



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Robert P. Kochen
CHIEF OF POLICE

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

The Police Department has received several reports of credit card fraud. These have resulted from a victim's credit card information being obtained through the use of a skimmer device. The skimmer devices have been attached to gas station pumps within the city. Below are some tips to help protect yourself from becoming a victim. Also any business owners that utilize any type of ATM machines please constantly check the machine for a skimmer device. Gas station owners, managers, and employees please constantly check your gas pumps for such a device. If a device discovered call the Police Department immediately.

Tips:

Gas station credit card skimmers are external devices thieves attach over a real credit card slot at a gas station pump. As customers swipe their cards into the skimmer, the device saves and stores card information immediately.

What to look for: If a credit card slot looks different from the other card readers at the station, it may be a setup for gas station credit card skimming fraud.

What to do: Skimming devices are meant to be placed temporarily for a matter of hours or just a day. For that reason, they are attached using only double-sided tape, so thieves can easily remove them. Before sliding a credit card through the machine, tug on the reader to ensure it is on securely; skimmers will easily pop off with mild effort.

What to look for: Survey the gas pump's edges — especially the hatch surrounding the credit card unit. If it looks battered as if someone tried to pry it open or if the lock itself is broken, it may have been compromised. Some gas stations, like Shell stations, apply a tamper-proof seal across the opening of the credit card door. When a door is broken into, the sticker is lifted revealing the words "VOID" on the sticker.

What to do: Before using a gas pump, find out whether the pump has a tamper-evident sticker. If it has one that is placed on the unit correctly (i.e. across the opening of the door) and it reads void, move on to the next pump or station, and notify the gas station attendant.

[Click on the links below for additional information on skimming devices.](#)

<http://krebsonsecurity.com/2013/07/dont-get-sucker-pumped/#more-17092>

<http://krebsonsecurity.com/all-about-skimmers/>

Officer John Ulrich
Crime Prevention
Tarpon Springs Police Department
444 S. Huey Ave.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689