

Wheels: A question from Andy says, “I have a 2000 Ford Ranger with a 3.0 V6 engine. I changed my spark plugs, wires, air filter, oil, oil filter, and fuel filter for a tune up. After I did this, the engine idles very rough and goes through gas twice as fast as before. My check engine light also came on so I had it hooked up to a computer and it said that three cylinders have a misfire. The plugs are timed right and the wires are in the right order. Any idea about what could be the problem?”

Halderman: The problem has to be related to the work that was performed during the tune up. The most likely cause is a fault with the spark plug wires. Spark plug wires do not have real wire inside as you would think, but rather a thread that is impregnated with carbon. These wires are very easy to break internally. These can be tested using an ohmmeter and they should have less than 10,000 ohms for each foot of length. For example, a two foot long wire should measure less than 20,000 ohms. If the readings are over this, replace the spark plug wires.

