

Be safe with ShoutSafe.com

A new, free Web site helps those caught in emergencies or disasters to communicate with their contacts using a single text or call

It could happen to you. Disasters and emergencies can occur at any time and in any place, and while you can't safeguard against catastrophes, you can be ready for them – even when traveling in remote places or otherwise away from e-mail or other means of communication.

ShoutSafe.com, created by British computer engineer John Scott after his experiences on vacation in Sri Lanka when the 2004 tsunami hit, answers the need to get a message out quickly to loved ones desperately trying to get news of your safety.

“I had been traveling on the coast the day before the tsunami, but was fortunate to be up in the hills when it hit,” Scott explains. “Friends and family back home couldn't have known of our exact movements and were desperate for news. The difficulty and expense of communicating made me realize the need for an efficient service to say that you're OK – that's how ShoutSafe evolved.”

Because the problem of getting access to technology in a natural disaster or conflict situation is obvious, ShoutSafe can be accessed through a variety of ways: via ShoutSafe.com, by SMS text message, or by a pre-assigned trusted user. Even if you are unable to send a text message or find an Internet café to send news of your whereabouts, so long as you can make a single phone call to your trusted user, they can log into your account and relay a message to all your contacts either through e-mail or text message.

In addition to sending messages in emergencies, ShoutSafe has many other applications. It provides:

- a travel diary and itinerary service – for example, so students abroad can let those back home read of their adventures or a secretary can keep tabs on an employer's business travel
- a pre-written message or letter, informing of the passing of a loved one – possibly even composed by the deceased before his or her passing
- an announcement of the birth of a child or an engagement or other news

For more information or high-resolution images, please contact John Scott on +44 (0)7768 201 455 or e-mail johnscott@blackwave.com