

Car Care Corner

Charging Ahead In Tough Times

(NAPSA)—A surprising consequence of an uncertain economy is that Americans are now at an increased risk for being stranded with battery failure. That's because more motorists are keeping older vehicles longer, buying used cars and not getting regular preventive maintenance.

Battery-related service calls are the second most common problem for motorists during peak travel periods, according to one of the nation's largest motor clubs.

The Problem

While motorists recognize that automobile batteries are affected by cold temperatures and winter weather, few are aware that prolonged exposure to heat also accelerates the rate of corrosion and contributes to battery failure. Auto service experts place the life expectancy of a typical automotive battery at three to five years in average climates, but only two to three years in areas with high heat or extreme cold.

The Reasons

"There are many factors that can cause a battery to fail," says Alexia Hayes, a product development engineer and mother of two young children. "Motorists who take many short trips on a daily basis, those who frequently forget to turn off their lights or make commutes of less than 20 minutes are also at risk. The combination of performing many starting cycles, coupled with short run times, will leave a battery below the ideal charge specification for most of its shortened life."

Hayes notes that parents with young children, new drivers and seniors often experience these driving patterns and are therefore especially vulnerable.

The Solution

Hayes advises, "A good set of



Older cars and vehicles making many short trips daily or operating in extreme climates are more likely to need their batteries recharged.

jumper cables with the latest technology will take the fear and guesswork out of dead battery concerns and make jump starts easy and safe.

"Ordinary jumper cables can cause sparking or shorting if they're not properly attached, which can result in serious injury to the user," she adds, "and traditional jumper cables can produce a power surge that severely damages a vehicle's expensive computers and electronics."

Fortunately, there's innovative patented technology now available in new Smart Jumper Cables from Michelin, which offer built-in surge protection and automatic polarity adjustment. You can connect either clamp to either positive or negative connections. There's no guesswork, sparking or shorting.

Other Michelin safety features include LED indicator lights that confirm the proper connections are made, textured grips, and heavy-duty, eight-gauge cable with insulated clamps for flexible, tangle-free, cold-weather-resistant operation.

Learn More

For more information, visit www.michelinSMARTcables.com.