



# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



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## ATM SKIMMING FRAUD

Skimming devices, also known as “skimmers,” continue to be used to commit fraud against unsuspecting victims. Skimming is when criminals capture credit card information and personal identification numbers from the magnetic strip on the back side of your card. They do this by using a small device that fits into ATM card readers and pin pads. This hi-tech equipment is equipped with pinhead-sized cameras along with Bluetooth technology that downloads information wirelessly. This information, once obtained, can be used to withdraw money or make illegal purchases on your accounts. In most cases, these devices or “skimmers” are installed on outdoor ATM’s or fuel pumps. Fuel pump skimmers are usually attached in the internal wiring of the machine and aren’t visible to the customer. The skimming devices store data to be downloaded or wirelessly transferred later. For most people, skimmers are difficult to detect. Below are a few tips to protect your information:

### PREVENTION

- Avoid using your debit card. Credit cards are better protected against fraud.
- If you must use your debit card, cover up your hand as you enter your PIN so the camera can’t record what you’re entering.
- Look for possible fraudulent devices attached to the ATM. If the ATM looks different or appears to have any alterations or attachments to the card slot or PIN pad, do not use it.
- Use an indoor ATM; these are less likely to be tampered with. Consider paying inside with the attendant, not outside at the pump.
- Use your PIN sparingly at retailers, always choose the signature option-or credit option instead.
- Check your bank accounts daily or set up email or text alerts to send you balance updates.
- Choose a fuel pump that is closer to the store and in direct view of the attendant. These pumps are less likely to be targets for skimmers.



## **Think Twice Before Leaving Your Mark!**

We've all seen graffiti somewhere in our community. Graffiti is the words, colors, and symbols drawn out or etched on buildings, overpasses, train cars and other surfaces. Graffiti is an act of vandalism. Not only does it cost the city thousands of dollars every year for clean up, but it also sends a message to the community that nobody cares.

Juveniles contribute the most to graffiti and vandalism in our community. Depending on the amount of the damages, a minor can be charged with a misdemeanor or a felony for graffiti or vandalism. When minors are convicted of the crime, the court can impose stiff penalties. For example, a minor's driver's license may be suspended for a period of up to one year. If the minor is unlicensed, the court can delay the eligibility for obtaining a driver's license for a period of up to one year.

According to the California Civil Code, parents or legal guardians shall be personally liable for any and all costs incurred if a minor engages in vandalism and/or graffiti. Upon any graffiti or vandalism conviction, the parents of the juvenile will be ordered to pay restitution of a minimum of \$100.00. This fee is determined on a case-by-case basis and can include all law enforcement costs, city staff costs, attorney's fees and court costs incurred with the civil prosecution up to \$25,000.

So, parents, make sure that your children know the consequences of committing graffiti or vandalism, and to think twice before leaving their mark! To report graffiti in San Gabriel contact (800) 794-7384.

## **Help Keep San Gabriel Beautiful**

As soon as graffiti happens

**REPORT IT!**

**(800) 794-7384**



The City of San Gabriel offers a graffiti removal service to areas visible from the street. To report graffiti on private property, call the City's Graffiti Hotline at (800) 794-7384. To report graffiti on public property such as utility poles and streets signs, contact Public Works at (626) 308-2825 Or online at <https://www.sangabrielcity.com/934/Graffiti-Removal-Services>

Keep San Gabriel Beautiful

**REPORT GRAFFITI!**

**Graffiti is a crime that should be reported.**

To report graffiti in progress, contact the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2828.

Have an anonymous tip on crime? Contact Crime Stoppers at 800 222-TIPS (8477) or [www.crimestoppers.com](http://www.crimestoppers.com)