

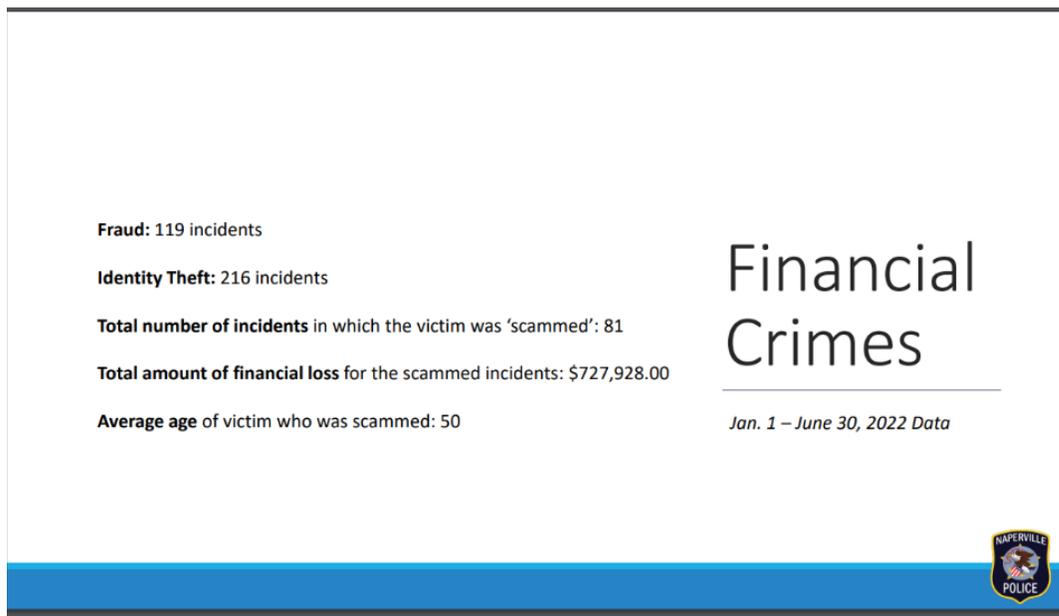
October 2022

A Safer Naper --- Crime Prevention Month

Naperville's reputation as a safe city is due in part to the community's commitment to crime prevention. This month, in celebration of that commitment, NPD's Safer Naper campaign will join the National Crime Prevention Council in recognizing October as "Crime Prevention Month."

A critical part of effective crime prevention efforts requires a focus on current crime trends impacting a community. In Naperville, we are fortunate not only to have specific tools and resources that allow police to identify those trends but also to have the ability to share those trends with our residents. In doing so, our citizens are aware of the types of crimes happening in their neighborhoods and can implement specific crime prevention strategies to avoid being a victim. See below for information concerning the top crime trends in our City for the first 6 months of 2022, and the crime prevention strategies that will help keep you and your family safe.

FINANCIAL CRIMES



Frauds and scams continue to be big business for criminals. As noted above, Napervillians alone lost over \$700,000.00 in the first 6 months of this year. The best way to protect yourself is to become familiar with the most prevalent scams. Visit: <http://www.naperville.il.us/fraudscam> to find out more information on the scams most often used, and what can be done so you don't fall victim.

Additionally, be vigilant when opening and responding to emails and texts and never click on links you are not familiar with. Following the guidelines below will also help prevent you from being scammed.

What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam (Source: Federal Trade Commission Website)

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to [block unwanted calls](#) and to [filter unwanted text messages](#).

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.

Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

If you are a victim of fraud or are scammed, report it immediately to your local Police Department and also [report it to the Federal Trade Commission](#).

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT & RELATED CRIMES

| Crimes Against Property | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Theft From Motor Vehicle (BMW) | 83 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts | 94 |
| Motor vehicle Theft | 25 |

Crimes Against Property



In the first 6 months of 2022, other crime trends identified in Naperville involve motor vehicles. They are broken down into three separate categories:

Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor vehicle theft is the criminal act of stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle. In the first half of 2022, 25 vehicles were stolen in our City. Eighty-three percent of these thefts were to unlocked vehicles! The easiest way to avoid being a victim is to lock your car, whether it's in the garage, on the street, in a parking lot, or in your driveway. "Lock it or Lose it!"

And always remember to take the keys with you.



Burglary to Motor Vehicles

"Lock It or Lose It" does not only pertain to Motor Vehicle Theft, but also to BMV's (Burglary to Motor Vehicles). In Naperville there have been 83 BMV's within the first six months of 2022. According to the data, over 80% of those were to unlocked vehicles. Preventing a BMV takes little effort:

- Don't leave personal or valuable items in plain view where they might be a temptation. Take all your personal belongings with you. If you must leave personal items be sure you lock them in the trunk and out of sight before you arrive at your destination.
- Keep your car visible. Try to park in busy, well-lit areas.
- Trust your instincts. If you see suspicious activity, find somewhere else to park. And report the suspicious activity to your local police department.
- When you park your vehicle, be sure to lock your doors, close the sun roof, and roll up your windows; even in your own driveway or garage. Additionally, activate your car's security system.

Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts

In Naperville, the vast majority of the 94 motor vehicle parts that have been reported stolen in the first half of 2022 have been catalytic converters. Catalytic converter thefts have skyrocketed over the past few years because of the lucrative money to be made from the precious metals they contain. The problem is not unique to Naperville. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), catalytic converter thefts have increased by over 1000 percent across the nation from 1,298 in 2018 to 14,433 in 2020; an increase of more than 1,000 percent. Stealing a catalytic converter can take as little as 30 seconds.

What can you do to prevent a catalytic converter theft?

- Pay attention to suspicious people in the area. Call 911 immediately if people are hanging around vehicles. Often one person will be on the lookout while the other is under the vehicle.
- Listen for power tools in use during the overnight hours (Sawzall).
- Always lock the vehicle and set the alarm. Increase alarm sensitivity if possible.
- Park in a well-lit spot.
- Engrave your vehicles VIN number on the catalytic converter. This will help police identify if the converter is recovered.
- Paint the catalytic converter with high temperature automotive exhaust spray in a bright color.
- Install a catalytic converter shield as an anti-theft measure.
- Check your car insurance to make sure you have full coverage.

RESOURCES FOR CRIME TREND INFORMATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The Naperville Police Department and the City of Naperville have many ways through which residents can learn about crime trends and prevention strategies. Be sure to sign up for Naper Notify, visit the City's website and NPD's social media channels, and access our Public Safety Incident Map.

Additionally, residents can now submit a request form online to have a member of the police department speak at your event or neighborhood meeting about current trends and prevention tactics.

It is often stated that our number one defense against crime is a well-educated and aware citizenry, and the Naperville Police Department is dedicated to this goal.

Related Links

- See the Public Safety Incident Map (<http://gis.naperville.il.us/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=IncidentMap>)
- Submit a Presentation and Training Request Form (<https://www.naperville.il.us/services/naperville-police-department/programs-and-services/presentations-and-trainings/>)
- Sign up for Naper Notify (<https://www.naperville.il.us/services/naperville-fire-department/emergency-preparedness/be-informed/naper-notify-mass-notification-system/>)
- Visit Naperville Police Department's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NapervillePD>)
- Visit Naperville Police Department's Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/napervillepd>)