

Crime prevention advice for fuel theft



Theft of fuel is currently of concern to the Police and rural communities. Fuel is being stolen from vehicles and storage tanks by the use of siphoning equipment that can vary from the basic tube to more sophisticated arrangements involving pumps and the cutting of fuel lines.

Tips to consider

- Keep vehicles in a secure area, preferably a garage, shed or outbuildings, wherever possible.
- Consider the use of locking fuel caps.
- Re-fuel vehicles just before the planned journey rather than leaving a vehicle fully fuelled overnight.
- Park vehicles in areas that are well lit so they can be observed easily.
- Use secure parking areas or compounds when vehicles are parked overnight, in particular vehicles not parked at their operating base.
- Consider the use of alarms. This could be on the vehicles themselves or for the perimeter of the parking/storage area. Improve lighting and focus on vulnerable areas.
- Fit anti-siphoning devices.
- Install or confirm existing CCTV is fit for purpose, and train a camera on tanks and vulnerable vehicles.
- Install cages and/or improve security that surrounds fuel storage tanks.
- Consider using 'bunded' fuel tanks if your existing storage facility is not of that type.
- Consider the deployment of fuel dyes.
- Commercial companies could consider fuel cards rather than storing fuel on site.
- Use defensive parking techniques, wherever possible park vehicles against solid objects on the fuel tank side to prevent access.
- Remove portable storage from site (barrel and drums etc) or make them secure.
- Consider installing fuel cap alarms –wireless transmitters can be placed inside the screw cap of the fuel tank. A magnetic switch on the device sets off an alarm if the cap is opened or tampered with. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or send a text message to the owners or security provider. An isolation switch allows authorised access to the tank for refueling.
- Mark sure gates and compounds are locked and secure, consider fitting an anti-attack cover for the lock.
- Do not leave keys in or near a vehicle where they can be easily found.
- Arrange for checks of vehicles and premises outside of normal working hours.
- Agricultural sites should consider portable refueling systems that can be locked in secure storage areas and not left in fields or stock yards
- Use appropriate signage at the entrances where security devices are being used. It will act as a deterrent.

