HOW WOULD I USE 9-1-1 FROM MY CELLULAR TELEPHONE?

In an emergency, seconds count! With the spread of cellular telephone use, emergencies and crimes are being reported quicker. Fires, crimes in progress, medical emergencies, rescue situations, and drinking drivers are being reported faster because someone with a cellular telephone witnesses or comes upon the incident. **And 9-1-1 is a free call from your cellular telephone!**

Cellular telephones can be used anywhere cellular service is available. In the car, on the water, riding a bike, walking the dog, or when vacationing.

Because cellular service can be used anywhere the service is available, it is currently not possible to automatically locate you when you make a cellular call. Therefore, you must:

Know where you are! When you are traveling with your cellular telephone, make it a habit to be aware of exactly where you are. Note exits, street signs, mile-markers, significant landmarks, and/or, preferably, exact addresses. You should also note the nearest city or town. If you know where you are it will save the 9-1-1 operator and the emergency responder time in locating the site of the emergency.

HOW DO I USE 9-1-1?

To summon help:

☎ ***Dial the digits 9-1-1*** from <u>any</u> telephone. 9-1-1 will work wherever 9-1-1 service is available. It will work on rotary, push button, cordless, cellular, credit card or coin operated telephones.

☎ ***Describe the emergency.*** This will help the 9-1-1 operator determine what type of help to send.

☎ ***Location.*** Give the exact location of the emergency or describe how to get to the scene of the emergency. **This is critical information!** When traveling with your cellular telephone, make it a habit to know exactly where you are.

☎ ***Answer all questions.*** Stay on the line until the 9-1-1 operator says it's OK to hang up. Give the operator your name and telephone number in case they need to call you back for more detailed information about the emergency.

☎ ***Follow all directions.*** The 9-1-1 operator may be able to give you instructions to assist before emergency crews arrive.

STAY CALM! SPEAK CLEARLY!

DIAL 9-1-1!

WHEN SECONDS COUNT!

<u>A public service message from:</u>

State of South Dakota
Division of Emergency Management
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
773-3231

WHAT IS 9-1-1?

9-1-1 is three-digit telephone number that you can call 24 hours a day for police, fire or emergency medical services. It saves valuable time in an emergency. According to nationwide statistics, it can take up to 2 1/2 minutes to find your telephone directory and another 30 seconds to locate the correct number. In an emergency, 3 minutes is a long time -- time that can be saved by remembering to call 9-1-1!

IS 9-1-1 AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE?

Unfortunately no! Some areas in South Dakota and the nation do not have 9-1-1 service available to reach help. In those areas, residents and visitors must use seven digit telephone numbers to summon the emergency services they need. Those numbers can commonly be found inside the front cover of the telephone book.

WHY 9-1-1?

- ☎ It is easy to remember in moments of stress.
- ☎ It is quicker to dial than a seven digit number.
- ☎ It is one number to use in summoning the police, fire, or ambulance.

WHEN WOULD I CALL 9-1-1?

A call to 9-1-1 should always be a call for help! In any emergency situation call 9-1-1 first!

CALL 9-1-1:

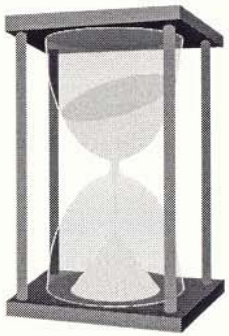
- ☎ To get help for someone who is sick or injured and requires immediate medical attention.
- ☎ If you see a crime in progress or about to occur.
- ☎ To report a fire.
- ☎ To obtain help when there is danger of loss of life or property.
- ☎ To report a drunk driver.
- ☎ When you feel you are in danger.
- ☎ To report a major accident.
- ☎ WHEN YOU NEED POLICE, FIRE OR AMBULANCE **NOW!**

Does everyone in your family know that a 9-1-1 call from a pay phone is FREE?

WHEN I WOULD NOT CALL 911.

- ☎ Never call 9-1-1 as a joke!
- ☎ Never call 9-1-1 just to see if it works!
- ☎ Never call 9-1-1 for routine questions or to ask for information!
- ☎ Never call 9-1-1 for prank calls!

If you call 9-1-1 by mistake, please stay on the line and explain that you reached a wrong number and answer any questions asked by the operator. She/He will be trying to determine if you are being forced to hang up during a crime in progress.



9-1-1 SAVES TIME WHEN SECONDS COUNT!