

SOSbeacon.org

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

SOSbeacon.org is a non-profit organization that provides mobile phone and Internet services dedicated to saving lives, helping those in distress, reducing first response time and minimizing the anxiety of emergencies.

SOSbeacon also provides a simple and free group communications tool for non-emergency use...like organizing your church choir or soccer team. This Group Broadcast Check-in service is the first option on the main screen (see Figure 1).



Figure 1

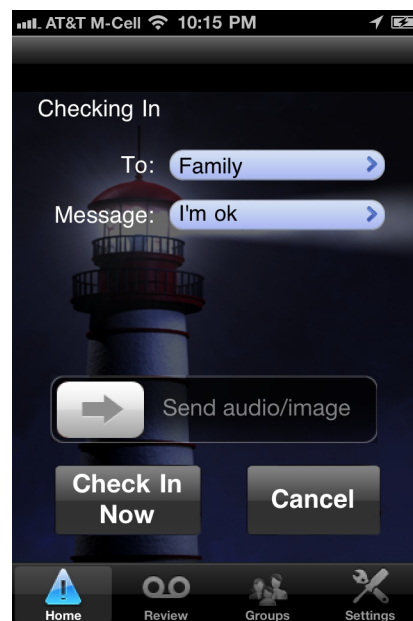


Figure 2

The Check-in service is used to provide information, assurances and updates to a Group of contacts you specify. Tap the **To: field** on the Check-in screen above (Figure 2) to change your broadcast from Family (default) to another set of Contacts you created in Groups (e.g Friends).

The **Send audio/image recording** button IS for recording a 30 second audio message plus automatic or manual image captures. Bandwidth restrictions currently limit video recording. Multiple recordings can be added to the webpage to update a situation.

Group Broadcast Check-in recipients will receive an email and sms text message with a link to the Check-in session (or Alert Incident) webpage. From that webpage, they can see the original check-in message, the user's location, date/time, audio, images, etc.

The user has the option to define many different contact groups. Preset groups are: **Family, Friends, Neighborhood Watch**. The user can add/delete more Groups as needed. School administrators add groups via the SOSbeacon Online Emergency Contact Database Management System.

All contacts within the alerted Group can communicate among themselves and coordinate help via the webpage link provided by SOSbeacon. Once a Check-in or Alert is initiated, all data, additional alerts, 911 calls, responder notes, etc, related to that time period (an SOSbeacon "session") are available to all responders to that SOSbeacon session webpage.

The difference between a Group Broadcast Check-in and both the Send Emergency Alert and Call Emergency (911) Phone is that these last two services are considered distress situations and once selected, require no further user input. The Contacts in the default Group set by the user in Emergency Alert Settings are the people who receive the Send Emergency Alert message. The text of the message is either "Sent Emergency Alert" or "Called Emergency Phone" giving the user's name and phone number. An SOSbeacon audio/image recording session is started automatically for Send Emergency Alert.

Call Emergency Phone dials 911 (or the equivalent number if you are in a foreign country), records the call and sends a link to the recording of the 911 call along with the user's location to all contacts in the default Group. Note: The 911 recording service is enabled on Android but not on iPhone apps at this time as it conflicts with Apple call recording policy.

Send Emergency Alert does not call 911, but it is the fastest way to send an alert with audio message, images and location to the default notification Group.

A unique aspect of SOSbeacon is its Good Samaritan program (for emergency calls only).

On the Good Samaritans Settings subscreen (under Settings), tapping the first ON/OFF button you can elect to **send** alerts to nearby Good Samaritans when a 911 call is made on your phone and by tapping the second ON/OFF button you can elect to **receive** Good Samaritan alerts. Good Samaritans are specific nearby SOSbeacon users who have opted into the program for a specific time period and geographical area. Each party (the person sending an alert and the Good Samaritan receiving alerts) sets their own response area, so one can be a Good Samaritan to nearby neighbors, but not outside that area.

The Review option on the app menu bar displays the last (or current) SOSbeacon session webpage you created. This is the webpage your alerted Contacts will see when they click on the link sent to them in the SOSbeacon email or text message. A sample alert notification by email is shown below:

SOSbeacon Alert from Cliff Orloff

FROM: SOSbeacon

TO: Sandy Orloff

Tuesday, August 9, 2011 2:18 PM

You received an SOSBEACON alert from 91647778888 by Cliff Orloff. Detail here: <http://sosbeacon.org:8085/r/cj4Mej4Pc>

When the alerted contact clicks on the link shown above, the Alert website Message Center <http://sosbeacon.org:8085/r/cj4Mej4Pc> might look like this following example:



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Welcome Home! Family Group: 12345678901234567890

[Phone](#) | [WebAPP](#) | [Logout](#)

HOME

ABOUT

FEATURES

TESTIMONIALS

PHONE

CONTACT

Review Phone History

MESSAGE CENTER

[ENTER RESPONDER CHAT](#)

Sandy here 2011-08-14 06:12:00
I can call Bob in 1/2 hour; I will call the doctor so he knows
from BOB 2011-08-14 06:12:32
ok, I am enroute to hospital
[Has 2 added messages](#)

Details

From: Cliff
Number:
Email:
Time: 2011-08-11 05:24:31 GMT
Latitude: 0
Longitude: 0
Text: Emergency call made to

Details

From: Cliff
Number:
Email:
Time: 2011-08-11 05:26:00 GMT
Latitude: 0
Longitude: 0
Text: Phone number sent an alert from

DOWNLOAD CENTER




Created Date: 2011-08-11 05:20:47 GMT



In this emergency situation involving a car accident, you can see the location where the alert was sent on the map, listen to the audio message, view images of the car accident and other details captured at that moment. In this case we hear the audio recording "...the car is wrecked and Mom is shaken but appears OK. They are taking us to the hospital to do further checks". On the top left of the page, one of the alerted contacts clicked the **"ENTER RESPONDER CHAT"** and left a message that he was on the way to the hospital and would check in with the other Family Group members afterwards. Other alerted family members who clicked the alert message link afterwards would see this webpage, the added message and likely add their own notes. They would know that others were aware of the situation and taking needed action. As the incident unfolded additional information could be provided on this page.

Nearby Good Samaritans who might be available to help would be alerted ONLY in the case of an emergency (911) call and ONLY if the user opted-in to that service.

FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS: Broadcasting to school groups works much the same way as shown above, but unless it is an emergency, school broadcasting is typically done from the PC using the WebAPP. The school administrator, principal or teacher that sends an alert or check-in broadcast would see a page that looks like the following example:



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Welcome [Name] School - 5155171575

[Phone](#) | [WebAPP](#) | [Logout](#)

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [FEATURES](#) | [TESTIMONIALS](#) | [PHONE](#) | [CONTACT](#)

[Review Phone History](#) Timezone: America/San Francisco

MESSAGE CENTER

[Add Message](#)
[Msg Posts](#)
[Responders](#)
[No response](#)

SOSbeacon works.

Nov 16 2011, 04:30 PM

got it

Nov 16 2011, 05:24 PM

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 16 2011, 05:31 PM

(SMS response)

Nov 16 2011, 06:55 PM

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Nov 17 2011, 10:00 AM

Details

From: School

Number:

Email:

Time: Nov 16 2011, 03:20 PM

Latitude: 0

Longitude: 0

Text: REMINDER: No school for students all next week. Parent-Teacher conf M&T. Click link for details

Happy Thanksgiving!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are next Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22. Both Campuses will be closed. Childcare will be available only for the duration of your conference time with your child's teacher.


Upper Elementary conferences begin this Friday, November 18 and students will enjoy a regular workday.

School will be closed from Wednesday, November 23 - Friday, November 26 in celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Alert ID	Last Updated	Status
1376	Nov 16 2011, 03:20 PM	Open
1375	Nov 16 2011, 03:16 PM	Closed
879	Oct 17 2011, 01:46 PM	Closed
878	Oct 17 2011, 01:37 PM	Closed
572	Oct 06 2011, 02:14 PM	Closed

DOWNLOAD CENTER

[EMAIL DOWNLOADS](#)



Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family

Created Date: Nov 16 2011, 03:22 PM

Note that the school administrator can see the message sent, the respondents who posted messages to this checkin, a list of responders from the group that was contacted and a list of the non-responders, making it easier to follow up with the latter group.

Notice that in the DOWNLOAD CENTER on the right column the phone owner can have any or all items on this page emailed to them for further posting. The PHONE HISTORY on the top right of the page shows a log of all the check-ins and alerts sent from this phone and the webpage for each. As long as the status of the incident is **Open** the alert or check-in recipients can still access this page. When the phone owner makes the status **Closed** the page becomes private and accessible only to the phone owner.

The WebAPP is accessible from the very top right of this page. This is a web version of the features found on the SOSbeacon mobile phone app.

Because school systems are provided with additional features not found in the family version of SOSbeacon, schools that want to use SOSbeacon need to fill out the form provided when they **CLICK HERE for a School Account** on the SOSbeacon home page. SOSbeacon is a free service to all users.