

# UNDER THE HOOD

## WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear Motor Medics

I have a 1998 Dodge Stratus with the 2.4 4 cylinder engine, automatic, air, cruise and remote start with just over 100,000 miles. Today when I got off work, the flashers came on as soon as I inserted the key in the ignition and the engine would not turn over when I turned the key. I didn't know what I would do, then I tried the remote start and it started so I could drive home. The flashers come on as soon as I put the key in the ignition, but they don't flash after I start it with the remote and put the key in what could be causing this to happen? And why was I able to start it with the remote starter?

Thank you, Marla in Sioux Falls

Thank you for the question Marla. I think that what has happened is that the factory alarm system thought someone was breaking in to the vehicle. If you have a remote starter or

and aftermarket keyless entry for that matter, you should always use the remote to lock and unlock the doors. If you use the switch on the door to lock the car the factory alarm system (if equipped) will be activated. When you come back to the car and use the remote some systems may not be deactivated and can either sound the alarm, keep the engine from starting, or both. If this ever happens you can put the key in the door lock and turn it to open to disarm the factory alarm system. The reason it will start with the remote is that the remote starter has a bypass that goes around the factory system to allow starting without the key present.

Thank you for your question.

Take care, Russ.

Dear Motor Medics

I read the Motor Market online and Listen to your show on KBHB in Rapid City. I was told

the other day by the shop foreman at my local Ford dealership that I should not use our Ruby Red diesel fuel (that I just happen to have 300 gallons of in our farm tank) in our 2006 Powerstroke that has 5300 miles on it. They claim that it will ruin the engine. Is this true? I hear you talk about Justice Brothers additive on your show and how they should be used in older diesels. Will this protect it from this fuel?

Thank you, Mike in Nemo, SD

Thank you for the question Mike, I'll start with the question about the Ruby Red Fuel.

Here is the thing, we would worry more about the heavy fine that you will be imposed by driving a vehicle on the road with dyed diesel fuel in it first and foremost. The dye in the fuel indicates that road taxes have not been paid on the fuel and if you were to get checked the dye can be found in the tank even many tanks after the fuel has been run through. As for an additive, we recommend and use in our own vehicles Justice Brothers Diesel Fuel Supplement in the summer to treat fungus and lubricate the fuel system, and Antigel in the winter to prevent gelling and lubricate the fuel system.

Thank you for your question.

Take care, Russ.

*Advice given by the Motor Medics is for use as a guide to repair. Always check with your favorite repair shop for verification. The motor medics have been operating a repair shop and answering questions on the air for 19 years. Russ is an ASE Master Certified Technician with extensive dealer and aftermarket training. Shannon is an ASE Certified Parts Specialist with more than 30 years in the automotive world. You can ask a question of The Motor Medics by going to [help@underthehoodshow.com](mailto:help@underthehoodshow.com) we will answer your question on line and you may see it appear in this publication. The Under The Hood Show can be heard each week on local stations with coverage reaching 7 states and on [www.underthehoodshow.com](http://www.underthehoodshow.com). Go to [Underthehoodshow.com](http://Underthehoodshow.com) to find one near you. TMM*

