



# ATM SAFETY TIPS



LVMPD Crime Prevention

"Citizen Attention is the Best Crime Prevention"

Criminals are always on the lookout for opportunities to take advantage of people and their property, especially in hard economic times. In U.S. and Canada there are over 420,000 Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) in use. That is a lot of opportunities when cash is readily available. There are some things you can do to conduct your business more safely.

## FOLLOW SAFE PRACTICES:

- Look around at the surroundings as you approach your ATM. The location should be open and not hidden by signs, landscaping, and partitions. At night there should be good lighting.
- Do not withdraw large amounts of cash. **Conceal your withdrawal** before turning around and leave the area quickly.
- When using a drive-up ATM, scan the area, keep your car engine running and doors locked. Drive away **quickly and safely**. Avoid isolated locations.
- Try to use the ATM in the daytime when you are more visible. Many ATM robberies occur between midnight and 4 A.M.
- Use the buddy system when possible. Most robberies are committed against a **single victim by a lone robber**.
- If you feel someone is **too close behind you** as you complete your transaction, ask them to step back. If they do not, cancel your transaction and come back later.
- **Try to limit your time at the ATM**. Be ready to do your transaction quickly. Fill out any paperwork in your vehicle prior to approaching the machine. Endorse checks with "For Deposit Only".
- Cover or **conceal your PIN number** when using the key pad. This is true even if you are in a business using a credit/debit card. Do not write your PIN number on anything or give it out --- memorize it.
- Be aware of any **unusual or strange attachments** on the machine, especially in the area where you insert your card. If you are suspicious, **DO NOT INSERT** your card. Contact management immediately. Try to persuade others not to use the machine until proper personnel arrive.



## OTHER SAFETY TIPS:

- Report any unsafe conditions or practices to the financial institution management.
- Use a **cross-cut shredder** at home to destroy old bills, statements, etc.
- Carry a **noise maker** like a whistle.
- If confronted by a robber, do not resist. **Do not put yourself in any more danger**.
- **Reproduce on a copier everything in your wallet** - front and back. Keep this in a safe place. This is valuable information if something is lost and you need to report it.
- Only carry what is essential. Do not carry a lot of credit cards, debit cards, etc.
- Be a **good witness** if something happens. Stay calm and report the incident immediately to the police.
- **9-1-1** for emergencies and **3-1-1** for non-emergencies.
- Consider a consumer protection monitoring service for the risk of **Identity Theft**.

