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STOP ATM Skimming ---- Crash N' Drag Solutions

If the security of your ATM and protecting your assets is a goal, then read on. The purpose of this letter is to propose some solutions for you to think about.

ATMs in convenience stores have been hit by a Crash n' Drag theft that is so simple that when the thief is successful with one, he will hit several stores very quickly. This is not a secret, the movie 'Barbershop' (2002) describes the crash and drag tactic. San Diego, CA had two men run a string of many such thefts, just one netting them \$31,900. The crime has been reported many times, including a security video on NBC, Dec, 2006, showing an ATM disappearing. One store chain has made it a policy to remove all money from their ATMs and the attacks keep coming. This crime is increasing in frequency.

How does it work? First, they purchase a long length of chain and a very large hammer. Second, steal a pickup, crash into the door or window, toss the chain around the ATM and drag it off. Last, take whatever time is needed to break in to the safe.

One solution is to place a locator like a cell phone with GPS and auto dial inside the ATM. The cell phone is programmed to call 'home' if the power is disconnected and/or a vibration alarm is tripped. The Boost system uses a "where are you" technology, many other cell providers allow parental monitoring of their kids (ATMs) locations.

A walkie-talkie can be an economic alternative to a cell phone. Modification to a transmitter similar to an aircraft crash beacon, which begins transmitting pulses upon collision, would require the authorities (security) use a radio receiver with direction finding equipment. An alarm dialer installed outside of the ATM would alert officials to the probability that a beacon will help them find the criminals faster, making this crime less profitable. Either solution would require the electronics to be installed inside the ATM with the antennae(s) outside the box in a protected enclosure.

All parts are available now. If any kits are on the market, let me know and I will advertise them. A technical manual for construction is available free on ATMGUARD.COM. Suggestion: a warning sign on most vulnerable ATMs with actual locator transmitters installed in only 20% would be a deterrent. Consider a future alarm combination of Atmguard (anti-skimming device) + tracking radio, coming soon.

CAUTION: this ATM Safe may be equipped with tracking and recording equipment. We will find you if you steal it!!