

HOW CAN I HELP PREVENT FUEL DISPENSER SKIMMING?

What can service station owners do to prevent fuel dispenser skimming?

WHAT IS FUEL DISPENSER SKIMMING?

“Skimmers” are devices placed at fuel dispenser pumps that capture customers’ credit and debit card information from at-pump card readers. When placed within the pump cabinet skimmers are not usually visible from the outside of the pump and so can be hard to spot. Fuel dispenser skimming is a serious issue; more than 150 skimmers were found at service stations in one US state alone last year. To help you spot skimmers, remember:

- Criminals usually place skimmers on the pumps farthest away from the storefront to avoid being seen.
- Open pump dispensers or torn security tape could indicate that a pump has been tampered with.
- Criminals will sometimes use an accomplice to block the store clerk’s view with a large vehicle while another person installs a skimmer.
- Criminals sometimes access the information stored on the skimmer using remote technology. If a car is parked in the lot for a prolonged period of time with the person within it, it could be an individual accessing illegally obtained financial information.



WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT SKIMMING?

INCON™ brand TS-550 evo™ fuel management systems feature highly sophisticated processors and software. The powerful rules engine allows you to wire various inputs and outputs to determine if your fuel dispenser pump is being tampered with and, if so, to take several actions:

MAGNETIC SENSOR SWITCH

A magnetic contact sensor includes two surface mounted magnets which can send a signal to a controller when one magnet moves away from the other. Mounting a magnetic sensor device on your dispenser access panels or your exterior doors and pairing with a TS-550 evo™ provides added security

against theft or tampering . You can program the tank gauge to sound an audible alarm or send a text message or email alert to you or the authorities if either are opened when they shouldn’t be. In this way, the tank gauge could alert you to tampering with the pumps, such as during the installation of a credit card skimmer.

SECURITY ALARM

A TS-550 evo™ can be programmed to send an audible alarm on a triggering event, such as when the magnetic sensor switch is activated. An audible alarm could help to scare away anyone tampering with fuel dispensers.

Additionally a silent alarm can also be triggered, sending a text message or email alert to the site owner, police department or another designated contract.



AUTOMATIC LIGHTING

For 24/7 fueling points, you can pair a motion sensor device with a TS-550 evo™ to automatically turn lights on when a customer pulls in. You can set the sensor to time-out and shut down the extra lighting after the customer has left. This ensures that the lights are always on when they need to be without the cost of running constantly.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Lastly, you can pair your video equipment with a TS-550 evo™ to automatically shut down a dispenser if the video surveillance camera covering it goes down. If surveillance cameras are tampered with the affected pump will shut down, warning site owners that the pump needs to be checked for evidence of tampering. As with automatic lighting, the TS-550 evo™ can be paired with a motion sensor device to automatically turn on additional video surveillance cameras when a customer pulls in, allowing you to cover all the angles.

A TS-550 evo™ can be used to trigger any combination of the actions above, along with additional theft deterrent systems. Pairing the fuel management system with a few third-party sensors or accessories can greatly improve your ability to protect your fuel.

JASON GRANT (Associate Product Manager, Fuel Management Systems)

As a member of the Franklin Fueling Systems team for 10+ years, I have developed an in-depth knowledge of the Fuel Management Systems product line. I have 20+ years of experience with the manufacture, installation, maintenance, and support of electronic equipment across several industries. In my current role as Associate Product Manager, Fuel Management System I will be focused on supporting and growing the product line, as well as developing and introducing new and innovative products.



Do you have a question for a Product Manager?

If you have a question for one of our product managers, please submit your question to info@franklinfueling.com.