

# Increase in Fuel Theft

ACE are noting an **increase in high value fuel thefts** in recent weeks following legislative changes and an increase in fuel prices.

**Fuel bowsers and water bowsers** are being particularly targeted for theft. Opal have shared guidance and highlighted this emerging crime trend with policing to ensure appropriate response and investigation.



Multiple thefts made national news during the previous month including a crime group linked with £1m worth of fuel thefts and a high quantity of fuel stolen from a navy base.

**It is clear that organised crime groups are emerging who have specialist knowledge and skill sets which is now beginning to cause long term concern in this crime area.**

The crimes have also impacted the **construction industry** with several forces reporting **high value fuel thefts from construction machines**. During May, one construction site had 4 machines tampered with resulting in a loss of over 1000 litres of fuel, likely linked to a theft of a fuel bowser one week prior 10 miles away.



## Recommendations

- Review on site security at construction sites.
- Consider anti-tamper/anti-siphon devices.
- Consider fuel marking.
- Ensure any offences are reported immediately to police including suspicious activity, which could be a pre-cursor to a crime.
- Consider additional perimeter security.
- Install adequate security lighting.
- Consider where equipment is parked overnight.
- For prevention methods please see the link below:  
[Fuel Theft \(securedbydesign.com\)](https://www.securedbydesign.com)