# **BE SYSTEM AWARE**

### Did you know?

- Proper belt tension is critical to assure optimum alternator charging performance.
- A failed belt tensioner or damaged drive belt can cause alternator failure and engine overheating issues.

#### **Action:**

- Now is a great time to inspect your belt tensioner and pulleys and change your drive belt since it will have to be removed when replacing the alternator.
- Inspect the drive belt for damage, wear, oil, and fluid contamination, and replace it as needed.

#### How it affects the alternator:

 Belt slippage can cause an increase in belt temperature, this heat can then be transferred to the front alternator bearing, possibly causing premature failure of the bearing.

## How it affects the engine cooling system:

• In most vehicles where the drive belt drives the water pump, if the drive belt fails, total engine failure can happen in as little as 5 minutes!

**Note:** Drive belts can be worn and not exhibit obvious signs of wear, such as cracking. If there is any concern or sign of damage to the belt, the belt should be replaced.



Inspect the tensioner, drive belt, and pulleys.



Damaged drive belt.



Overheated engine caused by drive belt failure.









