

# **If Your Engine Quits or Won't Start**

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If the engine wasn't making any unusual noises before it quit running, and it feels normal when you operate the recoil starter, you can probably rule out a major mechanical problem.

The next area to check is the fuel system:

- Make sure there is enough gas in the tank and the fuel valve is at the ON or RES position.
- Check the fuel breather tube to see if it is pinched or obstructed.
- Turn the fuel valve OFF, disconnect the fuel line that goes from the fuel valve to the carburetor, then momentarily turn the fuel valve ON. If fuel does not flow out, there is an obstruction in the fuel tank or the fuel valve.

If the fuel system appears to be okay, check the ignition system (this requires a spark plug wrench):

- Check that the spark plug cap isn't loose or disconnected.
- Disconnect the spark plug cap and remove the spark plug. Connect the spark plug cap to the spark plug and ground the threaded portion of the spark plug on the cylinder head.
- Operate the recoil starter while you watch the spark plug. If it sparks, the ignition system is probably working. If there is no spark, install a new spark plug, if you have one with you. If there is still no spark, there is a problem in the ignition system.

If you cannot identify or correct the problem, you will need to send for help.