



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017

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Skimming Devices Found At Multiple Gas Station Locations

Several skimming devices were located on fuel pumps at different gas stations in Palm Coast on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Florida Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, are inspecting all gas pumps in search of skimming devices.

Joseph Scobbo Jr., a consumer protection specialist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, notified the Flagler County Sheriff's Office after receiving a complaint in reference to an unauthorized purchase from a fuel pump located at the Kangaroo Express at 1201 Palm Harbor Parkway in Palm Coast. Scobbo discovered the security tape on all of the fuels pumps had been compromised and he located two credit card Bluetooth skimming devices.



Skimming devices found on two pumps at the Kangaroo Express at 1201 Palm Harbor Parkway in Palm Coast.

Due to the rising number of gas pumps containing skimming devices, the Florida Department of

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Agriculture has begun conducting routing gas pump checks throughout Palm Coast. In doing so, Scobbo located additional devices at the 7-11 on 220 A Palm Coast Parkway, the BP gas station at 1755 Palm Harbor Parkway, and the Shell gas station at 320 Palm Coast Parkway NE.

“If you have utilized any of these four gas stations in Palm Coast, or any gas station, it is imperative that you check you bank card or credit card statement to make sure you do not have fraudulent charges on your account,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “If you notice anything suspicious, you should contact your bank or credit card company immediately.”

In order to prevent being the victim of credit card skimming, take a close look at the gas pump before inserting a credit card. If anything looks loose or cracked, or like a device has been added to the card reader, do not use that pump. Choose the pumps closest to the store when possible. Crooks often choose pumps that aren't in the direct line of sight to the gas station's employees. Use credit cards rather than debit cards that require a PIN number. Credit cards have better fraud protection, and the money is not deducted immediately from an account. And, for the most protection, pay cash inside of the store.

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