

NBC Warns \$300-400 Oil If Israel Attacks Iran

The consequences of a military attack on Iran to thwart its nuclear intentions could have a global economic impact, according to NBC News chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel.

Engel warned [on the July 1 "NBC Nightly News"](#) an attack by Israel could send oil prices soaring - sending gas prices into territories never imagined.

"I asked an oil analyst that very question," Engel said. "He said, 'The price of a barrel of oil: Name your price - \$300-\$400 a barrel.'"

What would oil at those levels mean? A [June 11 Time magazine story by Robert Baer](#) put the price of a gallon of gas at \$12 a gallon if oil goes to \$300 a barrel. In May, Robert Hirsch, Management Information Services Senior Energy Advisor, [told CNBC's "Squawk Box"](#) the oil at those prices could mean \$15-a-gallon gas.

Engel maintained Iran could disrupt oil shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, induce Iranian-back militias to destabilize Iraq and Iran's allies in Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip could threaten Israel. That would create "a line of fire from Tehran all the way to Jerusalem" according to Engel.

Engel's doom-and-gloom prognosis of "name your price" oil comes a nearly two months after White House Counselor Ed Gillespie [sent a scathing letter to NBC admonishing Engel's network](#) for "deceptively editing" an interview Engel conducted with Bush. The White House claimed Engel mischaracterized Bush's stance on the interview with its editing process.