



Tulsa P.F. Chang's among 33 restaurants in data breach

**By ROBERT EVATT World Business Writer | Posted: Tuesday, August 5, 2014
12:00 am**

The Tulsa location of P.F. Chang's was among the 33 that were hit with credit and debit card data theft, the company announced Monday.

Customers who visited the P.F. Chang's location at Utica Square, 1978 E. 21st St., between Feb. 21 and June 11 and paid with a debit or credit card may have had their financial information compromised, the company announced.

The Scottsdale, Arizona-based chain originally confirmed in June that data from credit and debit cards used at its restaurants was stolen, but didn't specify the locations at that time.

The company's list of compromised restaurants includes locations from across the nation, though Tulsa was the only Oklahoma location affected. The company has over 200 locations.

A list of all 33 locations, as well as the dates that cards may have been compromised, can be found at pfchangs.com/security. The company said that potentially stolen data include the card number and may also include the cardholder's name and/or the card's expiration date in some instances. Additionally, the company has enrolled all affected customers with one year of AllClear Secure, a provider of credit card fraud protection services.

However, the company noted it has not determined that any specific cardholder's data were taken in the breach.

P.F. Chang's said that it's continuously working to understand the nature and scope of the incident. It says the security compromise has been contained and that it has been processing credit and debit card data securely since June 11.

The restaurant operator noted that as the investigation continues, it may identify other locations where data may have been compromised or other date ranges.

Fredric Russell, owner of Fredric E. Russell Investment Management Co. and a frequent diner at the Tulsa P.F. Chang's, said he believes the company has acted responsibly during the breach.

"The breach never bothered me," he said. "I think the company did all it could to protect its clients and to reassure them."

As part of the reaction to the breach, P.F. Chang's has ceased using online credit card readers and has implemented manual credit card imprinters that create paper copies of credit card information. Russell said the Tulsa P.F. Chang's still uses the imprinters.

P.F. Chang's China Bistro Inc. owns its namesake restaurants and Pei Wei Asian Diners, which have not been identified as part of the breach. The company was taken private in 2012 by Centerbridge Partners LP for about \$1.1 billion.

Data breaches have occurred at other major U.S. corporations recently, including Target Corp., Neiman Marcus, Sally Beauty Holdings Inc. and Michaels Stores Inc.

Though the breach has caused Russell to have his company's credit card activity monitored, Russell, who estimated he's been to P.F. Chang's over 2,000 times, said he'll continue to eat there.

"During the fallout of the breach, the quality of their Moo Goo Gai Pan Fred was not affected," he said.

Online: <http://pfchangs.com/security>



The Tulsa location of P.F. Chang's was among the 33 that were hit with credit and debit card data theft, the company announced Monday. Customers who visited the P.F. Chang's location at Utica Square, 1978 E. 21st Street, between February 21 and June 11 and paid with a debit or credit card may have had their financial information compromised, the company announced. File photo Michael Wyke/TulsaWorld