

DRIVE UP ATM SECURITY

ATM bank cash machines are an integral part of our way of life. They offer convenience to those on the run, but at the same time offer an element of risk. Using a bank ATM machine safely requires your awareness and a little planning.

Just because a bank ATM machine is open and available 24-hours a day doesn't mean it is always safe to use it. A robber looking for easy prey only has to stake out an ATM in a low-traffic, dimly lit area and bide his time.



Did You Know?

- Most bank ATM robberies occur at night between 7pm and midnight when the machine only produces 10% of the daily transactions.
- Bank ATM robbers are usually males under 25 years of age and most work alone.
- Robbers usually position themselves nearby (50 feet) waiting for a victim to approach and withdraw cash.
- Half of the robberies occur after the cash withdrawal.
- Many robbery victims are women and were alone when robbed. Most claim that they never saw the robber coming.
- Most robbers used a gun or claimed to have a concealed weapon when confronting the victim and demanding their cash.

What Can You Do?

When approaching a drive-up ATM:

- Scan the area for any suspicious people loitering in the area and obvious hiding places. If you see anyone suspicious standing nearby or sitting alone in a car, drive away to a different ATM location and call the police to report the suspicious person..
- Leave enough room to maneuver between your car and the one ahead of you in the drive-up line. If there is any sign of trouble, drive off.
- Prepare for your ATM stop to reduce the amount of time you are at the machine.

While using a drive-up ATM, you should follow these tips:

- Keep the car running.
- Keep your car doors locked and the car in gear, with your foot firmly on the brake, while using the ATM machine.
- Keep all windows closed, except the one you are using.
- Keep your eyes moving during the transaction, watching the front, sides, and the rear view mirrors. Robbers almost always approach from the rear on the drivers' side.
- Be prepared to drive away quickly. Upon completion of your transaction, immediately close your window and leave. Count your money later.
- If someone approaches your vehicle on foot, cancel the transaction and drive off. Even if it means leaving your ATM card behind.

When leaving an ATM make sure you are not being followed. If you are, call 911 and drive immediately to a police or fire station, or to a crowded, well-lighted location or business.