



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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REMEMBER TO LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET

Burnsville Police Ask Parents to Talk with Their Kids About Traffic Safety

Already this spring, two Burnsville youth have been involved in vehicle/child accidents for which medical attention was required. Fortunately both incidents were resolved without serious injury, but these incidents serve as an important reminder for everyone to know and obey the traffic laws.

The Burnsville Police Department urges parents to review the pedestrian safety rules with their children and asks motorists to be aware of pedestrians in neighborhoods and across the city during this spring season. In addition, please make sure motorists can see them by encouraging them to wear fluorescent colored clothing after dark.

Adults often underestimate a child's ability to safely cross the street and youth under age 10 do not always have the skills to judge the speed or distance of oncoming traffic. Indeed, youth under age 14 may have 1/3rd the range of vision than that of an adult. The Minnesota Safety Council provides these important tips for parents to share with their children to improve their safety on the streets.

- Stop at the edge of the road or at the curb before crossing the street. Cross at the corner, unless there is a mid-block crosswalk or signal.
- Look left, right, and left again to make sure there are no cars approaching. Teach children to fully turn their heads and eyes in those directions. Their limited side vision makes this necessary.
- Teach children to be aware of cars turning the corner. Children should enter the street only if there is no approaching traffic. Continue looking both left and right.
- When preparing to cross in front of a stopped vehicle, children should make eye contact with the driver before proceeding.
- Teach children not to run into the street or run while crossing.

Drivers are also asked to be aware of their surroundings and to remove any distractions such as cell phones that can lead to inattention to the roadway. Taking it slow in residential neighborhoods, school zones and near parks is important. Remember that children can move in unpredictable ways so use extra caution around them.

Burnsville Police work with neighborhoods to address safety and speeding issues through a coordinated traffic safety program that stresses the 4E's of traffic safety: Enforcement, Engineering, Education and Emergency Services. If you have a concern about speeding or would like additional information please call 952-895-4536.

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