If Your Engine Overheats

Normally, the needle on your temperature gauge will rise to a point about midway between C (cold) and H (hot) and then level off. Hot weather may cause the needle to rise higher than normal. So will temporary stress such as climbing a hill. If you're stuck in stop-and-go traffic, the needle may climb some, but the radiator fan is designed to prevent overheating. Be aware of these variations as you monitor the gauge.

- If your vehicle is operated at sustained speeds between 10 and 15 miles per hour in high ambient temperature conditions, you may experience high temperature gauge readings.

- If the temperature gauge rises, shifting to second gear or altering your speed (either faster or slower) may reduce the temperature reading. If the indicator reaches the red zone, as soon as it is safe to do so, pull over and let the engine idle until the indicator drops.

NOTICE

Continuing to ride with an overheated engine can cause serious engine damage.

- A steaming engine indicates a coolant leak. Shut the engine off and wait until the steaming stops. Look for a leak, but don't touch the engine or radiator system. Let everything cool off first.
- If there's no obvious problem, leave the engine on so the fan and coolant circulating system can continue working. Monitor the temperature gauge. The needle may drop to the normal range after a brief stop with no load on the engine.
- Check the radiator fan.
  If the fan is not working, turn the engine off. Open the fuse box (page 244) and check the radiator fan fuse. If the fuse is blown, replace it with the proper (same rating) spare fuse. Start the engine. If the needle climbs to the red zone and stays there, turn the engine off.
  If the radiator fan is working, visually check the coolant level in the reserve tank, located behind the left engine side cover. It isn't necessary to touch the radiator system.

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