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## **Don't Let Credit Card Skimmers Steal Your Holiday Joy: Help Fuel Retailers #ProtectThePump**

**AUSTIN** – The holiday season can get hectic, and it's easy to get distracted when performing tasks like filling up your gas tank. Crooks depend on that inattention to make it easier for them to steal your credit card information off gasoline pumps.

“There are Grinches out there who want to steal your money and your joy,” said TDLR executive director Brian E. Francis. “If consumers, fuel retailers and TDLR work together to fight credit card skimmers, we can all protect the pump – and your bank account.”

Credit card skimmers are devices that criminals place in or on gas pump cabinets to steal credit card information from customers when they purchase fuel.

Often, there are signs that show consumers and retailers there may be an issue.

- Does the pump appear to have been tampered with?
- Is the cabinet door loose or damaged?
- Is the card slot loose?
- Does the card slot have an additional outside over it?
- Check to see if the keypad has an overlay on the original pad.
- If there's security tape on the cabinet, does it look like it has been cut?
- Is there a screen shade over the display? Watch out – there could be a tiny camera hidden inside.

Here are some suggested best practices for protecting yourself at the pump:

- Go to a station that appears to be well-maintained and has security cameras.
- Pay for your gas inside the station using cash.
- If you opt to pay with a card inside the store or outside at the pump, use a credit card, NEVER a debit card, or crooks could drain your bank account before you even know what's happening.

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- Choose a pump close to the building, one that's in the clerk's line of sight.
- If you must use a code like a PIN number, be sure to cover the keypad with your other hand to hide your code from prying eyes.
- Monitor your credit card statement for unauthorized purchases and report them immediately to your credit card company.

If you think a pump has been tampered with, or you suspect your card has been compromised by a skimmer, report it to the station, to local law enforcement and to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Notify TDLR here: [www.tdlr.texas.gov/skimmers](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/skimmers).

Learn more about skimmers: [www.tdlr.gov/protectthepump](http://www.tdlr.gov/protectthepump).

#### About TDLR

*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 1,000,000 licensees across the state.*

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

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