

Don't become a statistic...

Jan-Dec 2009	East Lothian	Midlothian
Red fuel thefts reported	13	19
Costs	£7,865	£19,922



Who should I contact?

In an emergency, call the police immediately on 999.

In a non-emergency, or to find out more about protecting your property, get in contact with:

Lothian and Borders Police
Safer Communities Department:
Dalkeith Police Station

tel: 0131 311 3131
web: lbp.police.uk

You can also use this number to contact any local police station.

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**DETER.
IDENTIFY.
ECONOMY.
SECURE.
ENQUIRE.
LIMIT.**

Red Diesel theft.
**A guide to keeping you
and your property safe.**

What is Red Diesel?

Red Diesel is dyed gas oil used for registered agricultural or construction vehicles such as tractors, excavators, cranes and some other non-road applications such as boats.

Red Diesel is taxed less highly than regular diesel and is therefore significantly cheaper. However, the two types of diesel have virtually identical chemical formulae, and red diesel can illegally be used to fuel road vehicles.

In 2009, more than £27,500 of Red Diesel was stolen in Midlothian and East Lothian. Some victims were targeted more than once.

This leaflet is designed to give you practical information about protecting yourself and securing your belongings.

Deter: Put off thieves, cut out theft

Putting off thieves is the first important step you can take to protect yourself, your family and your belongings.

Deterrents such as locked fences and 'Guard Dog' signs will make a thief think twice about breaking into your property. Ensuring you keep exterior lights on after dark gives the impression someone is nearby.

Identify: See your assets through a thief's eyes

A thief is more likely to steal from a fuel tank hidden in a dark area behind a building, than from a brightly lit area where people walk past regularly.

Similarly, if a vehicle is kept unlocked, a thief is less likely to be caught breaking in than if it was locked up.

Don't make life easy for thieves. If a thief has a chance to steal and not be caught, they will take it.

Economy: What makes Red Diesel attractive?

The price of Red Diesel is rising with the current economic climate.

In 2002 farmers paid 17p per litre for Red Diesel. By 2008, this had risen to 65p, and by 2010 the price for Red Diesel had risen to as much as 46p per litre. In comparison, regular automotive diesel currently costs around 113.9p per litre.

When you bear in mind that regular diesel cars run perfectly well on Red Diesel, then it is easy to understand why Red Diesel theft for resale is an attractive option for thieves.

Secure: Simple solutions

There are many options and safeguards that can be put in place to make your fuel more secure. Equipment such as anti-siphoning devices, CCTV or even simple measures such as security lights can deter thieves.

However, not all security measures need to be expensive – sometimes it's the simplest precautions that are the most effective.

For example, if you can store your Red Diesel tank or vehicle somewhere which is already well lit, you may be able to reduce the risk of theft without spending any money. Always make sure you have locked your tank when you leave it at night.

Enquire: Always report a theft

If you are the victim of theft, report it to the police immediately. Regardless of the amount stolen, there may be evidence left at the scene which could link the thief to similar crimes.

Limit: Store less fuel on your premises

If it is at all possible, try and limit the amount of fuel that you are in possession of at one time. A domestic tank can hold on average up to 2000 litres, however to drain this would take a considerable amount of time. It is likely that thieves will steal what they need leaving the tank leaking and your diesel wasted.