



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **MAN GETS 20 YEARS IN PRISON IN FUEL THEFT CASE**

A former state highway worker accused of stealing fuel from the Colorado Department of Transportation has been sentenced to a lengthy prison term today.

**Jaime Perez** (dob: 11-03-70) pleaded guilty earlier to violating Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act (F2) and was sentenced in Denver District Court today to 20 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections and was ordered to pay \$446,560 in restitution.

Perez worked as a heavy equipment operator for CDOT and for several months in early 2010, he illegally cloned state fuel cards and gave them to two co-defendants, Fernando Ibarra-Gonzalez and Asuncion Aguirre-Barron. They used the cards to purchase large amounts of diesel fuel which was then sold to others, primarily truck drivers. Ibarra-Gonzalez and Aguirre-Barron pleaded guilty earlier in connection with the case and both have been deported.

In addressing the Court today, Perez gave several apologies. He apologized to CDOT for violating their trust, to his family for throwing away a good job and a good life, and to the public for stealing their money, estimated to be more than \$440,000.

A CDOT supervisor discovered the theft, and CDOT asked for the assistance of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Numerous agencies assisted in the investigation, including the Northglenn Police Department, Westminster Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, and the Colorado Department of Corrections. The case was prosecuted by Denver Chief Deputy District Attorney Joe Morales.