

Fleet Fuel Theft



Reducing crime through partnership and prevention



There are various ways to steal fuel. Some methods are very basic and easy to execute.

Hand-operated or automatic syphons decant fuel into portable containers that can be loaded into a criminal vehicle or carried off-site by hand.

More sophisticated operations have seen fuel pumped directly into tanks mounted onto vehicles – allowing for larger quantities of fuel to be uplifted quickly.

This guide has been produced in conjunction with the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service.



NATIONAL VEHICLE CRIME INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

What's in this guide

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TOP TIPS

- Install CCTV.
- Upgrade Security.
- Install Security Lighting.
- Educate Your Workforce.
- Consider Vehicle Positioning When Parking.
- Prevent Fuel Syphoning With After-Market Devices.

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Install CCTV

Not only does CCTV catch thieves in the act, quite often, the mere presence of it alone is sufficient to put-off opportunist thieves. Ensure the cameras you install clearly point in the direction of the area in which you park your vehicles, or where you store your fuel, and covers site entrances and exits, and main thoroughfares that people would need to cross to gain access to the fuel.



Upgrade Security

Reinforce your security with fences, locks and alarms. If you have a fuel tank, particularly those above ground, consider building a robust fence around it for an extra layer of security. Where possible screen the tank from opportunists passing by and from view from above.

There are reports of offenders using satellite imagery (such as Google Earth), to actively look for fuel storage in order to steal. In addition use a good quality heavy duty lock and an alarm that will trigger upon unauthorised entry.



Security Lighting

Ensure the area where you park your vehicles is well-lit to deter thieves who prefer to work under the cover of darkness, so that they cannot be identified. We recommend dusk to dawn lighting.



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Educate Your Workforce

If you suspect that fuel theft is occurring internally, take time to educate and inform your employees. Help them better understand the detrimental effects that fuel theft has on the business and make them aware of the consequences of being caught stealing from the company. Teach your staff best practices for remaining vigilant and to prevent them from becoming victims themselves.



Defensive Parking

Strategically park your vehicles, particularly if you are parking overnight away from the business premises. Parking so that access to the fuel tanks is blocked by other vehicles, or solid structures is an effective way to make it difficult for thieves to steal your fuel. Unfortunately this won't prevent people with keys from accessing the fuel tank, but it can help to prevent opportunists.

If your drivers are involved overnight collections/deliveries, advise them to park at safe and secure parking locations wherever possible. If unable to park at a safe and secure parking location, try to park somewhere that is well-lit as previously mentioned.



Fuel Syphoning

Fuel syphoning is the act of manually emptying the contents of a vehicle's fuel tank. Whilst syphoning fuel is legal with the permission of the vehicle owner, it is also used by criminals to steal fuel from vehicles. Some modern vehicles have anti-rollover valves on the openings, which prevents syphoning from happening. However, for those that do not, aftermarket anti-syphoning devices can be fitted.



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Always Report Crimes to the Police

Always report crime to police. This allows police to capture the data and understand the full scale of the crime, which in turn informs their resources and tactics to tackle it.



When a crime is taking place, dial 999 in an emergency.



You can also report to the Police on 101 or alternatively, you can report online at www.police.uk



Helpful resources

Police recommended security products can be found at www.securedbydesign.com

If you have any information around persons involved in cargo crime, or to notify of a cargo crime contact freight@navcis.police.uk

