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PONTIAC DIVISION

'88



Dealer  
Service  
Bulletin



**Subject:** ENGINE MISS, HESITATION, OR ROUGHNESS  
DUE TO PIERCED SECONDARY IGNITION  
COMPONENTS

**Models**

**Affected:** ALL MODELS WITH GASOLINE ENGINE

During the diagnosis procedures for an engine miss, hesitation, or roughness condition, a spark plug or spark plug wire condition may be suspected. Several types of commercial or homemade diagnostic equipment require the secondary ignition boots or wire to be pierced. This is normally done to check for spark plug firing or to perform a cylinder balance test. Similarly, the use of pliers or other such tools to disengage a spark plug boot may pierce or damage the boot or wire.

**NOTICE:** SECONDARY IGNITION COMPONENTS SHOULD NOT BE PIERCED FOR ANY REASON.

Piercing a spark plug wire and/or distributor or direct fire module nipple may create a failure condition that will not be immediately apparent. Over time, the hole in the pierced boot may allow a ground path to develop, creating a plug misfire condition. Heavily moisture-laden air in the vicinity of the pierced boot may accelerate this effect.

Piercing a secondary ignition wire creates a gap in the wire's conductive core. This gap is a point of high resistance. The current flow in the wire will increase to compensate for the higher wire resistance. Over time, the wire may fail, creating a plug misfire condition. The time required for the condition to appear depends upon the extent of damage to the conductive core.

CONTINUED

Pontiac bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians, NOT a "do-it-yourselfer." They are written to inform these technicians of conditions that may occur on some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper service of a vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do a job properly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that the bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition. See your Pontiac dealer for information on whether your vehicle may benefit from the information.

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• Parts

• Accounting