

May 2004

Project Title: Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's Topic of the Month

Brief statement of explanation:

The MCPA strives to bring current information regarding prevention topics to its members. Please feel free to use these resources within your own community. Great for newsletters, emails or news release.

Topic for the Month:

Internet Safety

Set aside time to explore the Internet with your children. If your child has some computer experience, let them lead the way. Teach your children about exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence, and other issues that concern you, so they know how to respond if they see this material, however innocently. Also remind children to let you know immediately if they find something scary or threatening on the Internet. If your child receives threatening email or pornographic materials, save the material and contact local law enforcement.

Ideas to Consider:

- Teach children NOT to give out identifying information such as: name, passwords, parent's name, home address, school name, and telephone number.
- Know the Internet services your child is using.
- Never allow your child to meet face-to-face with someone they met on the Internet without your permission and without a parent going with them.
- Keep your computer in an area where there is adult supervision, as in the kitchen or family room, NOT in their bedroom.
- Keep the computer time limited to only a short time daily or weekly.
- Children should never be allowed to enter an area that charges for services without parent permission.
- If your child uses the public library computer, know their Internet access policy.
- If a child's friend has Internet access, know what their family rules are for Internet use.
- Children should NOT be allowed to send pictures of themselves or family via the Internet without parental permission.

Resources:

- ✓ NCPA in the 2004 calendar has a brochure on *The Family Guide to Using the Internet* for reprint.