

GENERIC · CHASSIS

C0376

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

C0376

Front Axle Disconnect

C0376 indicates that the control module responsible for the four-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive system has detected a fault in the front axle disconnect circuit or its mechanical operation. The computer monitors the actuator, wiring, and feedback signals and sets this code when the front axle fails to engage or disengage as commanded, or when the electrical circuit is out of expected range.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Chassis	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Brakes, steering and suspension

Symptoms you may notice

- Four-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive system will not engage, leaving the vehicle in two-wheel drive
- The 4WD or AWD warning light illuminates steadily or flashes on the instrument cluster
- A grinding, clunking, or popping noise from the front axle area when 4WD is requested
- The vehicle may feel like it is binding or hopping during low-speed turns if the axle is stuck engaged
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, with normal driving behavior in two-wheel drive
- The 4WD selector switch may flash or fail to illuminate the selected mode indicator

Common causes, most likely first

- Failed front axle disconnect actuator or shift motor
- Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the front axle disconnect
- Blown fuse or faulty relay in the front axle disconnect power circuit
- Mechanical binding or damage inside the front axle disconnect assembly, such as a broken shift fork or collar
- Failed front axle disconnect position sensor or switch
- Faulty control module or transfer case control module (TCCM) software or internal failure
- Water intrusion or debris contamination in the front axle disconnect housing

How to diagnose and fix it

- Scan all modules for related codes and record freeze-frame data to understand when the fault occurs
- Inspect the front axle disconnect wiring harness and connector for chafing, corrosion, or loose pins
- Check the fuse and relay that supply power to the front axle disconnect actuator circuit
- Command the front axle disconnect actuator on and off with a scan tool and listen for mechanical movement
- Measure resistance and voltage at the actuator connector and compare with manufacturer specifications
- Remove the actuator and inspect the shift mechanism for binding, broken parts, or contamination
- Replace the faulty actuator, sensor, or wiring as needed and clear codes to verify the repair



Front axle disconnect diagnosis pitfalls

- A binding front axle disconnect collar can mimic an electrical actuator failure, so always verify mechanical freedom of movement before condemning the actuator.
- Corrosion inside the connector is a frequent cause on vehicles that see road salt or deep water, and it often looks fine until the pins are physically examined.
- Some systems require the vehicle to be moving slowly or the transmission in neutral for the front axle to engage, so a code can set during a failed engagement attempt that the driver never notices.
- A weak battery or low charging voltage can cause the control module to set this code falsely, so check battery health and ground connections before replacing parts.
- The front axle disconnect may share power or ground with other circuits, so a fault elsewhere can trigger C0376 without any problem in the axle itself.

Can I keep driving with C0376?

You can usually continue driving in two-wheel drive if the vehicle otherwise feels normal, but avoid relying on four-wheel drive and do not drive on slippery or off-road surfaces where loss of traction could be dangerous. If you hear grinding or binding from the front axle, have the vehicle inspected promptly to prevent further mechanical damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with bidirectional control capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket and wrench set
- Vehicle service information for circuit specifications

Reading C0376

C	Chassis: brakes, steering and suspension.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
3	Brakes, steering and suspension.
76	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1860 Kick Down Switch Error Message From Engine Control · **P1860** TCC PWM Solenoid Circuit Electrical · **C0561** ABS Disabled Warning Indicator Request



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Padlock Works: Pin Tumbler Lock in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/c0376/>

