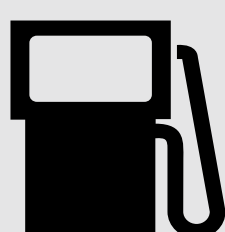


## WHEN A DISASTER STRIKES

# DON'T GET OVERCHARGED

If the government declares an emergency, increasing the price of goods and services **10%** or more may be price gouging.



### 1 BE AWARE

Price gouging is a crime.

After a disaster, price increases can occur at grocery stores, gasoline stations, housing, emergency and medical supply stores, and construction or repair services.

### 2 IDENTIFY

If you think a store or service provider is committing price gouging, compare prices prior to the state of emergency and in areas not affected by the disaster.

Consumers are protected from a price increase of 10% or more for 30 days on goods and services and for 180 days on contractor-related services. Keep detailed records of purchases you make during a declared emergency.

### 3 REPORT

If you believe you were a victim of price gouging, contact our department to file a complaint by calling (800) 593-8222 or visit us online at [dcba.lacounty.gov](http://dcba.lacounty.gov).



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**CONSUMER &  
BUSINESS AFFAIRS**