when the problem occurs, including the temperature, if just the first thing in the morning, and any other information you can think of.

One thing that I thought about, and is a pattern failure item on this vehicle, is a weak electric fuel pump. Try this before attempting to start the engine:

- Turn the ignition switch to the ON (run) position, but do not rotate to the start position.
- This action will energize the fuel pump for two seconds.
- Turn the ignition off.
- Now try starting the engine. If it still does not start right away, repeat the above steps several times before attempting to start the engine.

If this action helps and the engine starts sooner, this confirms there is low fuel pressure and that the most likely cause is a weak fuel pump. Of course the fuel pump pressure, volume, and current draw should be checked to verify that the problem is the fuel pump.

Another possible cause is a defect in the ignition system but this is easy to check when it does not start by using a spark tester.

