

KS Officials Warn of Disaster Profiteering

**(AP/Submitted)--Gasoline prices rose several cents overnight amid continuing fears of shortages in Texas and other states in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey's strike on the Gulf Coast.**

**According to AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular gas rose in one day from \$2.45 Thursday to \$2.52 Friday.**

**At least two major pipelines — one that ships gasoline across the southern United States and to New York, and another that flows north to Chicago — have been slowed or stopped because of flooding and damage.**

**Due to the rising cost, a joint statement is released by Kansas Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer and Attorney General Derek Schmidt.**

**The pair wants “to alert Kansans that the Kansas statute prohibiting profiteering from a disaster is in effect as a result of the presidential disaster declaration in the hurricane-stricken region along the Gulf Coast. While price increases caused by the disruption in supply are to be expected, it is illegal in Kansas to ‘profiteer from a disaster’ by unjustifiably raising the price of motor fuel. Under Kansas law, a price increase that exceeds 25 percent compared with the price the day before the disaster is suspect and subject to scrutiny, and a seller that has increased prices by that amount or more may be required to provide documentation that the increase is due to the seller’s increased cost of obtaining the fuel.”**

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