

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **POLICE WARN CITIZENS TO BE WARY OF CREDIT CARD SKIMMERS**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (December 5, 2017) Suffolk Police warn citizens to be wary of credit card skimmers after such a device was located at a diesel fuel pump at the 7-Eleven in the 1900 block of Holland Road.

Skimmers are illegal card readers that criminals can hide at places like gas pumps to steal your credit card data.

Emergency Communications was contacted and an Officer responded on December 1, 2017 after a contractor that performs maintenance on the pumps found the device. Based on their service schedule, the device could have been installed sometime between November 2, 2017 and December 1, 2017. If your credit card information has been compromised, contact the Suffolk Police Department.

The Suffolk Police Department would like to offer the following tips for keeping your information safe. For starters, keep an eye out for special seals placed over the front panel of the gas pump. Thieves need to lift that seal to get a skimmer inside the pump. If the seal gets lifted, it will read "void." If you spot a voided label, don't use the pump and do tell the gas station manager.

Other tips include keeping an eye out for external credit-card readers that look different from the ones at surrounding pumps and using your debit card as a credit card to avoid giving your PIN away. If you can't use your debit card as a credit card, shield your PIN number entry with your hand in case "tiny pinhole cameras" are installed. You may also want to only use pumps located closer to the gas station storefront, where thieves might be more worried about getting spotted by a surveillance camera.

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