



RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Information Bulletin

ATM FRAUD



On December 4, 2006 Renton officers responded to a report of a suspicious device attached to an ATM machine.

An employee who arrived to service the machine observed a suspect behaving suspiciously near the machine. When the service person looked closely at the machine, he noticed that an additional card slot and camera had been added to the ATM.

Per the financial institution, when a customer puts their ATM card into the added-on the slot (which fits over the "real" card slot), the card is "read" by the added-on device. Then the added-on camera, which is aimed towards the keypad, records the view of the keypad as the customer punches in their PIN.

Suspect(s) nearby will immediately download the information to a laptop or they will remove the camera and card slot reader later and download the information. The suspect(s) then make up fraudulent cards using the cardholder's information.

The added card reader and camera were not obvious to customers. Several card numbers and PIN's had been recorded without the customer being aware of the additional devices on the machine. **It would be very difficult to tell if the ATM you are using has been modified.**

Some things you can do to help prevent fraudulent activity on your card include:

- Entirely conceal the keypad from view when you punch in your PIN.
- Monitor your account regularly for fraudulent activity.
- Use the same ATM for most of your transactions, and be alert to any change in appearance of the machine. If the ATM looks different, call the 800-number on the machine and report it.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity or people in the area to 9-1-1.

For more information on this type of ATM Fraud, go to:
www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/atmcamera.asp.

Additional crime prevention information is available on the City of Renton website at
www.rentonwa.gov.



ATM with Added-on Card Slot and Camera



Added-on Card Slot



Added-on Camera