

I'M IN TROUBLE. Can you find me?

by Lynn Kruger

**Do you remember the phrase which was so popular some years back:
"Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters".
Well, it's not going to help you today.
In an emergency, we all need to know that who we are going to call is going to answer and be relied upon to get us help quickly.**

South Africa's Unique FREE Emergency APP

Reliable access to emergency services is considered essential in South Africa but the reality is that most people do not know who to call in an emergency. This, coupled with not being to explain properly where the incident occurred can mean the difference between an emergency and a tragedy.

Have you ever found yourself panicking as to whom to phone for help?

I decided to do some research and ended up speaking with Coleen Kearney from mySOS who explained the necessity of having an app like mySOS..

In South Africa we have a situation where there are multiple emergency service providers, each with its own area, each with different contact numbers; which means that one is never sure who to call! Making this worse is that there is not a single source of up-to-date emergency service contacts in South Africa.

Delays in getting help in an emergency situation can result in unnecessary trauma and even death.

How does mySOS work?

When an emergency is activated through mySOS a voice call is made to the selected service provider and at the same time your GPS location & relevant details are sent through to this service provider. This ensures more accurate information and a quicker response! Your emergency contacts will also receive an SMS and email with the details of your emergency so they can take action as well.

As mySOS was developed, the need for other options was realised and thus "Find Near Me" and "Tracking" was added to the emergency app.

Find Near Me provides the user with contact information of hospitals, doctors, police stations, dentists, pharmacies and even vets in the area where they are currently located as well as the option to navigate to the selected service provider. There are currently more than 20 000 service providers loaded into the app and the information is updated on a monthly basis to ensure that it is always accurate and correct.

Track Me allows the user to set a timer which, if not cleared before it runs out, will activate an emergency on your behalf. This will alert your emergency contacts that have been



Do you have to worry about an elderly person or child in your family?

loaded that there could be a pending disaster.

Another development for the app has been the release of a panic button; a mobile wearable panic button connected via Bluetooth to the mySOS emergency app. This can be extremely useful for the elderly, children, active people training alone or anyone in a hostile situation. One press is all it takes to notify your emergency contacts that there is an emergency.

Sports and outdoor and corporate events

In an emergency, medics can reach injured participants far quicker as their exact location is available when they use the mySOS app.

As a PA, it is important to have mySOS as you may require it for the office, for an event or for your home. You can download it from either the APP Store or Google – its FREE! <https://goo.gl/gxP7yX>

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