

Police Departments are seeking to raise awareness of bank jugging due to an uptick in cases.

"Jugging" is when a criminal follows someone after they leave a bank, ATM, or similar service with cash after making a withdrawal, then robs them at another location.

Victims are approached, threatened with violence or assaulted while the suspect demands the money or aggressively takes the cash bag. "This crime happens when cash bags are visible as the victim leaves the bank or ATM. Over the last year, at least 62 occurrences have included 'juggings' at Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Chase Banks."

Police Departments want to remind citizens to be aware of their surroundings when making withdrawals.

Here are tips to avoid becoming a jugging victim:

1. Take note of anyone that is hanging around in the lobby of the bank or parking lot that does not appear immediately occupied
2. Try not to be distracted while in the financial institution: on your phone, wearing earbuds, etc.
3. Notice any vehicles that may follow you out of the parking lot and make sure you are not being followed
4. Before leaving the counter/ATM after receiving cash, secure it in a different bag (other than the small zipper cash bags or envelopes utilized), such as a briefcase or purse
5. Lock your car doors when you get into your vehicle or sitting in park at ATM machines

If you believe you are being followed from a financial institution for any length, please call 911 or drive to the nearest police station, fire station.

Speak with security at your bank to see if they can assist you with large withdrawals or if they have any safety suggestions when withdrawing a large amount of cash.