

SOSbeacon.org

**turn your mobile phone into an SOSbeacon
when your community is networked, help is nearby**

SOSbeacon is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to enabling cooperative security. We turn mobile phones into SOSbeacons and provide a virtual "message board and chat-room" where people come together to collaborate in order to provide help in distress situations.

Here are some examples of how your school can benefit from SOSbeacon

1) The school bus bringing 5 year old Porter and his first-grade classmates from a field trip experienced a flat tire and would be delayed an hour in returning to school. School administrators needed to quickly contact all the parents of the delayed children to advise them of the situation and the schedule change. Fortunately Porter's Mom's contact information was programmed into the school's SOSbeacon on-line database, like all the other parents. School officials, pushing a few buttons on their smart-phone, were able to broadcast e-mail and text messages to all the parents instantly.

Porter's mom received the alert with a link to the SOSbeacon Alert Message Board webpage where she checked in, read notes and comments and was able to monitor continuing information about the delay. Those parents who did not check in after a few minutes were contacted individually by the administration. With the comfort of having up to date information about the situation, Porter's mom avoided the stress of the unknown and took advantage of the delay by running errands.

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2) An electrical transformer malfunctioned, wiping out power to the entire neighborhood around Simone's school. It would be 6-8 hours before electricity could be restored. All the classrooms were dark. For safety reasons school administrators needed to shut the school quickly and all the parents needed to be notified immediately...advising them that school is closing and to pick their kids up as soon as possible.

Even though school phone lines and computers weren't working (no electricity), the school administrator's cell phone worked as usual and an SOSbeacon alert to all the parents was broadcast, notifying Simone's parents, and all the other parents at the same time, of the situation. Simone's parents were stuck in traffic on the other side of the bay and would be delayed picking up Simone. Using the SOSbeacon Alert Chat Room, Simone's parents were able to coordinate with another parent who could pick Simone up and babysit until her parents got home. The school was able to have the last child out the door within the hour and closed down for the day.

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3) An earthquake hit the Bay Area in the afternoon, damaging some roads and disrupting road travel throughout the East Bay near the fault line. The phone lines at ABC School were jammed with frantic parents calling in to see if their kids were OK. Each parent wanted the same reassurance and the same information further congesting the phone lines. Using SOSbeacon Check-in, the ABC School was able to notify almost all the parents immediately that the children and school were unharmed, they were safe at the school and that faculty would remain on site until the last of the children was safely picked up by parents or a custodian designated via the SOSbeacon chat room message board. The audio message, from the school director, with the SOSbeacon Check-in was especially reassuring.

For more information: www.SOSbeacon.org or email: clifforloff@alum.mit.edu

