

Red Cross Blood drive



Senior Whitney Cordray donated blood Wednesday in the Student Union Building. She has donated before but prefers not to watch while the technician sticks in the needle. Krista Goodman/Index

Toyota dealers recall models

BY BAILLIE JAMES
Staff Reporter

Toyota Motor Sales announced a recall on sticking accelerator pedals Jan. 21, but at least one local dealer is not concerned.

Gale Stock at Heartland Auto Sales in Kirksville said there have been recalls on multiple vehicles throughout the years and that active media coverage does not make this recall any more severe than others.

This recall impacts eight models ranging from 2004-10, adding up to 2.3 million vehicles. Toyota announced the recall after investigating isolated customer complaints.

The "shoe" of the pedal and an adjoining surface wear down from friction, causing a slow return to idle.

Since the announcement, Toyota has stopped production and sales of the models until they can remedy the defect. These models represent 60 percent of Toyota's inventory, according to the company's Feb. 2 sales report.

"We know what's causing this

and what we have to do to fix it," Jim Lentz, U.S. president of Toyota Motor Sales, said in a press release. "We're working day and night with Toyota dealers to make our recalls simple and trouble-free."

Toyota's plan to fix the 2.3 million vehicles already owned by consumers involves shipping steel reinforcement bars to Toyota dealers and contacting owners individually by mail to get these bars installed in the pedals.

Music professor Jacqueline Collett drives one of the recalled models but said she was not concerned.

"Even the best of companies can have problems now and then," Collett said. She said Toyota acted in a timely manner to recall the vehicles.

Toyota also issued a recall on 4.2

million vehicles in October 2009 involving floor mats that interfered with accelerator pedals. Some vehicles were included in both recalls, pushing the total of recalled vehicles to 4.8 million since October.

A list of the applicable cars can be found online at www.Toyota.com. Jim Robertson's Toyota dealership on North Baltimore can install reinforcement bars once the owner receives a recall letter from Toyota Motor Company.

Brian Lyons, Toyota Media Hotline operator, said more information can be found through the recall information link on the Toyota Web site. This link includes frequently asked questions, a video message from the company's president and diagrams of the remedy.

"We're working day and night with Toyota dealers to make our recalls simple and trouble-free."

Jim Lentz
U.S. President of
Toyota Motor Sales



Eight Toyota models were recalled Jan. 21 because of pedal problems. Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

ITS warns students against virus

DAN WARNER
Staff Reporter

When senior Bridget Rothermich arrived home for Winter Break, she turned on her computer to find a message insisting she needed to purchase software to protect her computer from viruses. When the pop-up continued to appear and restrict her from using the computer, she suspected it was too late.

"It was unfortunate timing, because I couldn't use ITS for their repair services," Rothermich said.

Technicians at Best Buy told Rothermich to wipe her hard drive clean and reinstall the operating system or to purchase an expensive repair. After backing up all of her files onto an external hard drive, her computer finally responded to

the threat, and she was able to remove it.

Rothermich's problem is just one case in a wave of Truman students' computers that have contracted dangerous viruses.

Tim Mills, Information Technology Services help desk manager, said a current major avenue for computer infection is through programs that tell the user their computer already is infected and requires the purchase of an anti-virus program to remove the viruses. Mills said these anti-virus programs are ineffective.

"It can open up ... a back door to your system to allow other infected computers to infect your system," Mills said.

Mills said viruses now can be downloaded accidentally by just moving the mouse over some flash player advertisements. He said the dangerous ads can appear even on trusted Web sites

that use banner advertisement services, which can be abused to spread viruses.

Mills said students should update software such as flash players or Windows security systems regularly to defend their computers against infection. He said that although there is at least one virus to which Macintosh computers are susceptible, the majority of viruses target Windows systems.

Mills said some viruses corrupt a computer system's files too deeply to be solved by ITS, and the manufacturer of the computer must resolve the issue. He said ITS can do low-level cleaning, but the worst viruses are outside the scope of what their scans can do.

Mills said school computers have been infected before, but security measures taken by ITS have made it less common. He said only users

with administrative access have the capability to download these viruses, but users still have inadvertently done so in the past.

"These threats are becoming so sophisticated that they can fool even the most conscious individual," Mills said.

Randy Raw, manager of the network security department at MOREnet, Truman's internet service provider, said viruses are more of a danger to individual computers on a network than to the entire network itself.

Raw said the infections related to fake anti-virus software can expose computers to fraud by extracting personal information, such as passwords.

"This is a problem ... that's happening across all [higher education institutions] everywhere in the nation," Raw said.

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