



# *Tis the Season* **TO AVOID CARD FRAUD**

**BY LISHA FERGUSON, MARKETING ASSISTANT, BANK MARKETING CAYMAN NATIONAL LTD.**

During the holidays there is an elevated risk of card fraud due to the increased volume of credit and debit card transactions. Holiday shoppers are frequently using their cards to make purchases for loved ones as Christmas rolls in and card grinchers are constantly on the prowl to attack and steal card information from unsuspecting shoppers. It is necessary for consumers like you to know how you are at risk and how you can protect yourself and your hard earned money. Don't let a card fraudster steal your holiday cheer! Educating yourself to shop safely is the best gift you can give yourself this Christmas season.

Here are a few tips so you can have a safe and happy shopping experience during the holidays:

## **THINK REPUTATION**

If online shopping, check to ensure the sites are secure by looking for web addresses with "https" in the address bar and conduct business with companies you know are reputable. If you're unsure of a site, ask around to see who has used it and to get insight on their shopping experience.

## **DON'T USE PUBLIC WIFI**

Avoid shopping online using public WiFi, hackers can easily gain access to public networks and steal your information.

## **DON'T WAIT, REPORT IT**

Don't wait to report fraudulent activity, always report lost or stolen cards and suspected fraud to your bank right away. At Cayman National our card security experts are dedicated to safeguarding all our customer accounts, we are constantly applauded by customers for the excellent service our security team delivers however customers have a role to play as well. We urge all customers to advise our fraud department of any travel plans and which cards they plan to use while away to avoid any interruption of service.

## **BE AWARE**

Never let a sales person take your card out of site. Skimming devices, which record card information, can be hidden in hand or under a counter.

## **RECEIPT PLEASE**

Always check receipts against your statements to make sure there are no unauthorised charges. If anything looks fishy report it immediately.

While fraud is becoming more common, you can do everything possible to avoid becoming a victim. So before you swipe those cards take the necessary precautions to make sure your information and money is protected. We wish you happy shopping during this holiday season.