



# Sherburne County Sheriff's Office

*"Commitment to Service with Integrity and Pride"*

**Sheriff Joel Brott**

## **New Gas Drive-Off Procedure**

After examining gas drive-off complaints over the last two years, we have found that a majority of the complaints are a civil issue (i.e., bad card reader or cashier forgetting to ring it up during an in-store purchase). Of the remaining complaints, there were a high number with insufficient information, such as no make, model, or license plate of the suspect vehicles. Ultimately, we are asking for more work on your end in order for us to better utilize our resources within the agency.

As a result of an increase in accidental gas drive-offs, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office will no longer be dispatched immediately to a gas drive-off. We will be asking the business owner or management to follow the appropriate steps, as outlined below:

- Complete, at minimum, the shaded areas of the Gas Drive-Off Report form
- Upon receipt of a completed Gas Drive-Off report, if possible, an officer will review the information and follow up with the registered owner. In these cases, the reporting person shall agree to be available for prosecution, if needed. (An example of this may be when a person hangs the pump up on a nearby garbage can after pumping gas to avoid notification to the inside employee).

The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office has discussed the benefits of businesses requiring pre-pay or pay at the pump. This is required in many cities in Minnesota and many other states throughout the country. Requiring pre-pay effectively reduces any theft or loss to the business. This is especially helpful with bad card reader issues or cashiers not asking the customer if they pumped gas. There are no other crimes that come to mind that have such a simple solution.

### **Minnesota Statute 604.15 Subd. 2**

- a) The owner of a vehicle that is driven away with motor fuel that was not paid for is liable to the retailer for the price of the motor fuel plus a service charge of up to \$20, or the actual costs of collection not to exceed \$30. This charge may be imposed immediately upon the mailing of the notice under subdivision 3, if notice of the service charge was conspicuously displayed on the premises from which the motor fuel was received. The notice must include a statement that additional civil penalties will be imposed if payment is not received within 30 days.
- b) If the price of the motor fuel received is not paid within 30 days after the retailer has mailed notice, the owner is liable to the retailer for the price of the motor fuel received, the service charge, plus a civil penalty not to exceed \$100 or the price of the motor fuel, whichever is greater.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Joel Brott



## SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DRIVE-OFF REPORT

**NOTE TO MERCHANT:** All shaded items on this report must be completed in order for the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office to accept and prosecute this report. If this information is not available, a report will not be made. Please use ink and print clearly. Thank you.

<b>Business Name:</b>						
<b>Street Address:</b>				<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Date Theft Occurred:</b>			<b>Time Theft Occurred:</b>	
<b>Taken:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise <i>(Please list merchandise on back)</i>			<b>Dollar Amount:</b>	
<b>VEHICLE</b>						
<b>License Plate #:</b>		<b>License State:</b>				
Vehicle Year:		Vehicle Make:			Vehicle Model:	
<b>Vehicle Color:</b>			Number of Occupants:		Direction of Travel:	
Other Description:						
<b>SUSPECT</b>						
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		Race:		Weight:	Height:	Hair: Eyes:
Clothing:						
Other Description:						
<b>Can the Suspect be Identified?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:				<input type="checkbox"/> No:		
Passenger(s) Description:						
<b>WITNESS</b>						
<b>Last Name:</b>		<b>First:</b>		<b>Middle:</b>	<b>DOB:</b>	
<b>Street Address:</b>			<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Employer's Name:</b>				
Employer's Address:					Phone:	
Was the pump authorized after an unauthorized credit card was used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
If Yes, was the customer informed that the credit card was declined? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
<b>The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. My signature also indicates a willingness to prosecute.</b>						
<b>Signed:</b> _____				<b>Date:</b> _____		
Other Witnesses:						
Other Details or Information:						