



PRESS RELEASE

United States Secret Service
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Secret Service Aims to Thwart Credit Card Skimming At Fueling Stations

Partnering with State and Local Law Enforcement,
USSS wants to stop this Criminal Practice

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the U.S. Secret Service is *Calling all Partners*, in a focused effort to partner with state and local law enforcement in deterring, investigating and prosecuting criminal credit card “skimming” at fueling stations. Skimming is a technique using electronic devices to commit credit card fraud.

The U.S. Secret Service has issued an alert to state and local law enforcement, which contains specific technical information about how to look for skimming devices at fueling stations, preserve evidence and investigate skimming operations. Agents based in field offices and Electronic and Cyber Enabled Financial Crimes Task forces all across the country are also fanning out to provide assistance to local law enforcement departments who, in partnership with businesses, can help minimize risks, stop skimming operations and catch those responsible.

Payment card skimming devices continue to appear at fueling stations throughout the country. Once a device is installed on a credit card reader, stolen data can be accessed remotely. Skimming is common at gas pumps because they are typically unattended. This level of anonymity makes investigations, arrests and prosecutions more difficult – but not impossible.

Credit card fraud is a serious crime, a Federal offense in many cases, carrying stiff penalties including heavy fines and lengthy prison sentences. For many, the potential reward outweighs the risk of being caught. In recent years, skimming operations have become more complex, with larger losses due to new technology and ties to organized crime.

More information for consumers who would like to report credit card fraud or protect themselves against credit card fraud can be found at www.secretservice.org. Select the “About” tab, FAQs, and scroll down to “Protecting Yourself” or simply click [here](#).