



For Immediate Release
November 16, 2006

Contact: Mike Klemens
(217) 782-3128

CHICAGO – Three Chicago men were arrested this morning for illegally selling diesel fuel out of a box truck. The men were taken into custody after Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) officers discovered they were driving around Chicago with box trucks that had unsecured tanks of diesel fuel loaded in the back, which is not only illegal but poses a number of safety as well as environmental hazards to the community.

IDOR officers arrested Daniel Estrada, 21, Jesus Estrada, 55, and Salvador Estrada Lopez, 52, all of Chicago, this morning at 5:45 and charged them with supplying diesel fuel without a license, a Class 3 felony. The trio is alleged to have obtained diesel fuel and driven trucks carrying tanks of fuel inside the rear cargo area to a parking lot near Midway Airport. There they opened the back door of the trucks and sold fuel to truckers from what was in effect a rolling fuel station. Also as part of the search, investigators found 50 cases of liquor stolen last month from a rail yard in Northlake.

Besides the safety hazard, the men avoided paying state, and local motor fuel and sales taxes on the cash sales.

Today's arrests were done in cooperation with Cook County Sheriff's Police and Union Pacific Railroad Police. The case will be prosecuted by the office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

The three men were taken to the Cook County lock-up, and the Department of Revenue seized the two 26-foot box trucks. One contained a 3,500-gallon tank; the other hauled five smaller tanks ranging from 330 to 450 gallons.