

Wheels: Wayne of Middletown writes, "I purchased my 2000 Camaro with a V-6 3800 series engine May of 2000. It was new. Around August or September when the weather was very hot, I began to have a problem. It only had about 4500 miles on it. I could drive it about half an hour in city traffic or highway miles, let it set for 20 to 25 minutes and then when I start it up, it would start up okay, but for the first 60 to 90 seconds, the car would miss - even the whole car would shake - then it would smooth out and be okay until the next time. If I let the car sit about an hour before starting it, it would be okay. I took it back to the dealer and they replaced the fuel regulator, but since then the weather has gotten colder and it still does it but I have to drive the car for a very long time, say 2 to 3 hours. It doesn't do it all the time. Maybe two times out of five. The dealer can't do anything until it duplicates itself again. Please help."

Halderman: The dealer is correct that the concern (complaint) has to be verified before it can be repaired so that the repair can be verified. The problems could be any of numerous items including, but not limited to:

- ignition fault such as a shorted coil, cracked spark plug, etc.
- fuel system fault such as a defective fuel injector

An analysis of the misfire data as shown on the display of a Tech 2 scan tool should show the service technician which cylinder is causing the misfire. This information is available on all vehicles built since 1996 and is part of the requirements of OBD II (on-board diagnostics second generation).

After the service technician has identified the missing cylinder(s), the ignition system and fuel injector for that cylinder should be checked. There is a technical service bulletin that may affect your vehicle and it instructs the service technician to clean the fuel injector.

