



The Henry County Police Department would like to reach out to the community in reminding citizens that they can have a role in crime prevention, particularly when it comes to crimes involving the use of ATM Skimmers, stolen vehicles, and car break-ins.

In the past year, “skimmers” have been found on ATMs throughout the United States. Often times, when the skimmers have been found in Henry County and other parts of the country, there has been a correlation with the presence of panhandlers in the adjacent business parking lots. These panhandlers monitor law enforcement activity in the area. Working in teams, one of them may be on a cell phone informing their associates of the activity at their location. If you use an ATM, here are some things to remember to keep from becoming a victim:

- 1) **Check your surroundings.** Make sure there are no suspicious people in the area before you approach the ATM.
- 2) **Check the ATM.** Make sure the device you are inserting your card into is part of the ATM and is securely attached.
- 3) **When typing in your PIN, cover the PIN pad with your other hand.** If a camera has been placed on the ATM, it won't be able to capture your PIN number.

Thefts occur at all hours whether it is day or night, and with the following information provided to you we are hoping to limit criminal activity in Henry County. Here are some helpful tips that could prevent you from being a victim:

There are also ways to prevent from being a victim when it comes to your vehicle. Here are a few simple tips:

- 1) **Don't leave valuables in your vehicle,** particularly not in plain view for criminals to see.
- 2) **If you must leave valuable items in your vehicle, place the items out of sight before leaving your vehicle unattended.** This may include purses, backpacks, GPS Units, MP3 players, laptops, etc.... Another idea is to place the items in a locked compartment of the vehicle so as not to be seen by criminals.
- 3) **Leave no trace** of valuables such as docking stations or cords that belong to your valuables.
- 4) **Lock your vehicle at all times.** If the vehicle has an alarm system built in, use the alarm to your advantage.
- 5) **If possible, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.** If you have flood lights or motion sensors on or around your residence, a criminal is less likely to burglarize a vehicle that is visible to the public eye.
- 6) **Mark your valuables** such as writing down serial numbers or inscribing/engraving a “personal identifier” directly on the item.
- 7) **When eating at a restaurant,** sit at a location where you can see your vehicle.

- 8) **Don't leave a spare key in your vehicle.** If you have a vehicle with a push button start, a key has to be in close proximity in order for the vehicle to crank. If you have a spare key inside of the car, the thieves would not need a key to start it.
- 9) **Park your vehicle close to the facility you are visiting.**
- 10) **Park where you can see driver's side door which will allow a direct path from your exit point to the vehicle.**

Suspicious activity may include but is not limited to:

- People sitting inside parked vehicles for long periods of time
- Unknown persons walking up and down the street
- Vehicles driving at a slow rate of speed on public roadways.
- Persons selling items such as small or used electronics door to door.

Please report any suspicious activity in your area to the Henry County Police Department by immediately contacting 911, or using our non-emergency number at 770-957-9121.