**Checking the Accuracy of Fuel Dispensers | Video Script**

What are you thinking about when you pull up to the gas station? The price of gas? Running late for work? How far $20 of gas will get you?

When legal weights and measures inspectors pull into gas stations they think about legal for trade, leaks, accuracy in gallons pumped, pricing, or even possible fraud.

Whether it is a newer gas pump or, a classic, inspectors make sure you get what you pay for.

Inspectors check to see that grade of gas and price are displayed as well as ethanol content, octane rating and brand name.

The inspector removes the bottom panel to check that the calibration seal is still in place. If this seal is broken the pump system may have been tampered with.

The top panel is opened to check for fraudulent devices, such as credit card skimmers.

Calibrated five-gallon test measures are used to check that the pump accurately delivers five gallons of gas. Each pump and grade is tested more than once, using a fast and slow delivery, it should be accurate at any speed.

While inspection frequencies vary between different states, many perform them on at least an annual basis. Pumps for other products such as diesel fuel, kerosene, aviation gas or jet fuel are also inspected. They are also checked when a complaint is received.

Common complaints include “pump creep” which is when the dollar amount keeps rising after the customer has stopped pumping. Another common complaint is the car is filled up with more gallons than the tank should hold.

If a pump does not pass inspection, it is shut down until it’s fixed and passes re-inspection.

How does the consumer know a pump has passed inspection? Look for the inspection sticker on the pump.

Consumers should be confident that gas pumps are fair and accurate. This is just one way weights and measures touches your life every day.

For more information, contact the National Conference on Weights and Measures at www.ncwm.net or your local weights and measures office.