

SCAM ALERT!

Awareness is the first step to protecting yourself and keeping your money safe. When Tyndall is notified of financial scams occurring in our area, we feel it is important to notify our members so you are aware of them.

One of the fastest-growing scams today is the use of a **card skimmer**. These skimmers come in many shapes and sizes and are often difficult to recognize. They are mounted onto an ATM machine or a gas pump and are designed to look like the card reader on the machine.

The skimmer is used to steal the information from the magnetic strip on your ATM card or debit card. Once the thief has your information, he can use it for transactions performed by telephone or online. Sometimes, thieves will add a tiny camera to the ATM machine or gas pump to steal your PIN (Personal Identification Number) as well. If they have the card information and your PIN, they can easily create a fake card and use it for store purchases and ATM withdrawals.

How can you protect yourself? Be observant. If something looks out of place on the machine, be cautious and use a different machine. Look for mirrors mounted on the machine that may not have been there before. Look at the labels on the machine; do they match the others? Are there misspelled words? If so, report it to the financial institution or gas station and use a different machine. At an ATM, use your other hand to shield your PIN from prying eyes...and cameras. Stay aware and keep your hard-earned money safe.

For more information and photos of actual skimmers, visit tyndall.org/skimmer.

