

October 10, 2002
Vilnius

Fuel stealing slumped by half

After introduction of the crime prevention project “Web” last spring, solely in Lietuva Statoil petrol stations, fuel stealing in Vilnius town decreased by 63 per cent last year, compared with year 2000. In 2000, due to fuel stealing in Vilnius town, Lietuva Statoil suffered the loss of 40 318 Litas, while last year this amount dropped to 14 818 Litas.

In years 1999 and 2000, due to fuel stealing in the whole country, Lietuva Statoil incurred the loss of 128 000 - 130 000 Litas. In 2001, when intensive cooperation with the police and introduction of crime prevention projects started, the loss slided to 31 644 Litas.

Due to the effectively implemented crime prevention at petrol stations, Statoil losses in Lithuania, to compare with Estonia and Latvia, are the lowest. In 2001, due to fuel stealing, Lietuva Statoil incurred the loss of 31 644 Litas (7.1 per cent). Meanwhile, due to fuel stealing, Statoil in Latvia lost 252 050 Litas (56.8 per cent) and in Estonia – 160 063 Litas (36.1 per cent). In 2000, due to fuel stealing, the loss level of Lietuva Statoil amounted to 13.9 per cent, in Latvia it was 49.4 per cent and in Estonia – 36.8 per cent. There are 34 Statoil petrol stations in Lithuania. Their number in Latvia and Estonia is 32 and 21, respectively.

The biggest amounts of fuel are stolen from Vilnius-based Lietuva Statoil petrol stations. Lietuva Statoil has 10 petrol stations in Vilnius town.

Fuel companies incur quite substantial material losses due to violations of law and crimes committed at petrol stations such as fuel stealing, thefts from petrol station stores, burglaries, swindling, payments by counterfeit bank cards, trade in drugs and their use in petrol station territories. The most effective way of combating these crimes is pooling the forces of the police, business and public organizations.

“Web” is still one of the most successful examples of cooperation between the private business and the police. The project was constructed by Vilnius General Police Commissariat, Crime Prevention Center in Lithuania and the company Lietuva Statoil.

The purpose of “Web” is prevention of such crimes as fuel stealing, thefts from petrol station stores, swindling using stolen or counterfeit bank cards, burglaries, trade in drugs and their use in petrol station territories. Project participants may exchange the information about incidents and crimes at petrol stations with expedition by group mobile communication means via the facility GSM Pro or e-mail.

The process of the development and introduction of the project “Web” comprised the consultations with a wireless communication specialist, police officer Martin Wright from Great Britain. Mr. Wright took part in development of similar projects in Great Britain and Ukraine.

The project “Web” is now in operation in 10 Lietuva Statoil petrol stations, 12 LUKoil petrol stations and Emsi petrol stations in Vilnius, also in 8 Lietuva Statoil petrol stations and 10 LUKoil petrol stations in Kaunas as well as in 6 Lietuva Statoil petrol stations and 5 Lukoil Baltija petrol stations in Klaipeda.