

Dead battery may cause costly problems

It's a very cold morning and your wife has her full day planned out. So the good husband that you are, (aren't we all), you decide to go out and start the vehicle and get it nice and toasty warm for her. But when you go to turn the key, nothing happens, not even a click. Of all days, a dead battery. Now you're saying to yourself, not a 'good husband, but a dead husband,' if you don't get this vehicle started.

Not a problem, just drive to the auto parts store, buy a battery, put the new battery in the vehicle and then you're set, turn the key and start the vehicle. Yeah right! After the vehicle starts, it doesn't want to idle correctly, the heater is only blowing air out of the defroster, the check engine light is on. Yes, 'dead husband' for sure. What could have happened? This isn't the first battery you ever changed and besides everything worked okay before the battery went dead.

It is called technology. Most vehicles have more than one computer. They need a certain amount of voltage at all times to keep memory, so when a battery is dead, or it shorts itself, the vehicle sometimes has to do a relearn after it is started. Up until it relearns the vehicle may idle, perform and even shift funny. Take BMW's for example, many new BMW's I am told that have a new battery installed you have to "inform" the vehicles' computer about the new battery, or it may think it is the

old battery and overcharge the new battery. In some Chevy trucks if a voltage spike happens when changing the battery, the AC functions may not operate properly. The heater/AC module may have to be reprogrammed or even replaced. Even on some VW's if you disconnect the battery cables, sometimes the radio will not work after the cables are put back on. Then you need the radio code number to reset it for it to work. I even know a person whose son was changing a battery in his girlfriend's car and accidentally put the cables on the battery wrong. It made a lot of sparks and set the air bags off.

Every time our shop has to change a battery, or disconnect it, we install a back up system to help keep memory. So remember, next time you need to change your battery, be very careful. Read your owner's manual about changing your battery. Just think, if you change a battery in your daughter's vehicle and the radio goes into lock down mode and it lost satellite radio, you may be a 'dead father'!

Call Dave's Auto Service, Inc. at 610-367-1844, located at 925 W. Phila. Ave., Boyertown for fast and reliable service.

Happy Holidays from Dave's Auto Service, Inc.