TEXAS PEOPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Happy Hispanic Heritage Month! To celebrate we'll be hosting a celebration in branch on **Wednesday, September 25th** with café y pan dulce.

Branch Closures

Monday, October 14 – Columbus Day

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day

Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 29 – Thanksgiving Observance

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day

Better Safe Than Sorry

"Better safe than sorry" – is that always the case? Sure, it is easy to make that case when taking an extra second or two to look both ways twice before crossing the street. It is always better to exercise appropriate caution and deliberateness in our actions. And there is a bounty of expressions to remind of this. But "better safe than sorry" comes from a defensive place that fears an inherently uncertain future. In fact, the phrase tantalizes our fear with this logical fallacy: preserving a stable present will ensure a stable future. But nothing could be farther from the truth when we reduce ourselves to safeguarding what we already have.

Navigating the financial industry, we often grapple with the age-old wisdom of being prepared. Consider, however, the contrast between "better safe than sorry," and "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This saying is inherently dynamic and strikes an active stance. It allows us to make minor adjustments today that not only avoid future catastrophe but capitalize on opportunity. An ounce of prevention is less about fixing issues before they become problems than it is about strategic foresight and proactive engagement in creating solutions that preemptively address potential challenges.

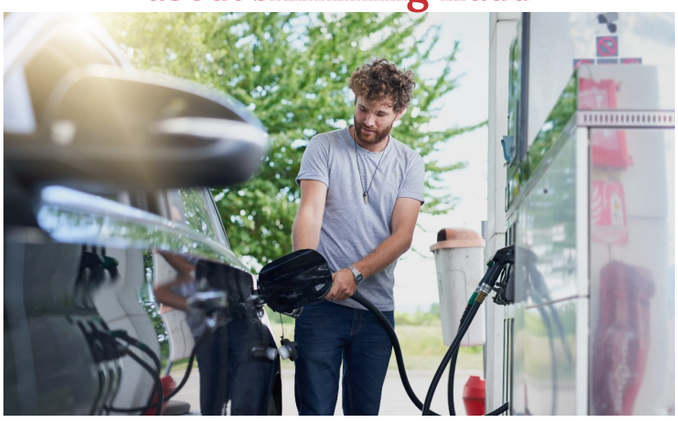
As our regulators remind us (a little too much!) that we must always play it safe. But even those reminders include planning for the future and seeking growth. the more certain we are to preserve the credit union advantage for generations to come. Let's take this opportunity to shape our futures with thoughtful, proactive measures to guarantee we are both protected today and poised to flourish tomorrow.

Best Wishes,

PRESIDENT/CEO
STUART HIMMELSTEIN

TEXAS PEOPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Everything you need to know about skimming fraud



You may not have heard about skimmers in recent news, but it's a larger concern than the media reflects. The U.S. Secret Service has been on a nationwide hunt for card skimming devices, and on average detects and destroys 20-30 of them at gas pumps weekly. Are skimmers avoidable? And what do you do if your card has been compromised? Get one step ahead of debit and credit card fraudsters with these tips on how to avoid, spot and report skimming devices.

What is a skimming device and how does it work

Skimmers are plastic information scanners made to look and feel exactly like normal parts of a frequently visited card reader, such as an ATM or gas pump. Usually the skimmer will be a piece that fits directly over the slot where your card is inserted. There can also be a PIN pad overlay placed to detect the PIN associated with your card. Pinhole cameras are also commonly used to visually record you entering the PIN to your debit or credit card.

A skimmer works by reading the magnetic strip on your card, which holds all of your card information including your full name, card number, expiration date and CVV (card security code). The device is then either later physically removed and used to download the information of hundreds of cards, or the skimmer is connected by Bluetooth and will transmit information to the offsite criminal. Duplicate cards can then be printed in a fraud card lab, effectively giving unlimited access to funds in your account to criminals.

How to spot and avoid skimmers

The use of skimmers has become more and more prominent at ATM and gas pump card readers, most commonly in tourist or frequently visited locations. However, it is quite easy to spot these devices, and in some cases avoid them all together.

1. Run your debit card transactions as credit whenever possible.

Criminals rely on getting your PIN to authorize fraudulent transactions later on, however a PIN is not required when you choose "credit" at the gas pump.

2. Choose gas pumps that are in direct eyesight of the gas station attendant.

Fraudsters are less likely to place skimmers on gas station pumps that attendants can closely watch. For the same reason, it can also help to use ATMs in well-lit and heavily populated areas.

3. Pull at parts protruding from an ATM or gas pump.

Lightly tug at the slot where you'd insert your card. If anything falls off of the terminal or comes loose, immediately call your local police.

Pro tip: Card readers are usually built into and protected by the terminal. If the card slot is protruding out of the terminal, use extra caution and thoroughly examine it before inserting your card.

4. Use a virtual wallet to pay at the pump or access funds from the ATM.

Many credit unions and banks have upgraded to contactless ATMs, so you'll never have to swipe your card. Additionally, skimmers are less frequently placed on ATMs that are owned by a financial institution, as opposed to a local venue or mall.

5. Install the Skimmer Scanner app on your mobile device.

This app could save you from future fraudulent charges by quickly scanning for Bluetooth skimmer devices installed inside the gas pump. Because this app isn't 100% foolproof and can't pick up on wireless skimmer just yet, there will always be risk associated with swiping your card. But this handy device living in your phone could be a great place to start.

What to do if your card has been skimmed

You may realize that your card has been skimmed while at the card reading terminal. If you suspect that your card has been compromised at a gas station or ATM, immediately call your local police for further investigation. If you spot a skimmer on an ATM, it is also a great idea to give a call to the financial institution operating the terminal.

If you spot fraudulent charges on your checking account transaction history, give your credit union or bank a call. Most financial institutions are able to refund the fraudulent charges within one business day thanks to federal regulations protecting consumers against such charges.

Staying alert is your first line of defense against skimming devices. Always be aware of your surroundings while making purchases, and know that your credit union or bank is here to help if you fall victim to these scams.

Claire Hegstrom is an advocate of the credit union movement through and through. Passionate about financial education, she approaches money conversations from a candid and inclusive space focused on growth and awareness. As our credit union founding father, Ed Filene, once said, "Progress is the constant replacing of the best there is with something still better." Claire hopes reading Money Mentor will help transform your life from the best to even better.

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Banzai is an online financial education program which introduces students to adults financial concepts of taking control of your money. Texas People FCU has partnered with Banzai to bring you clear, in-depth lessons that help you dive into the financial topics you care most about.

Some examples would be:

- **Learning to Budget**
- **Building Credit**
- **Planning of an Emergency**
- **Get Out of Debt**
- **Buying a Home**
- **50/30/20 Rule**
- **Get Out of Debt etc.**

Teaching Children About Money

Whether you're teaching finances to your kids, your grandkids, or those of a loved one, it's absolutely essential to teach children how to manage the money they have and invest for the future. Banzil gives you the tools to make these life lessons reachable and fun. And the list goes on, check us out at: https://fwtpfcu.banzai.org/wellness

Please Join US, on Friday, October 25th to celebrate our membership appreciation day. We are making it a Halloween theme for the members to bring their little ones as well to trick or treat.
This event will be an in-branch celebration, with food, candy, and drinks. Also raffle giveaways. . Members are now able to purchase raffle tickets:

- **Raffle Giveaways (Buy Now)**

- 1 ticket =$1
- 6 tickets =$5
- 14 tickets =$10

HOW SPOOKTACULAR!!!!!

Refer friends and family to join the Credit Union and get paid up to $250!*

You'll earn $25 when EACH referred member joins the Credit Union. Refer up to 10 eligible members to earn as much as $250!

Help ALL of your friends and family experience the money-saving benefits that Texas People has to offer! Thank you for your membership.

Questions? Contact us.

Refer A Member

*Certain restrictions apply. A $25 referral is paid to the current member when the referred member joins the Credit Union. $25 is paid to the referred member when they join and open a Checking Account at Texas People Federal Credit Union with a Debit Card and download the TPFCU Mobile App and enroll in eStatements

TEXAS PEOPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are seeking nominations for our Board of Directors And Supervisory Committee

If interested and would like more information, please contact us via email www.fwtpfcu.org or telephone 817-731-2756.

Need Money for College?

Continuing your education is more important than ever, and so is making smart financial decisions when it comes to paying for that education, which is why we offer the Texas Extra Credit Education Loan, a private student loan developed specifically to help Texas residents pay for college when scholarships, grants and federal aid just aren't enough to cover the full cost of attendance.

We highly recommend students apply for and utilize all federal student aid programs through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov prior to applying for any private student loan.

Learn more about Texas Extra Credit's program features, valuable borrower benefits, and repayment options by clicking on the following:

STUDENT LOAN

PARENT LOAN

Credit Unions for Kids™

benefiting
Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

You're always **there for your members. And your community.**

Credit Unions for Kids (CU4Kids), benefiting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN Hospitals), allows you to show how much you care, not only about your members financial health, but also the wellness of families in your community.

You have the power to help children's hospitals.

Thousands of credit unions across the United States have supported CMN Hospitals since 1996. It is a simple way to help children's hospitals locally through CMN Hospitals.

When you support CU4Kids, you help create a healthier, happier future for families and communities for years to come.

How you can get involved:

For children's miracle network members can donate, buy candy, or buy other goodie items we have received as well. CMN will be fundraised for the month of September.