



BE AWARE OF “JUGGING” CRIME TREND

A crime trend known as "bank jugging" has surged across the U.S. in 2024. The term "jugging" is criminal slang and associated with thieves targeting containers or "jugs" of valuable items, such as money or jewelry. The "jug" refers to money or valuables that criminals observe victims withdrawing. The act of "jugging" describes the process of selecting a target, stalking them, and striking when they are most vulnerable.

“Jugging” is simple: observe someone withdrawing substantial cash then follow them to a less populated area, like a parking lot, and rob the victim. The criminals are opportunistic, and strike more often during holidays and tax season when folks have more cash than usual.

Law Enforcement, including the FBI, have reported a significant rise in these incidents in communities across the country. Some cases involve elaborate schemes, such as slashing victims' tires to disable their vehicles before launching an attack.

What measures can you take to lower the risk of being “jugged”?

- **Be mindful of your surroundings** - Remain vigilant when visiting banks or ATMs. Use ATMs in well-lit places and scan your surroundings for suspicious individuals/vehicles loitering nearby or anything out of place.
- **Avoid patterns** - Criminals often observe routines. Vary your banking habits, such as the time of day you visit the bank or the routes you take after making withdrawals.
- **Secure your vehicle** - Ensure your vehicle is locked and valuables, including cash, are out of sight. Park in well-lit areas with high visibility to deter potential thieves.
- **Conceal money before leaving the bank** - Never openly carry bank bags, envelopes, or coin boxes.
- **Avoid distractions** - Have your car keys in hand and don't use your phone until you're in a safe place. Once you enter your vehicle, don't sit in your car for an extended period time.
- **Don't make your business an easy target** - Consider other ways you can support a charity or your employees other than a physical donation or tip jar. If jars must be set out for collections/tips, place them far away from exits and secured to counter, under surveillance. Empty them often and be sure to secure the contents.
- **Report suspicious behavior** - If you notice individuals behaving suspiciously around bank premises or ATMs, alert bank staff or law enforcement immediately.
- **Feel like you're being followed? Immediately call 911 or pull into your nearest police station.**

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