

Android & Emergency Preparedness

Safety features may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about your mobile phone, but when an emergency strikes, your phone has a lot to offer. Android phones include a variety of safety features designed to help keep you secure in different situations. Whether it's reaching out for help, notifying loved ones, or providing important information during an emergency, these tools make sure you have support whenever you need it.

Download Google's Personal Safety app



The Personal Safety app can quickly get you in touch with help in an emergency. The app offers the following safety features:

- **Emergency SOS** - allows you to quickly get in touch with 911 and certain people without having to unlock and dial the phone or send a text.
- **Car crash detection** - automatically sends an alert to emergency services if your phones sense you are in a car accident.
- **Emergency Sharing** - allows you to share location and status updates with your trusted contacts for 24 hours
- **Safety checks** - allow you to share your location and status updates with your trusted contacts for a designated period. If you do not check in an alert is sent with your current location.
- **Crisis Alerts** - notifies you about natural disasters and public emergencies affecting your area.


KEEP IN MIND

- The Safety app should come preinstalled if you have a Google Pixel phone.
- **The Safety app is not compatible with phones made by Samsung.**
 - To know if you have a Samsung smartphone, check the back of the device for a "Samsung" logo or model number (starting with "SM-"). Alternatively, open the Settings app, scroll down to About phone to see the model's name (e.g., Galaxy S24, A55), or dial *#06# on the keypad
- Check the [Google Play store](#) to see if your phone is compatible.
- Some features may not be available depending on your phone's version of Android.
- If you're having trouble finding a specific feature on your phone, you can try searching for it using your Settings app's search bar.


Emergency Contacts

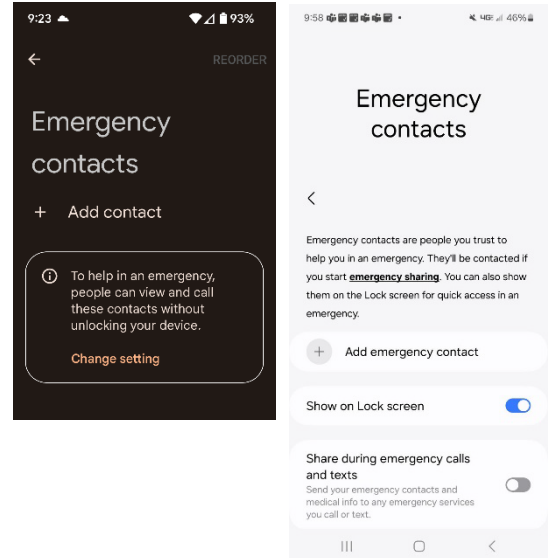
Adding emergency contacts lets you use your phone to quickly call someone who can help if you get lost or hurt. You can call or text your contacts without having to unlock your phone, saving time for you and the first responders try to help you.

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Your Info** in the bottom right corner.
3. Tap **Emergency contacts**, then tap **+ Add contact**
4. Choose a person from your contacts list.

Samsung Phones:


1. Open the **Settings** app. 
2. Scroll down and tap '**Safety & Emergency**'.
3. Tap **Emergency contacts**, then tap **+ Add contact**
4. Choose a person from your contacts list.




Medical Information

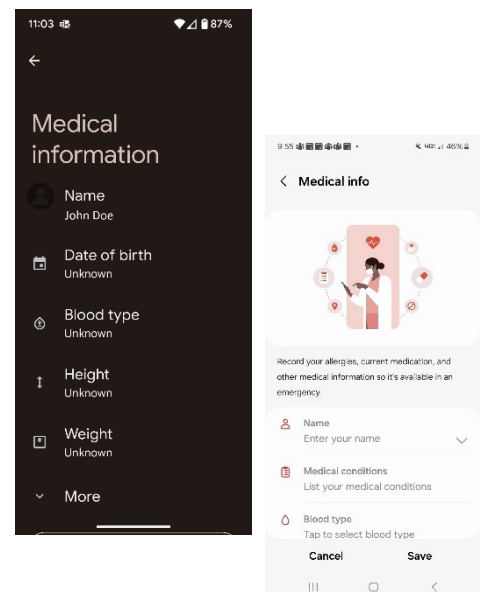
The medical information feature on your phone stores important details about your health like if you're allergic to something or if you need special medicine. Once you add your medical information it becomes available from your phone's lock screen. This information is important to share with first responders and having this information on your phone helps them take care of you.

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Your Info** in the bottom right corner.
3. Tap **Medical Information**.
4. Add your Information.

Samsung Phones:


1. Open the **Settings** app. 
2. Scroll down and tap '**Safety & Emergency**'.
3. Tap **Medical Info**.
4. Add your information.

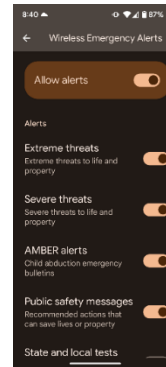


Wireless Alerts

Opting to receive crisis alerts lets you get notified about natural disasters or local emergencies.


Most Android devices:

1. Open the **Settings** app. 
2. Scroll down and tap '**Safety & Emergency**'.
3. Scroll down and tap **Wireless emergency alerts**.
4. Turn on your preferred alerts.




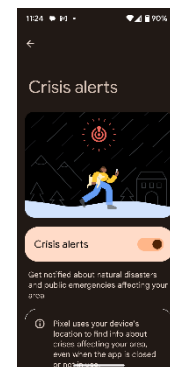
Crisis Alerts

Opting into receive crisis alerts lets you get notified about natural disasters or local emergencies.

 Feature is only available with the Personal Safety App.


Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Features** in the bottom middle of the screen.
3. Scroll down and tap **Crisis Alerts**.
4. Turn on **Crisis alerts**.




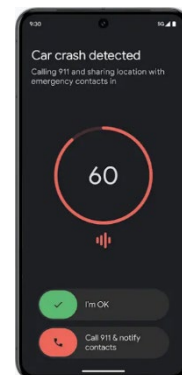
Crash Detection

Crash detection on your Android phone will call 911 and alert your trusted emergency contacts when your phone thinks you have been in a severe car crash.

 Feature is only available with the Personal Safety App.

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Features** in the bottom middle of the screen.
3. Scroll to **Car Crash Detection**.
4. Tap **Setup**.




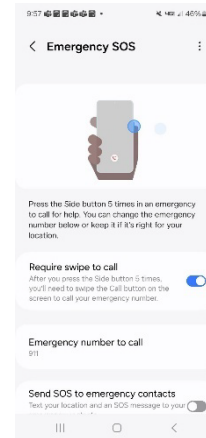
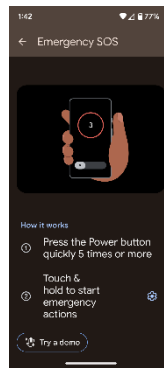
Emergency SOS

Press the power button on your phone five or more times to call for help if you get hurt or feel unsafe. Your phone will:


- Call emergency services and share your location (enabled by default)
- Share your information with your trusted emergency contacts (must be enabled)
- Record a video using the phone's camera (must be enabled)

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Features** in the bottom middle.
3. Tap **Emergency SOS**.
4. If prompted, **Turn on Emergency SOS**.
5. Tap **Call emergency services**.
6. Turn on **Share info with emergency contacts**.
7. Add contacts if prompted to.




Samsung Phones:

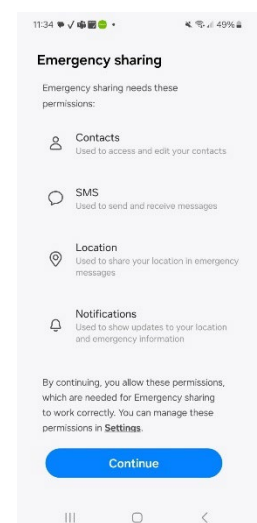
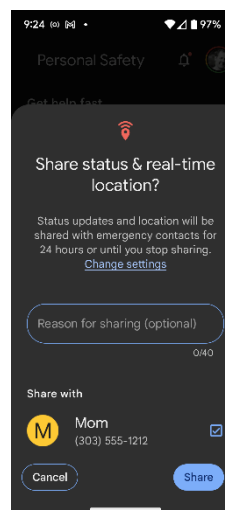
1. Open the **Settings** app. 
2. Scroll down and tap **'Safety & Emergency'**.
3. Tap **Emergency SOS**.
4. Optional: Tap **Require swipe to call**.
5. Tap **Send SOS to emergency contacts**.
6. Add contacts if prompted to.

Emergency Sharing


If you find yourself in a crisis such as during severe weather, forest fires or flooding, your Android phone can share your location and status updates with your trusted emergency contacts. Sharing lasts for 24 hours or until you turn it off. Emergency sharing only works with your trusted emergency contacts and does not call emergency services. **Always call or text 911 if you are experiencing a serious medical problem or life-threatening situation.**

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Home** in the bottom left corner.
3. Tap **Emergency sharing**.
4. Tap **Setup**.
5. Tap **Share**.




Samsung Phones:


1. Open the **Settings** app. 
2. Scroll down and tap **'Safety & Emergency'**.
3. Tap **Emergency sharing**.
4. Tap **Continue**.
5. Tap **Start emergency sharing**.

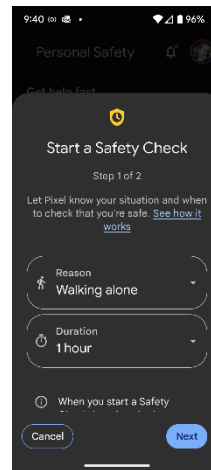
Safety Check

Safety checks let you set a period during which your trusted emergency contacts are updated on your location. The feature is useful for activities such as going for a run or commuting in a new location. When time expires, a 60 second countdown begins during which safety check provides options to confirm you are OK, start emergency sharing or call 911. Emergency sharing is activated automatically following the countdown.

 Feature is only available with the Personal Safety App.

Personal Safety app:

1. Open the **Safety** app. 
2. Tap **Home** in the bottom right corner.
3. Tap **Safety Check**.
4. Tap **Setup**.
5. Choose a reason for the check (e.g. Hiking).
6. Choose duration.
7. Tap **Next**.
8. Tap **Start**.



Text 911

You can text 911 anywhere in Rhode Island to report police, fire, or medical emergencies. This service is available statewide and is designed for situations where a voice call is impossible, such as for the deaf, hard of hearing, or when you are in danger and cannot speak.

Key Details for Texting 911 in RI:

- **"Call if you can, text if you can't":** Voice calls are faster and preferred, but texting is a reliable alternative.
- **How to Text:** Enter "911" in the "To" field, provide your exact location (including town), and the type of help needed in the message.
- **Limitations:** Do not send videos, photos, or emojis. Keep messages brief and in English.
- **No Roaming:** The service does not work if your phone is in roaming mode.
- **Limitations:** Unlike voice calls, text-to-911 does not provide real-time, precise location tracking, so you must state your location.

If texting is not available or if you receive a "bounce-back" message, you must call 911



*information from [Android Emergency Preparedness](#) and <https://ri911.ri.gov>

Android-Compatible Smartwatches

Here are some of the best Android-compatible smartwatches with strong emergency features like SOS alerts, fall detection, emergency calling, location sharing, and even standalone LTE support — great for safety and emergencies:

Best Emergency-Focused & Easy to Use (Great for Seniors)

These are designed with elderly users and safety caregivers in mind.

- **mySeniorCareHub SafeLink SmartWatch · \$74.99** Affordable senior medical alert watch with **GPS & fall detection**; simple emergency button and wellness tracking (good basic pick).
- **SOS Smartwatch with Fall Detection and GeoFencing · \$95.00** Built-in **SOS & fall alert + geofencing** to notify family/caregivers with location.
- **SecuLife New 2026 Elderly Fall Alert SOS Smartwatch · \$99.00** Very budget-friendly with **SOS button, two-way calling, GPS**, and heart rate/blood metrics.
- **Medical Guardian MGMove Smartwatch · \$42.95** Includes emergency call button with optional fall detection and caregiver connectivity.
- **LifeStation Sidekick Smart Watch · \$48.90** A simple safety watch with **GPS location tracking & SOS help call** — good low-cost emergency option.

👉 Pricing is subject to change and just an estimate. These aren't full Wear OS smartwatches but are often **easier for seniors to use and focus on safety** features like instant alerts, fall detection and GPS — with less complexity than full smartwatches.




Full Smartwatches (More Features + Emergency Tools)

Better if you also want health tracking, notifications, etc., and the senior is comfortable with smartphones:

- **Google Pixel Watch 4** · Excellent Android smartwatch with **automatic fall detection, Emergency SOS, location sharing, and LTE options** (can contact help even without a phone nearby).
- **Samsung Galaxy Watch8** · Strong all-around Wear OS watch with **SOS features and fall detection** on Android phones.
- **TicWatch Pro 5 Smartwatch** · Wear OS alternative with long battery life and health tracking; may require setup for emergency alerts.

⚠️ *Tip:* Full smartwatches like Pixel and Galaxy models need to be **charged daily or every couple of days** — important if the wearer might forget to charge. Some seniors prefer simpler dedicated medical alert watches for that reason.

Choosing What's Best

-  **Top priority — emergency/safety:** Go with a dedicated alert watch (like the SafeLink, SecuLife, or LifeStation) for **one-touch SOS + fall alerts + caregiver notifications**.
-  **Smart features + safety:** If the senior uses a smartphone and you want broader functionality, then the **Pixel Watch 4** or **Galaxy Watch8** offer robust fall detection and emergency SOS features plus fitness/health tracking.
-  **Tips for Emergency Use - LTE/eSIM matters:** Watches with standalone cellular (LTE) can call or send SOS without your phone.

Quick Senior-Focused LTE Smartwatch Comparison

| Watch | Ease of Use | Battery Life | Best For | Upfront Price | Monthly Cellular Cost |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| ★ Galaxy Watch Ultra (LTE) | Good | Best | Longest use, big text & battery | \$649–\$699 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| ★ Google Pixel Watch 4 (LTE) | Good | Moderate | Assistant voice & SOS tools | \$399–\$449 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| Galaxy Watch8 (LTE) | Good–Better | Moderate | Balanced features & emergency | \$399–\$429 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| Galaxy Watch7 (LTE) | Good | Moderate | Best VALUE LTE choice | \$279–\$329 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| Galaxy Watch6 Classic (LTE) | Good | Moderate | Older but solid features | \$200–\$350 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| Galaxy Watch6 (LTE) | Good | Moderate | Budget Samsung LTE pick | \$200–\$279 | \$10–\$15/mo |
| Xiaomi 2 Pro 4G | Basic | Variable | Basic calling & SOS | \$200–\$230 | \$8–\$12/mo |
| Angel Watch (LTE) | Basic | Basic | Simple LTE fallback option | \$120–\$150 | \$8–\$12/mo |

Typical Monthly Cellular Cost: \$10–\$15/mo with major carriers (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile)

