

Thieves Hit the Pumps

With the recent hike in fuel prices, gas pumps are becoming a more common target for thieves. In a recent example, thieves dismantled the pump face plate, activated the system, pumped a tank of gas, and drove away. Gas thieves cost retailers millions of dollars each year. According to the National Association for Convenience Stores (NACS), one in every 3,300 fill-ups represents a gasoline theft; and at two cents per gallon profit (at best), a retailer needs to sell an extra 3,000 gallons to offset \$60 of stolen gas.

Requiring patrons to prepay before pumping is an effective way to control gas theft, but it's not foolproof. The NACS also suggests:

- Greet customers by intercom or in-person to eliminate the feeling of anonymity.
- Install enhanced anti-theft technologies. A solution developed by Pump-on, LLC requires patrons to scan their driver's license for authorization before the pump will start. Learn more at www.pumpon.com
- Visit www.nacsonline.com for additional information.

Practice anti-theft strategies with vigilance, and trust your instincts. If you feel something is suspicious, ask the patron if assistance is needed over the intercom to let them know you are watching. Don't hesitate to call the police. Law enforcement agencies would rather respond to your suspicions than miss the opportunity to stop a crime in progress. Report questionable vehicles using the guidelines outlined in "How to Describe a Vehicle".