



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER**

Protect Consumers from “Skimmers” at the Pump

Commissioner of Agriculture Andy Gipson is committed to protecting consumers in the State of Mississippi. Some consumers are being affected by the use of "skimmers" at gas pumps in Mississippi. These “skimmers,” have the capability to capture consumers' credit and debit card information, on card readers at the pump. You can join in the effort to protect Mississippians and our visitors.

What to know:

- Skimmers placed within the pump cabinet are not usually visible from the outside of the pump.
- Criminals usually place skimmers on the pumps farthest away from the storefront to avoid being seen.
- Open pump dispensers or torn security tape could indicate that a pump has been tampered with.
- Criminals will sometimes use an accomplice to block the store clerk's view with a large vehicle while another person installs a skimmer.
- Criminals sometimes access the information stored on the skimmer using remote technology. If a car is parked in the lot for a prolonged period of time with the person within it, it could be an individual accessing illegally obtained financial information.

How to help:

- Look for suspicious activity, such as a person tampering with a gas pump's cabinet or pulling a large vehicle out in order to obstruct the store clerk's view for some time.
- If you suspect a skimmer has been placed on a pump, inform your store manager.
- If you find a skimmer, leave it there and contact local law enforcement or the Department of Agriculture and Commerce so investigators can remove the equipment and conduct an appropriate investigation.
- Routinely check pumps for signs of tampering.

Who to call:

- Call local law enforcement or the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Petroleum Products Inspection Division, 601-359-1101.