

United States
Secret Service

San Diego Regional Fraud
Task Force



News Release

The San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force is seeking information on suspects who are tampering with local bank ATM machines in an effort to capture individual's bank account information with the ultimate goal of stealing the money from the customer's account.

(San Diego, CA) – Investigators from the San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force (SDRFTF) are seeking information and assistance from the public. During the past several weeks, unknown individuals have been tampering with San Diego County area bank automated teller machines (ATM). The individuals typically place a small high tech skimming device over the card slot on the front of the ATM. This device is disguised in such a way that it is not easily detected. Unsuspecting customers insert their debit or credit card into the machine and conduct business as usual. The skimming device does not interfere with the bank transaction, but it does capture the bank customer's account information. In some instances, a small camera pointing down towards the key pad will capture the customer's personal identification number (PIN). At other times, an accomplice will look over the customer's shoulder in an attempt to see the PIN entered on the ATM key pad. The captured electronic bank account information is later downloaded into a computer and used to create counterfeit bank debit or credit cards. These counterfeit cards are then paired with the stolen PINs and used to withdraw cash from ATMs and/or make purchases at retail outlets until either the maximum dollar limit is reached or the account is closed. Most victims are unaware that their bank debit or credit cards have been compromised until they review their monthly statement.

Attached are photographs taken from surveillance video of two possible suspects. Anyone recognizing the individuals in these photos is requested to contact the SDRFTF. If any member of the public notices anything unusual on a bank ATM machine, they should refrain from using the machine and report their suspicions to the bank.

The SDRFTF is in its 11th year and is a cooperative law enforcement effort comprised of detectives, investigators, special agents, and prosecutors from the following agencies: San Diego Police Department, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the U.S. Secret Service.

Contact: San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force Sergeant Stephen Stone (619) 744-2534 or the United States Secret Service at (619) 557-5640.



SUSPECT #1



SUSPECT #2

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