

# Heating Oil Thefts

Is your tank vulnerable to theft?



The Isle of Man Constabulary has become aware of a recent increase in reported thefts of heating oil from both **domestic** and **commercial** premises. These thefts are occurring throughout the Island and the force is working in partnership with local fuel distributors Manx Petroleum, Total Isle of Man and CPL Petroleum to reduce opportunities for such crimes. The majority of criminals are opportunists and you can reduce your vulnerability by taking simple precautionary measures.

**It is recommended that you check the level on the fuel gauge on a weekly basis and make a note of the reading on your calendar. This will enable you to quickly spot any discrepancies or unusual drops in the oil level.**

- Is the tank alarmed? Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level suddenly drops or falls below a predetermined level.
- Can the tank filler tap be secured? Is it fitted with a suitable padlock?
- Do you have security lighting in the area of the oil tank?
- Have you could considered using hostile planting (e.g. thorny bushes) to deter offenders from trying to access the tank?



## **Domestic sites**

- Do you have gates fitted to prevent unauthorised access to your rear garden? Do they have locks fitted? A locked gate can make it harder for a thief to gain access to the tank.
- Don't leave garden tools lying around as these can be used to aid the criminal.
- Are you a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? If not, you should consider establishing one in your area as NHW has been shown to deter criminals. Contact your local police station for further information.

## **Commercial Sites**

- Is the tank caged or enclosed to prevent easy access?
- Is it located within a secure compound? Is the compound kept locked overnight? Are there any weak areas in the boundary?
- Have you considered CCTV coverage?

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Do you have any information about these crimes?

Have you been offered 'cheap' oil or fuel?

**If you have any information relating to these incidents please call Police Headquarters on 631212**

You can also contact Isle of Man Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Crimestoppers is **not** part of the Police. Crimestoppers will never ask callers for any personal details.

**We want to know what you know  
- not who you are!**

