

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF RAND HENDERSON

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2019

MCTXSheriff Partners with Local Banks to Distribute Safety Information

In an effort to educate and protect the public, Sheriff Rand Henderson of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is partnering with local banks in Montgomery County to distribute customer safety and awareness information regarding Bank Jugging.

Bank Jugging is a growing practice among criminals in major metropolitan areas. Sheriff Henderson believes it is important to provide our citizens with information on what to look for as well as safety tips so citizens don't become a victim.

Bank Jugging is when suspects follow someone from a bank or ATM to another location where it is more convenient to rob, burglarize or steal from them. Victims are scouted to determine if they have anything worth stealing. The suspect(s) follow the customer and look for an opportunity to burglarize their vehicles or rob them directly. This usually occurs when the customer stops at a gas station, grocery store or restaurant after leaving the bank.

The suspect(s) target customers carrying bank bags, bank envelopes and coin boxes and will sometimes have a lookout in the bank to see when a customer withdraws a large amount of money. The inside suspect(s) will communicate back to the suspect(s) outside to follow the customer. If a customer leaves the bank and does not leave their money unattended in the vehicle, most suspect(s) will go back to the bank to target another banking customer; however, some suspect(s) will confront the customer in an attempt to rob them by taking the money by force.

As a reminder always be aware of your surroundings. Be mindful of suspicious persons or vehicles that are lingering or appear to be following you. If you spot them, call law enforcement and go to a very public place. Citizens are encouraged to be hyper-vigilant when leaving a bank or ATM. Never flash cash or expensive items in public. Never leave valuables visible in your parked car.

Specialist Thomas Smith
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Executive Division
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DON'T BE A VICTIM OF BANK JUGGING

The term is used to describe suspects who sit in bank parking lots and watch customers go in and out of a bank. The suspects follow the customers they believe are in possession of cash and look for an opportunity to burglarize their vehicles or rob them directly.

THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN BANKING:

Occupied vehicles backed into parking spaces with clear view of the front doors of the bank, ATM or commercial drive thru line

Vehicles with dark tinted windows with little or no visibility of the occupants

Vehicles arriving at bank with no occupants entering the bank

Vehicles changing parking spaces

Vehicles with multiple occupants

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

Always be aware of your surroundings.

Conceal money before leaving the bank.

Never carry bank bags, envelopes or coin boxes.

Be aware of anyone following you from the area of a bank.

If you suspect you are being targeted, call 911 from your cell phone and keep the dispatcher informed of your location, the direction you are traveling and drive until a marked police car is able to locate you.

Do not leave or try to hide your bank bag or bank envelope in your vehicle when you exit at your next destination, even if it's your residence.

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WHAT IS BANK JUGGING?

This term describes suspects who sit in bank parking lots looking for an opportunity to burglarize vehicles or rob victims directly if cash is believed to be in possession.

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DON'T BE A VICTIM OF BANK JUGGING

Sheriff Rand Henderson would like to remind you to remain vigilant as you leave your banking establishment. Always be aware of your surroundings. Never walk out of a banking establishment with money bags or envelopes visible. Be aware of anyone that may be following you from a banking establishment. Do not leave your money in your vehicle when you arrive at your next destination. If you think you are being followed, call 911 immediately.

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