

AG Fitch Announces Statewide Operation Targeting Skimmers



Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your sensitive information, including the use of skimmer devices attached to the credit card readers we use in stores every day. I am grateful to our local, state, and federal partners for their assistance throughout this operation. Through education and awareness, we can stop these criminals from defrauding Mississippians and protect the businesses in our communities.

Lynn Fitch

(Jackson, Mississippi) Today, Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced the conclusion of a statewide operation to help businesses and consumers identify and report credit card skimmers used to steal personal information. During Operation S.A.F.E. (Skimmer and Fraud Enforcement), which ran from November 6 through November 20, more than 900 businesses were inspected and nearly 6,000 point of sale terminals were examined.

"Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your sensitive information, including the use of skimmer devices attached to the credit card readers we use in stores every day," **said Attorney General Fitch**. "I am grateful to our local, state, and federal partners for their assistance throughout this operation. Through education and awareness, we can stop these criminals from defrauding Mississippians and protect the businesses in our communities."

Beginning in October, investigators with the Attorney General's Cyber Fraud Task Force trained local, state, and federal law enforcement, financial institutions, and retailers to identify skimmers, report them, and properly preserve evidence. During Operation S.A.F.E., Mississippi Attorney General's Office investigators worked with 39 federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to inspect terminals and educate businesses on the dangers of card skimming. The following agencies participated:

- Bay St. Louis Police Department
- Biloxi Police Department
- Booneville Police Department
- Capitol Police Department
- Clinton Police Department
- Columbus Police Department
- Corinth Police Department
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Florence Police Department
- Forrest County Sheriff's Office
- Fulton Police Department
- Mississippi Gaming Commission
- Neshoba County Sheriff's Office
- New Albany Police Department
- Oxford Police Department
- Pascagoula Police Department
- Pearl River County Sheriff's Office
- Picayune Police Department
- Pontotoc Police Department
- Rankin County Sheriff's Office
- Reservoir Police Department

- Gulfport Police Department
- Hancock County Sheriff's Office
- Harrison County Sheriff's Office
- Horn Lake Police Department
- Lucedale Police Department
- Lumberton Police Department
- Magee Police Department
- Marshall County Sheriff's Office
- Mississippi Department of Corrections
- Mississippi Department of Human Services – Office of Inspector General
- Saltillo Police Department
- Simpson County Sheriff's Office
- Smith County Sheriff's Office
- Sumrall Police Department
- Tupelo Police Department
- United States Postal Inspection Service
- United States Secret Service
- University of Mississippi Police Department
- Wiggins Police Department

In addition, the Cyber Fraud Task Force worked with financial institutions like Amory Federal Savings, Keesler Federal Credit Union, and Veritas Federal Credit Union, and with major retailers including Kroger, Lowe's, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Mississippians can guard against skimmer devices accessing their card information by using tap pay or chip read terminals and avoiding card swipes, if possible. Consumers should also pay attention to the look of the card reader. Skimmer devices often fit over the reader, making it look different and even larger than other devices and may even pull off if lifted from the corners of the reader.

This year, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office has recovered 15 skimmers throughout Mississippi, including one during Operation S.A.F.E.

Learn more at AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com/Cyber-Crime.

###

Media Contacts

MaryAsa Lee

MaryAsa.Lee@ago.ms.gov



MS Attorney General's Office | 550 High Street Suite 1200 | Jackson, MS 39201 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!