

A Safer Naper --- Crime Prevention Programs

The Naperville Police Department strongly believes that collaborating with the community to identify and solve problems makes our city a safe place to live, work and conduct business. We have found that outreach and education with both children and adults are key components to building strong relationships and have played a big part in Naperville being recognized repeatedly as one of the country's safest places to live.

October is Crime Prevention Month, so it is fitting to highlight the Crime Prevention Unit's proactive programs that help to promote safety in our neighborhoods and prevent crime through education for this month's Safer Naper campaign.

Our Crime Prevention Unit facilitates school safety programs that teach Naperville's third through sixth grade students different ways to be safe. This includes instruction on personal safety, calling 9-1-1, internet safety and home alone safety. There are also age-appropriate discussions on making yourself a tougher target to avoid being a victim of criminal behavior and recognizing situational awareness.

Members of this unit also conduct many community presentations and perform outreach regularly to highlight different ways to be safe and avoid being a victim of crime. They cover topics such as burglary prevention, scams, critical incident response, personal safety, and financial exploitation while also touting public safety campaigns such as the 9 PM Routine, Lock It or Lose It, Crime Stoppers, Paws on Patrol, Internet Safe Sale Zone, Public Safety Incident Map, Fastrack and Caring Hands.

Could one of these programs help you prevent crime in your neighborhood?

The 9 PM Routine

This autumn, we're encouraging residents to "fall" into a new routine – the 9 PM Routine! This nationally-known public safety campaign is designed to help you prevent burglaries and thefts from your home, cars or personal property. Too often these are CRIMES of OPPORTUNITY perpetrated by criminals looking for an easy target. An unlocked car with valuables easily visible to someone on the outside is an irresistible temptation for some thieves. Similarly, a residence with poor exterior lighting or an open garage door might tempt a burglar to take a closer look at your property.

How can the 9 PM Routine help? Humans are creatures of habit. We want you to get into the habit each night of making sure you've secured your home and vehicle and taken proactive steps to combat auto thefts and break-ins. The 9 PM Routine empowers residents to develop their own personal security routines by having a designated time to perform these tasks every night.

Set a reminder for 9 p.m. to go through the following checklist to make sure your property is secure:

- Remove any valuables from vehicles left outside overnight. Remember, NEVER leave your keys or garage door opener in your vehicle.
- Lock vehicle doors.
- Close the overhead garage door.
- Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Don't forget to lock the service door from your garage to your house.
- Turn on exterior lights and leave them on until dawn.

[Click here for more residential burglary and burglary to motor vehicle prevention tips.](#)

Paws on Patrol

Paws on Patrol is a dog walker watch program that encourages you and your four-legged friend to help reduce crime in Naperville while out "on patrol" in your neighborhood.

This program empowers you and your canine to enhance safety in your neighborhood by training you to properly identify and report suspicious activity to police.

[Click here to learn more about Paws on Patrol.](#)

Public Safety Incident Map

The Public Safety Incident Map, for example, is an online map we launched in 2017 to enhance community awareness of public safety activity within the City of Naperville. This interactive map allows users to customize a time frame, location and type of incident and serves as a great resource for residents to understand the types of incidents that are occurring throughout the City so they can be proactive and make themselves a tougher target.

[Click here to view the map.](#)

Caring Hands

While not a traditional crime prevention program, the Caring Hands program is a proactive offering from the Naperville Police Department. It allows residents to voluntarily provide Naperville's first responders with critical information about themselves or loved ones with developmental, cognitive, mental, medical and/or physical disabilities who may require special assistance during an emergency or non-emergency situation. Information provided could include methods of communication, sensory and medical issues as well as approach and de-escalation techniques.

We encourage Naperville residents to submit a completed Caring Hands Participant Information Form for each member of their household with any kind of special physical, behavioral and/or psychological conditions.

[Click here to learn more about Caring Hands or find a participant form.](#)

Fastrack

Another proactive program run by the Crime Prevention Unit is Fastrack, a program that combines "tried and true" radio technology with specially-trained response team members to locate high risk persons who have a history of wandering. Called Fastrack, this program uses Care Trak International equipment and has proven itself to be reliable, responsive, practical and affordable.

Clients who are part of the Fastrack Program wear a personalized transmitter on their wrist or ankle that emits a continual, silent tracking signal assigned just to them. When caregivers notify the Naperville Police Department that a client is missing, a search and rescue team responds and begins tracking the client with a hand-held, directional response system targeted at the client's specific frequency.

[Click here for more information about Fastrack.](#)

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime. Anonymously report any information pertaining to a crime by calling (630) 420-6006 and be eligible to receive a cash reward for tips that lead to an arrest.

[Click here to learn more about Crime Stoppers.](#)

Internet Safe Sale Zone

In response to concerns about personal safety while completing a sale or purchase that began online, the Naperville Police Department encourages residents to use the police station as an internet purchase exchange location to safely complete such transactions.

Residents can conduct their legal transaction in one of two locations at the department, which is located at 1350 Aurora Avenue:

1. LOBBY - Our lobby is open to the public from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, excluding holidays. It is staffed with public service officers and equipped with cameras.
2. PARKING LOT - There are two designated Internet exchange parking spaces in front of the department. This area is recorded by cameras 24-hours per day, is well-lit and within a short distance of the emergency phone at the front of our building.

These exchange zones were created to provide a neutral, monitored meeting place to conduct face-to-face transactions and hopefully provide a deterrent to criminals hoping to take advantage of an unsuspecting victim. However, it is important to exercise good judgment when meeting with strangers. There are individuals who use various forums to perpetrate scams, sell stolen property or victimize others.

[Click here for more safety tips when completing transactions that began online.](#)