

## **A Safer Naper --- Firearm Safety**

This month, we are attempting to make our community 'A Safer Naper' by focusing on two of our firearm safety programs that can help greatly reduce the risk of theft, misuse and accidental discharge.

### **Securing Firearms**

Securing your firearm when not in use is the number one way to prevent accidents in the home and is an important responsibility of every firearm owner.

Starting this month, the Naperville Police Department, in partnership with **Project ChildSafe**, will begin distributing free ChildSafe firearm safety kits to Naperville residents. Each kit includes a cable-style gun lock, instructions and additional firearm safety information.

Firearm owners residing in Naperville who do not own a safety lock are strongly encouraged to pick up a ChildSafe safety kit. The kits are available, free of charge and while supplies last, at the front desk of the police station (1350 Aurora Ave.) from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

### **Discarding Unwanted Firearms**

The Naperville Police Department also has a **Firearm Take Back Program** for Naperville residents to rid their homes of firearms that they have inherited or no longer want. Ridding homes of unwanted firearms eliminates the risk of theft, misuse and accidental discharge.

When the program guidelines are followed, residents can dispose of firearms without fear of criminal charges. In addition to all firearms, we will accept junk, non-working, antique, replica, pellet and BB guns.

### **The following protocol MUST be followed to participate in the Firearm Take Back Program:**

- You MUST call (630) 420-6666 to make an appointment to drop off the unwanted firearm(s) at the Naperville Police Department or arrange for a private pickup.
- When arriving for your appointment, the firearm MUST be delivered unloaded.
- When possible, firearms should first be put in a clear plastic bag, sealed in some manner, and then the bagged gun must be put into another container (gym bag, backpack, etc.) that is not see-through. This is especially important with handguns. Long guns should be transported in a proper case or wrapped in a blanket, tarp or something similar.
- If depositing ammunition, it must be delivered in a separate bag.
- If transporting a firearm by vehicle, the firearm must be transported in the trunk or cargo area of the vehicle by somebody legally authorized to possess firearms (example – 18 years of age or older with a valid Firearms Owner Identification Card – FOID).
- The packaged firearm should be left in your vehicle when you arrive at the police department. Officers at the police department will retrieve it.
- If you are not authorized to possess a gun and do not have a FOID card, please DO NOT transport the firearm to the police department. Call the Naperville Police Department non-emergency number, (630) 420-6666, to arrange for a private pick-up.

When a firearm is turned in, its serial number will be run through a law enforcement database to ensure it has not been reported stolen or used in a crime. The firearm will then be turned over to a certified vendor that specializes in destroying firearms or converted to department use for training.

The Naperville Police Department will not arrest you for unlawful possession of an illegal firearm if you are surrendering the firearm in compliance with the guidelines of this program. However, amnesty will not be given for any crime committed with that firearm or for any crime committed while in possession of that firearm.

If protocol is not followed, or if Naperville Police find you with a weapon and determine you are not participating in the program, Naperville Police may make an arrest for possession of a weapon.

#### **Additional Information**

For additional information on either of these firearm safety programs, contact Community Education Specialist Michael Garofalo at [garofalom@naperville.il.us](mailto:garofalom@naperville.il.us) or (630) 420-6667.

#### Related Links:

- [ATF Safety and Security for Firearm Owners](#) (PDF)
- [Project ChildSafe Firearms Responsibility in the Home Brochure](#) (PDF)
- [Ten Tips for Firearm Safety in Your Home](#)