Chevrolet Cavalier: I have a CNG dual fuel Cavalier. The CNG

I have a CNG dual fuel Cavalier. The CNG tank is leaking and all the Chevy dealers (the CNG system was made by GM) will not touch anything because there is a leak. The fire department came and went around with a probe and found no leaks. The car still pops when I start the car (I always start it in regular gasoline mode). I do not know what to do to get all of the compressed gas out.

Country: United States
Make: Chevrolet
Model: Cavalier
Year: 2003

Greetings and welcome to Just Answer, Your complete satisfaction is my goal.
Hello thanks for the question, are you wanting to fix the car or just run it on gasoline?

run on just gas
When you took it to the dealer were you asking them to fix it or disconnect the cng?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: to disconnect it, to take the tank out

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: is it safe to drive if it still pops?

Chevtek:

Does it pop while you are driving it?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: no just when I start the car (I always start it in reg gas mode)

Chevtek:

But the pop is from the cng under the rear drivers area is that correct?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: yes

Chevtek:

That pop sound is a high pressure regulator that is bad, I see this all the time, I just can't understand why a dealer would turn you away.

How much cng is left in the tank?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: When I switch it over with the button it shows empty and when I tried to fill it only a tiny bit got in before what sounded like a valve malfunctioned(very loud banging sound when hose was inserted)

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: how much work would it be to disable the high pressure regulator?

Chevtek:

On the cng tank in the trunk on the left side is all the piping inside of a cover?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: not all of it. There are some wires that are covered in plastic no shut off valve

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-: (emergency shut off valve)

Chevtek:

One moment let me look at a schematic
JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

ok

Chevtek:

The simple quick way is in the fuse block under the hood if you pull a fuse labeled AF LOCK OFF, it will disable the cng system. However in doing this the check engine light will most likely come on because the computer will see an issue with shutting down the cng.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

Ok, what about the leak problem?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

so I can just drive around with the check engine light on?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

I will not hear the pop if I pull the fuse out?

Chevtek:

Yes you can but depending on what state you are in, when it comes time for emissions test they may fail you because of the check engine light. By disabling the cng the high pressure lock off which is what lets the cng out of the tank will not open and the leak may take a few times but will slowly bleed off until it wont do it anymore.

Chevtek:

I can show you a way to turn it off manually but it is a little more involved.

Chevtek:

You would have to access the left side of the tank and turn this valve off.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

so it will probably keep popping for a few more times? Is it dangerous, because I believe it is just fumes (when it pops)

Chevtek:

Correct but it will bleed off and will eventually stop because the cng is disabled.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
Then the car will be totally safe to drive?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

What other precautions would I have to take if I were to shut it off manually?

Chevtek:

one moment I am checking on the procedure to get to that valve how in depth it is

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

ok

Chevtek:

Here is a diagram of the cover that is over the high pressure regulator on the end of the left side of the tank, you would have to take off a large clamp and cover and then the diagram is as if you were looking at the tank head on, I have circled the manual shut of valve, I believe it is a 3/16 alan wrench but dont quote me on the size, basicall insert the alan wrench clockwise until it is tight and that will turn the cng off without a check engine light.

![Diagram of the cover that is over the high pressure regulator on the end of the left side of the tank.](Full Size Image)

Chevtek:

insert the alan wrench and turn it clockwise is what I meant to say.

Chevtek:

![Diagram of the cover that is over the high pressure regulator on the end of the left side of the tank.](Full Size Image)

Here is a bigger diagram

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

Any other precautions? I wont get blown up right? These dealers have me all paranoid

Chevtek:

No, I would pull that fuse anyway if you do the manual turn off and you will be ok, honestly I think the paranoia comes from lack of understanding of the system if you want my opinion.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

Thats what I thought all along.
JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

If I do it manually it will still take some time right? But then it will be a regular gas driven safe car?

Chevtek:

If you turn it off manually there will still be some pressure in the lines yes, but it will eventually deplete to where it will not pop at all and will drive solely on regular gas and be safe. Do you need any clarification on anything?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

How long do you think it will keep popping?

Chevtek:

Its hard to say, it may not even pop at all once you either pull the fuse or turn it off manually.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

do you think I will get better gas mileage if I disable the system I am only getting 17 miles to the gallon now

Chevtek:

Question so when you are driving the car is the light on the fuel switch on or off?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

on

Chevtek:

Thats weird, the light means it is running on gasoline and I thought you would be getting better fuel economy than that. The cng system will not affect gasoline fuel mileage if it is not running on cng. Does it run ok? Is the check engine light on now?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

there are no check engine lights on I havent pulled the fuse yet but Autozones computers said I either had a bad fuel injector or a bad 02 sensor but I would see a light on the dash for those issues, correct?

Chevtek:

Question, when you first turn on the key before you start it does the check engine light come on and then go off when you start it?

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:

yes

Chevtek:

Great that is good, do you have the codes autozone pulled from the computer?
JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
not on my person but I would definitely pay you again when I found them

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
So when I disable the system can I get directions on how to take the tank out?

Chevtek:
No problem, if you get a chance stop by autozone and then post the codes back here and I can give you my opinion on what the possible issue is, an oxygen sensor can affect fuel mileage. As a clarification also, what I meant to say is the car either runs on gas or cng not both at the same time. So if the car is running on cng it gets less mpg than gas. But it only runs on one gas or the other separate from each other. As far as removing the tank, I am sure there is some legality in place there, as the tank will still have cng in it, I honestly do not have the information on what to do with the tank.

Chevtek:
One moment and I will upload how to remove the tank.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
ok

Chevtek:
[HERE is the removal procedure, I have to add a caution here, when you turn the tank off manually, again there will be cng in the lines, so when you remove the lines it will hiss cng. My honest opinion is it would be better to leave the tank in, just disabling the cng. I do not know the legalities of a dual fuel vehicle disabling one of the fuels and removing hardware of one of the fuels.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
Thank you for your help How long have you worked on CNG vehicles?

Chevtek:
I work at a chevy dealership so not solely on cng vehicles but for 12 yrs.

JACUSTOMER-bb157apn-:
I will get back to you on the other stuff I asked you. Thanks again

Chevtek:
Just for your information that high pressure regulator to replace would be about 1200 to replace. Post back here the codes and I will help you. If you are ok with it now, I would prefer you accepting now and you will not be charged later, you just pay the one time. We just get short changed a lot for our time. Also please leave positive feedback if you had a good experience.

Thanks.
7/8/2011 at 8:26 PM (1 hour and 14 minutes and 13 seconds later)
How to get the transcript for the session
JACUSTOMER-bb157apn- (Online) -- 1 Accept / 1 Answered Question (1 Open)
JACUSTOMER-bb157apn- Last Viewed on 7/8/2011 at 8:29 PM
Answer

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