We know life isn't fair, and gas/fuel prices are among the most seemingly unfair aspects of life—but why are we "paying the price" during this recent spike?

According to gasbuddy.com, refinery blips and a pipeline rupture set the prices soaring, prompting Gov. Rick Snyder to place the Upper Peninsula under a fuel emergency, allowing fuel delivery trucks wider operating hours.

A petroleum analyst with the popular website commented, "Watching the national average last week, one might have expected war broke out in the Middle East or a major hurricane shut down production, neither of which happened.

"The scary thought is what may happen to gasoline prices should one of the two actually take place."

Three refineries which supply our gasoline and diesel fuel experienced issues, said a spokesperson from AAA Michigan, one in Whiting, Ind., Lemont and Wood River, Ill.

These refineries are older, and there are no plans to build new facilities. Modernization also takes the refineries offline, and if it were just one, there probably would not have been a noticeable difference, but to have all three have issues impacted the prices.

Don't take it out on the local gas station owner, however, as they are not informed of the problems the refineries are experiencing.

The Enbridge pipeline, for example, has a capacity of delivering 317,600 barrels per day, predominantly to Chicago area and points northward. It is unclear when it will restart.

Last Friday, Michigan's gas prices were the highest in the U.S. And, during the time when tourism and traveling are at their peak levels.

Prices are expected to go down soon, but, as we know, they go up quickly but take their time coming down.

If something you've purchased breaks, and it's the manufacturer's fault, it's their responsibility to repair or replace at their own cost. Right.

--Marian Volek