



In this issue

- [Moving Forward](#)
- [Update your email Address](#)
- [Don't Overlook that Marginal Battery](#)
- [Help from your Fellow Technicians](#)
- [Shop Owners is your Shop Name Correct](#)
- [August 2009 Seminar Schedule](#)
- [Articles Needed for eAir Repair](#)

Moving Forward

From: the Illinois EPA Repair Industry Outreach Team

These are challenging times given the present state of the economy. Outreach has risen to the challenge by working smarter and utilizing the DASHBOARD website to quickly and efficiently access information that is vital to the repair industry. Everyone benefits from this teamwork, which ultimately results in less pollution.

It is important that everyone associated with the repair industry sign-up on the DASHBOARD -- not just technicians; but shop owners, service managers, and service writers. Everyone has a role in the process.

Let us tell you why:

- AIR REPAIR is now only available by email, and you must register on the DASHBOARD to receive the monthly eAir Repair.
- You must be a registered DASHBOARD user in order to receive e-mails from the Repair Industry Outreach team.
- Everyone in the shop who interacts with customers has a role in the repair of vehicles that failed an emissions test. Encourage your technicians, service advisors, managers, and owners to sign up!
- The DASHBOARD also provides instant access to:
 - Report repair data
 - Obtain detailed information about you shops' grade in the Repair Facility Report Card
 - Course descriptions and registration for our series of FREE seminars
 - E-mail reminder notices, including directions to all seminars
 - Print seminar attendance certificates
 - The repair industry FORUM for technicians ([see Forum article](#))
 - Vehicle look-up
 - Testing station locator
 - Links to the Secretary of State and state of Illinois websites, the Repair Facility Report Card, manufacturer websites and other helpful industry links.
 - Message board

We think you'll find the DASHBOARD very informative and easy to navigate. Join us on the internet and register today at: <https://www.ildashboard.com>. (Don't forget the letter 's' in https://... -- this is a secure website.)

[back to top](#)

Update your e-mail Address

From: the Illinois EPA Repair Industry Outreach Team

We have gone paperless! It is imperative that we have your current e-mail address so that you will continue to receive eAir Repair. You can do this by simply clicking "Update Your Profile" on the DASHBOARD. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us promote a greener environment and reducing our carbon footprint!

[back to top](#)

Don't Overlook that Marginal Battery

By: Dave Alder from ApplusTechnologies, Inc.

Recently I have taken several phone calls regarding readiness monitors that are difficult to set. Specifically, the non-continuous monitors set but then revert to "not ready" after the ignition key is cycled. That's when my phone rings! What I have been experiencing lately is a rash of vehicles with weak or marginal batteries that, when cranked, pull the voltage down enough to reset the monitors -- just like a battery disconnect. It only takes a split second at "low" voltage to change the monitors.

Before breaking out wiring diagrams or a lab scope and thousands of dollars worth of the latest software, do yourself a favor and load test the battery. It really doesn't matter whether you use the latest and greatest computerized gadget for battery load testing or an old-fashioned VAT-40. Use whatever you have that works. The bottom line here is you need to load test the battery.

Think about it, you are on a test drive and all the monitors set. You go directly to a testing station. The inspector gets your car in the test lane and shuts it off before the analyzer is hooked up (the car is shut off during the test procedure before the cable is plugged in and before it is unplugged.) Just then, the voltage drops and the car is now a monitor reject -- and your score in the report card takes a hit.

Please save us all a lot of trouble and get in the habit of checking the battery during every emission repair. Your grade and your customer will thank you.

[back to top](#)

Help from your Fellow Technicians

From: the Illinois EPA Repair Industry Outreach Team

There are many great resources available to assist the automotive repair industry, but none has focused exclusively on the Illinois vehicle emissions testing program -- until now! The DASHBOARD FORUM is a resource being used by hundreds of repair industry professionals.

As you know, emission repairs can be challenging to say the least, given the complexities of diagnostic trouble codes and readiness monitors. Technology advances so quickly that it's difficult to stay on top of information needed to fix today's vehicles. When you have an emissions repair question, turn to the DASHBOARD FORUM for help. You can bet that someone else has dealt with a similar issue. Post your comments, questions, and concerns on the FORUM, and you will quickly recognize the value of the assistance and advice you will receive from your fellow professionals.

The FORUM has helped technicians successfully repair vehicles that failed an emissions test, as evidenced by subsequent retests where the vehicle passed. Be sure to check it out!

[back to top](#)

Shop Owners is your Shop Name Correct

From: the Illinois EPA Repair Industry Outreach Team

We want your listing in the Repair Shop Report Card to include accurate and up-to-date information about your shop. When checking your grade details for accuracy, be sure to check your shop name and address and let us know if corrections need to be made.

If you find an error, e-mail us at epa.repair.outreach@illinois.gov.

[back to top](#)

August 2009 Seminar Schedule

All Seminars are from 6-10 pm on dates below.

They are sponsored by the Illinois EPA for the repair industry and they are free!

- [2009 Complete Seminar Schedule](#)

Diagnostic Techniques for OBD Failures

This seminar will focus on the use of OBD II scan data, freeze frame, and failure records as a means to a successful OBD repair. The Illinois "Dashboard" website will also be included in the diagnostic process. The overall goal of this presentation is to emphasize efficiency in testing and repair techniques for OBD failures.

ID	Date	Location
K104	Aug 3, Mon	College of DuPage

Communication Protocol Testing for OBD Failures

This seminar will review proper testing techniques for communication issues with the PCM and various modules as it relates to OBD failures. The communication topology that will be discussed will focus on GM, Ford, and Chrysler systems. This is a "must attend seminar" for serious OBD repair technicians.

ID	Date	Location
K202	Aug 4, Tues	Moraine Valley Community College

OBD Code Repair Using Lab Scores

This seminar is devoted to helping technicians develop a plan for successfully repairing OBD emission failures using labscope testing strategies. OBDII testing will be reviewed and actual failure case studies will be looked at to help understand the test capabilities of scopes and probes. Using computerized information systems and code charts will be discussed to make diagnosing OBD code problems easier.

ID	Date	Location
S101	Aug 10, Mon	Collinsville

OBD Repairs Using Scan Tools

This seminar will show repair technicians the capabilities and enhanced functions of a variety of aftermarket and factory scan tools for system testing and OBD vehicle repair. Emphasis will be placed on bi-directional controls for testing and diagnosis found in many of the scan tools available today. Graphing scan data analysis and testing strategies will be discussed. The goal is to get the most from these tools and shorten diagnostic times. Actual vehicle case studies will be shown to illustrate these points.

ID	Date	Location
S201	Aug 11, Tues	Collinsville

Waveform Analysis

The emphasis of this seminar is on real world application of labscope and graphing scan tools for driveability diagnostics. Discussion topics will include scope features that aid diagnosis, waveform capture and storage techniques, graphing scan tool and scope analysis case studies, and a live demonstration using PowerPoint to build a case study. Creating repair files using PowerPoint is one of the best ways to build a repair database for later review or for in-shop technician training.

ID	Date	Location
S502	Aug 13, Thur	Lake County HS Technology Campus
S503	Aug 27, Thur	Prairie State College

Readiness Monitor Challenges

This seminar will address the growing problem of OBD emissions test rejects due to monitor status being "not ready." The new changes in the testing program will make first retest rejects count against a shop's Repair Effective Index (REI), so making sure monitors run to completion is critical. Case studies of vehicles with difficult to set monitors will be studied. A strategy for addressing vehicles that won't run monitors will be discussed along with using scan tools and Mode 6 to help determine a solution to this often challenging problem.

ID	Date	Location
S405	Aug 18, Tues	Universal Technical Institute

[back to top](#)

Articles Needed for eAir Repair

From: the Illinois EPA Repair Industry Outreach Team

We are always looking for short articles of interest for eAir Repair. We all have information and tips on successful emissions repairs. It is time to share them with your fellow technicians. Please help us all out by writing a brief story (a couple of paragraphs) about your success or fix. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation.

Those tips can be e-mailed to epa.repair.outreach@illinois.gov.

[back to top](#)