

Electrical Fuse Panel in Passenger Foot well

For the last year+ I've had an incredibly annoying thing happen to my car about 3 times in a week, one week every 2 months or so. I would be driving along and for seemingly no reason, I would get a series of messages on the DIC along with several other symptoms.

The messages included: Service Vehicle Soon, Service Fuel System, Service ABS, Service Active Handling System, Service Traction Control.

My Oil pressure, coolant temp, and fuel gauges would all drop to zero.

The security, Brake and traction control idiot lights would come on.

The air conditioner would stop working. The lateral G meter on the HUD would stop working.

Sometimes after a few seconds, the gauges and the AC would come back but nothing else. After I turned the car off and then back on, most times everything was fine again. Sometimes I would hit the button and nothing would happen for 5 seconds or so, then everything would light up without ever turning over, and all the error messages would be there. The solution for that was to wait a minute or two and try again. Eventually it started.

Of course the first thing I did was search the forum but I didn't find any answers. I went to 3 dealerships, armed with all this excellent information for troubleshooting. All I got was, "well it's fine now, so we can't do anything." On one occasion when it happened I drove straight to the dealership so they could see for themselves everything wasn't fine. All that did was get me a list of 20 some codes; several of which were communication errors between different modules. However, "that's way to many codes to try to troubleshoot, we need to erase them and wait til the first one comes back, that will be your culprit." Give me a break. One dealership told me to replace the battery and take out the aftermarket radio. I replaced the battery but I refused to take out the radio (thats just a bullsh*t canned response anyway, if there's anything wrong, that aftermarket _____ must be the problem).

So I've lived with this for over a year, the whole time trying to find some pattern or something that triggers it but it seemed completely random. Finally last week I started to notice a trend, it seems to happen more frequently when there's someone in the passenger seat (not exclusively though because it did happen several times when I was driving by myself). Then I remembered that there's a computer under the passenger side floorboard. Maybe there's something under there getting pinched or grounded out or something...

So, car running, I pulled back the floorboard and found some fuses and some wiring and 2 big blue connectors.



The fuses and wiring all seemed fine, but as soon as I wiggled the first big blue connector, the damn car started beeping. I looked up and I have all my friendly DIC messages! I did this a couple more times to make sure I wasn't dreaming and sure enough it worked every time. Upon closer inspection of the back of the floorboard, I found a couple indentations from where the floorboard is supported when flipped up. One of them was the base of this connector. Now it all makes sense. Anytime someone was in the passenger's seat and pushed too hard on the far right side of the floor, it loosened this connector enough to break the connection, causing several modules to lose communication and thus all my symptoms.

So I put some dielectric grease on the contacts of the connector. Also, to keep the floor board from being supported by an electrical connector (stupid GM), I added some spacers (erasers) on either side of it.



This keeps the floor board from touching that connector at all.

So hopefully this solves my problem and I never see those annoying little messages ever again, otherwise I will be returning to this post as an extremely bitter forum member and there will be much cursing.

And I hope that if someone else is suffering from the same problems, this post helps them figure it out quicker than I did.