



Winnebago County Sheriff's Office GAS DRIVE-OFF REPORT

NOTE TO MERCHANT: All shaded items on this report must be completed in order for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to accept and provide follow-up. If this information is not available, no investigation will occur. Please use ink and print clearly.

BUSINESS NAME:						
BUSINESS ADDRESS:			PHONE:			
DATE THEFT OCCURRED:		TIME THEFT OCCURRED:		DOLLAR AMOUNT:		
VEHICLE	LICENSE PLATE:		LICENSE STATE:		VEHICLE COLOR:	
	VEHICLE MAKE:		VEHICLE MODEL:		VEHICLE YEAR:	
	NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS:		DIRECTION OF TRAVEL:			
	OTHER VEHICLE DESCRIPTION:					
SUSPECT	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		WEIGHT:	HEIGHT:	HAIR:	EYES:
	CLOTHING:					
	OTHER SUSPECT DESCRIPTION:				CAN THE SUSPECT BE IDENTIFIED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	DESCRIPTION OF PASSENGER(S):					
WITNESS	NAME (FIRST-MIDDLE-LAST):				DATE OF BIRTH:	
	HOME ADDRESS:				HOME/CELL PHONE:	
	CITY-STATE-ZIP:					
	EMPLOYER NAME:			EMPLOYER PHONE:		
	EMPLOYER ADDRESS:					
OTHER DETAILS OR INFORMATION:						
<p>The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree to pursue charges and testify in court if the suspect is able to be identified. I understand any false information provided may result in criminal charges for false police report. I did not give the above described vehicle operator permission to take any fuel without paying for it.</p>						
SIGNED:				DATE:		
INCIDENT REPORT #		OFFICER NAME:			BADGE #:	



Working with Station Operators to Prevent Thefts

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office prides itself on serving and protecting our community. One of the ways we accomplish our goals is by educating citizens and businesses in crime prevention practices. Ultimately, if we can remove the victim from a crime, there is NO crime.

Incidents involving drivers pumping gas and leaving without paying are commonly referred to as "Gas Drive-offs." If done intentionally, they are illegal and need to be reported to the police. When it is a simple mistake, it is a civil matter to be resolved between the station and the consumer. But can illegal gas drive-offs be prevented or reduced? We believe they can. Here are some tips that can help make your business less likely to be targeted and victimized.

Unobstructed Windows

Retailers need customers to pay the bills, and a big way to get those customers is to advertise. However, by covering your windows with advertising, especially those overlooking the pumps, you may inadvertently invite gas drive-offs. A potential criminal should feel like they are being watched, and that can only happen if your employees can see them.

Enhanced Lighting

Lighting is one of the single best deterrents to criminal activity, and it may draw more customers to your business. Legitimate customers like well-lit areas that help them feel safe while doing business. **Criminals do not!** Enhanced lighting can potentially deter crime, while making it easier to identify license plates, vehicles, and people that commit crimes on your property.

Location of Registers

Employees need to see the crime to be able to report the crime and help in the investigation. Criminals do not want your employees to see them commit their crime. Registers that overlook the pumps help to deter criminal activity and will go a long way in helping employees gather the evidence the police need to solve the crime.

CCTV and Signs

Cameras are a great deterrent, and tremendously helpful when investigating thefts. If you have your customers on camera, let them know you are watching...thieves do not like that!

Pay Policies

You are the expert at running a gas station/convenience store. We only gain a limited view of your business through our interactions with you. We know in some parts of the country increasing gas drive-offs have led to policies that require customers to pay for gas before pumping. But we also know that those policies have a direct impact on customer relations and income. It may be that you have certain pumps that are hard to keep an eye on, or those that are the most frequent targets of gas drive-offs. Please consider the use of pay-at-the-pump procedures for those trouble spots. Ultimately, only you can decide if those kinds of policies make good sense for your business.