

BACK UP FUEL PUMP
(the story)
by Dave DuBois

I know you all read the accompanying write up on doing a permanently installed backup fuel pump and are saying to yourselves, why go to all that trouble to install another fuel pump on the car, how hard can it be to swap out a fuel pump on the road anyway? Let me make the permanent installation look a bit more attractive.

Consider the following scenario: You are traveling north on I-5 and are just north of the Weed airport in Northern California (sounds remote, doesn't it? - It is). Weed is just about 50 miles south of the Oregon-California boarder. The temperature outside is low to mid 40s and there is a 45 - 50 mph wind blowing (as always). The *&@# pump quits!!! Oh well, there is a spare in the trunk, under the spare tire. Pull off on the shoulder as far as you can go without driving in the dirt, get out, unpack the trunk, remove the spare tire and get the spare pump. Jack the passenger side of the car up with the OEM jack, remove the right rear wheel and place it under the car in hopes that if the jack slips, the tire will keep the car from making you too flat as you work under the edge of the car in the blowing wind to remove the original pump, all the while hoping that some idiot doesn't come over on the shoulder and hit the car with you under it. Of course, you have not installed the shut off valve yet, so with the first fitting removed, you have gas running off your elbow as you watch the all important fiber washer drop to the ground and roll out of sight (the wife later finds it about a hundred yards in front of the car where the wind had finally deposited it - I really love that woman!). The spare pump is finally installed and all hooked up and your arm that was getting the bath in gas feels like someone lit the gas, and you still have to replace the road wheel, and the spare tire and re-pack the trunk. You are finally back under way in about an hour and a half, feeling very fortunate that it wasn't raining (or worse, snowing as the altitude there is somewhere around 4000 ft.). Sound convincing? - Been there, done that - permanently installed the NAPA pump and the shut off valve shortly after getting home - NOT going to do that again!!!!