

Case Study 1: While performing vehicle inspections in October 2015 for a related project, OIG evaluators obtained a fuel card from an unlocked New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) car located in an unsecured parking lot of vehicles awaiting repair or retirement from service. The car had been damaged in an accident in January 2015. Evaluators discovered a fuel card in the vehicle’s console and removed it to prevent unauthorized use. The exterior of the envelope containing the fuel card included a personal identification number (PIN) number assigned to an NOPD captain.

In order to test the effectiveness of city fuel dispensing controls, evaluators visited the City’s fuel facility located at Broad Street and used the card and PIN to obtain fuel. Evaluators entered ‘999,999’ as the vehicle odometer reading to ensure that the transaction appeared as an exception on the weekly fuel use report sent to the NOPD Fleet Manager. The transaction was neither identified as suspicious nor investigated by city officials.

Case Study 2: In 2015 a fuel card assigned to one NOPD patrol vehicle was used to obtain 3,218 gallons of fuel without valid odometer readings.¹ Sixty-five percent of the fuel transactions attributed to the vehicle had questionable odometer information. It appeared that it was common for the fuel card associated with this vehicle to be shared among vehicles because fuel users (1) entered illogical odometer readings, and (2) it was used multiple times in a day. In many cases officers did not even attempt to enter accurate information but entered a series of repeated numbers or impossible odometer readings, such as 22,222 or 5.

On September 24, 2015 the fuel card was used nine times (three times between 5:55 p.m. and 5:56 p.m.) and none of the odometer entries was within a reasonable range of the previous entry. Details on the vehicle fueling transactions as well as the mileage entered by NOPD employees can be seen in Figure 5.

Figure 5. NOPD Patrol Vehicle Transaction Details on September 24, 2015

Location	Time	Mileage	Gallons
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	3:39 AM	58,370	12.4
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	8:19 AM	23,463	14.9
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	3:41 PM	22,520	12.0
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	3:42 PM	182,677	17.7
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	5:55 PM	5	13.0
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	5:55 PM	22,222	5.2
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	5:56 PM	28,142	12.4
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	8:38 PM	321,123	11.3
506 N BROAD ST, N.O., LA	9:32 PM	202,950	14.0

Case studies are not offered as evidence but as an illustration of the issues identified by evaluators during the course of this project.

¹ The vehicle’s asset number was BPOL15063.