

A Safer Naper: Seasonal Safety

June 2023

Summertime is upon us, making this a perfect time to share some seasonal safety tips to make our city “A Safer Naper” for everyone out enjoying the warmer weather and fun family activities.

SECTION 1 – Share the Road

Whether you’re out enjoying the sunshine in a vehicle, on a bicycle, or on foot, it’s important to remember that EVERYONE has a responsibility to share the road. Here are some reminders and tips to keep drivers, cyclists, and walkers/runners safe.

Tips for Drivers

Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, drivers should:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- Look before opening your door.
- Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow three feet when passing bicyclists.

Tips for Cyclists

When traveling on city streets, cyclists are required to follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. This means stopping at stop signs, obeying traffic signals and lane markings, and using hand signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn. Additionally, cyclists should follow these tips:

- Don’t wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.
- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Do your best to anticipate hazards and adjust your position in traffic accordingly.
- Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line – not in and out of parked cars on the side of the street.
- Be visible and wear the proper protective gear.
- Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there (but don’t always expect them to see you).
- Stay visible by riding where drivers are looking (i.e., do not pass on the right).
- Avoid riding at night. If you must ride in the dark, the law requires that your bike have a front light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet and a rear red reflector visible for up to 600 feet.
- Wear white/light colors and/or reflective clothing when riding at night.

Bicycles may be ridden on the sidewalks in Naperville unless otherwise posted. However, bicycle riding is not permitted on sidewalks on the Riverwalk or in Downtown Naperville.

Please note that there are state and local rules and regulations for operating electrical assist bikes (e-bikes). Individual park and forest preserve districts can also set rules about the use of e-bikes on their property. Make sure you check with the jurisdiction you’ll be riding in for rules specific to your class of e-bikes.

Tips for Walkers and Runners

Whether you're going for an afternoon stroll, commuting to work on foot, or getting some exercise, walking and running are great activities. However, it's important to pay attention. Pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Use signaled crosswalks when possible and use extreme caution when crossing at intersections without signals.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.
- Keep alert! Practice situational awareness and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Runners are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out. If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for "identification bracelet" will provide numerous results.

Remember no driver, bicyclist or pedestrian has sole right to the road. It is a shared space where we all have rights and responsibilities.



SECTION 2 – Prevent Child Heatstroke Deaths in Hot Cars

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, a car can heat up by 40-degrees and become deadly in just 30 minutes! A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's, making children left in vehicles very vulnerable to heatstroke.

Everyone can play a part in preventing these tragedies:

- Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time. Rolling windows down or parking in the shade does little to change the interior temperature of the vehicle. Heatstroke deaths have occurred even in vehicles parked in shaded areas.
- Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle — especially the back seat — before locking the doors and walking away.
- Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.
- Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat, as another reminder to look before you lock. Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times when parked to prevent a child climbing in and becoming trapped. Teach children that vehicles are not a place to play.

- Never leave a child in a vehicle when running errands, not even for a minute.
- Bystanders can also play an important role in saving a life – if you see a child alone in a vehicle, call 911 and get help immediately.



SECTION 3 – Keeping Kids Safe in Crowds

A parent's biggest fear is losing a little one, and keeping track of them while at a crowded venue such as Last Fling or the zoo can definitely be a challenge. Before you head out on your next family outing to a crowded venue, set up family guidelines and what-if plans. The amount of freedom you give your children will be influenced by their age and maturity.

Here are a few tips for keeping your family together in a crowd.

Dress in bright colors: Neon green, bright orange or safety yellow are colors that get noticed. Adding other identifiable accessories such as a fun watch, reflective strips or bright hair accessories will help you and/or law enforcement to quickly scan a crowd for your child.

Take a family picture: Before heading out for the day take a family photo. In a panic, some people cannot remember correctly what everyone is wearing that day. A photo of what your family members are wearing can be shared with law enforcement, security, or event staff to aid in locating your child.

Child identification: Having your child wear a lanyard under their shirt with important information like their name, your name and immediate contact information. Or put this information on a piece of paper and put in into their pocket. You can even get temporary tattoos that you can write their name and your cell phone on.

Coach kids on an action plan if they get separated: Ask your children, *“What will you do if you become separated from me?”* Teach your kids to stay where they are and yell out their parent’s name. Ask them, *“Who is the safe adult to ask for help?”* In the ideal world, this would be a police officer, firefighter, security guard or event employee. In a panic, however, have them look for another mom with children. Have you ever met a mom who wouldn’t help a child?

Check the map first: Start the day off by locating the park’s information centers in advance so you can point them out to your children or get to them quickly in case of an emergency. Also, look for the first-aid and baby-care centers.

Be stroller-savvy: Do something to distinguish your stroller from all the others, like tying a balloon or a colorful ribbon on it. This is especially important if you rent one at the venue, it will be identical to hundreds of others.

Have a meeting location and time: Besides the challenge of keeping an eye on the little ones, pre-teens and teens are another challenge. Have the older children check in with you throughout the day at a prearranged meeting location and time.

Remember it only takes a moment for a child to become separated from you. If your child does become lost, follow these tips:

- Try to remain calm.
- Do a quick search where you last saw your child. Scan the area for anything that might have attracted their attention.
- Call out their name and listen for him/her calling yours.
- Inform the closest employee. Stores often have set procedures for cases of lost children.
- Call 9-1-1 if you still can't locate your child and be prepared to show responding officers a recent picture of your child and describe what he/she is wearing that day.