



With the spiralling cost of all fuel oil types, it is not surprising that the theft of these commodities is rising throughout the county.

For obvious reasons, bulk fuel is probably the most attractive target. Therefore, this advice is aimed at that section of our community; farmers, householders and businesses; particularly those in rural communities, who have heating or fuel oil, such as diesel stored in external tanks.

The following advice may help improve the security of your supply:

- The simple act of keeping your yard or drive gates closed and securely locked could prevent a theft.
- Ensure gates and fences are in good repair.
- Consider installing Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) along with suitable lighting.
- The location of storage tanks can be a critical factor.



Placing fuel in a lockable unit is one way of preventing theft.

Ideally they should be situated within sight of your home or office while at the same time being difficult to see by the general public.



- Plant hostile shrubs (thorny) around your oil tank, e.g. Pyrocanthia, Berberis, Ilex or even Gooseberry
- The tank valve, rather than the vulnerable hose and nozzle, should be locked as should any inspection or filling hatches. Install lockable caps with crop-proof padlocks/fittings.
- Regularly check your fuel levels so that you can easily spot if the level quickly drops. (this can be done electronically)
- If you are installing or re-siting an oil tank, consider securing the tank in an alarmed, ventilated, brick or block built, locked structure.
- Check if your oil is covered under your household or business insurance
- Record the details of any strange vehicles and their occupants seen in the area

Should you need to discuss any of these security measures, please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer by phoning 0845 045 45 45.