

Area Dealers Feeling Gas Pinch

OBSERVER ROUNDUP
"Fill'er up."
That familiar adage heard at hundreds of filling stations around Observeland may be just another piece of history as a recent survey of stations revealed that the fuel shortage may prompt gas rationing and other dramatic steps to preserve fuel.
Besides rationing, gas station owners reveal that prices are steadily rising and operating hours are being cut to reserve supplies.
Most stations contacted said their usual allocation

has been cut by an average of 10 per cent, while prices have risen on an average of three cents a gallon.
At present, major oil companies are supplying stations the same amount as was supplied in the same month last year, but many station owners say this is far short of what is needed.
Presently, the federal government is working on a plan which would allocate gasoline on the basis of the last quarter of 1971 and the first three quarters of 1972.
Jack Bingham, owner of

Bingham's Standard Service, Livonia, is one of those cutting hours. Formerly running open 24 hours, he now closes on Sunday and weekdays between 7 and 10 p.m., whenever he runs dry.
He blames the crisis on environmentalists.
"The companies are having trouble building refineries and exploring for new sources because the environmentalists are opposing them," said Bingham.
Birt Poff, owner of a Redford Township gas station, expressed reservation over the reality of a fuel shortage.
"The general public might believe there is a shortage, but I am unsure. One gasoline truck driver told me that the local storage area for a major supplier was out of regular gasoline for two days," said Poff.
"Now you tell me, are you going to let a million gallon storage area sit dry for two days when you could be selling it?"

Butch Wood, manager of a Standard Station in Westland, said his fuel has been cut.
"I was getting 40,000 gallons a month and now I'm getting 30,000," he said.
Wood says his prices have gone up about three cents due to the shortage.
"We haven't had to ration gas yet, but I expect we will by the end of the month."
He has joined other station owners in shortening hours by closing on Sundays and operating only a half day on Saturdays.
Anthony Bartkowiak, Garden City Gulf owner, claims he is getting the same amount of fuel as last year, but it isn't enough.
"The trouble is, I have more clients than last year at this time and I'm not getting enough fuel," said Bartkowiak.
"I ordered fuel on Tuesday last week and didn't get it until Friday evening. I was

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How To Save Gas Told By Auto Club

To help motorists get the most out of their gasoline this season, Automobile Club of Michigan has developed guidelines which it suggests be followed to conserve fuel.

Auto Club officials state that regardless of where a person travels in the United States this summer, "unless conditions change drastically gasoline should not be a problem" if three basic rules are followed:

1. Stop for gasoline when the tank is half empty.
2. Fill tanks during daylight to avoid searching for an open station at night.
3. Fill tanks Saturday, since most stations electing to close one day a week to conserve supplies have chosen Sunday.

These are the additional guidelines suggested:

- Keep auto engines tuned with special attention to fuel and air filters, plugs, points plus emission control devices.
- Avoid jack-rabbit starts by accelerating gradually and traveling at steady speeds whenever possible.
- Avoid panic stops, which waste energy.
- Avoid long engine warm-up periods after starting a cold engine. Instead, drive slowly for a mile or so before reaching cruising speed.
- Cut down on the use of auto air conditioners which can penalize the motorist by up to three miles per gallon.

- Keep tires properly inflated. Tires underinflated by four pounds lower gas mileage by one-half mile per gallon.
- Travel lighter than normal. Excess weight puts added strain on the engine and results in fewer miles per gallon of gas.
- Shut off the ignition to save gas when parked.
- When possible, form car pools for office commuting.
- Combine short trips such as shopping and taking children to and from school.

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