



**Weld County  
District Attorney's Office  
Nineteenth Judicial District**

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# Fraud Alert!

## ROAD TRIP STALLED BECAUSE OF GAS PRICES?

**Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck would like you to take note of the following information so that you aren't the next victim.**

Summer is just around the corner: biking, hiking, swimming, barbecuing, camping, and, of course, vacationing. If you are planning a road trip this summer, the high cost of fuel probably has you concerned—and at over \$3.00 per gallon, every mile you travel is money out of your pocket. But before you try to find a way around high fuel prices, make sure you have all of the facts when it comes to so called fuel-saving devices.

Everyone wants to get more for their dollar — after all, we work hard for our money and we want to make sure that it works hard for us. When we see ads on television or hear from a friend that there is a device available that will help our car get an extra few miles to the gallon, we are tempted to give it a try. After all, what could it hurt? Well, in most cases, it will hurt your wallet and may even hurt your car.

According to a release from the Federal Trade Commission, "...the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has evaluated or tested more than 100 alleged gas-saving devices and has not found any product that significantly improves gas mileage. In fact, some 'gas-saving' products may damage a car's engine or cause substantial increase in exhaust emissions."

*Popular Mechanics* reported in 2005 the following findings regarding gas-saving devices:

- **Magnets:** the theory behind this device is that the magnets, when attached to a fuel line, break up clumps within the gas therefore causing the gas to burn more efficiently. *Popular Mechanics* editor Mike Allen explained "...gasoline molecules don't clump...and they don't respond to magnetic force..."

- **Electronic Engine Ionizer Fuel Saver:** sounds like an impressive device which claims to increase fuel efficiency. In tests, however, the claim of increased combustion was debunked and resulted in an engine fire.

- **Vapor Injectors:** this devices claims to change raw fuel into vaporized fuel and therefore enhancing the car's performance. The technology used in today's vehicles, however, overrides any benefit this may have.

So, what can you do to save money while driving down the road?

- **Watch Your Speed:** according to the FTC release, you will use 20 percent more fuel if you drive at 65 miles per hour versus 55 miles per hour.
- **Cruise Control:** when you maintain a consistent rate of speed, you use less fuel.
- **Avoid Unnecessary Braking:** don't follow traffic closely; if you avoid excessive braking you could improve your fuel economy by 10 percent.
- **Lose the Baggage:** removing excess weight from your car will help your vehicle's performance. According to the FTC report, "An extra 100 pounds in the trunk reduces a typical car's fuel economy by one or two percent."

Other helpful tips:

- Keep your car properly maintained
- Keep your tires aligned and properly inflated
- Change your oil regularly
- Change your air filters regularly

**Contact your local police agency if you think you are a victim of a crime.  
To contact the Weld County District Attorney's Office, call (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702.**

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