
SPOT TIPS FOR EMERGENCY CONTACTS

thanks for helping to make my trip safer!

I'm so grateful you've agreed to be an emergency contact for my upcoming adventure! While I'm out of cell phone contact, I'll be communicating with you using this really neat service called SPOT. It can be a little confusing at first, but once you get the hang of it, I'm sure you'll love it as much as I do.

Some useful things to know about SPOT:

1. It's a GPS transmitter that communicates via satellites orbiting the earth. To read more, visit findmespot.com.
2. SPOT sends preprogrammed messages to your phone or email when I push a button. Each message includes my point location. There's an OK/Check-In message, a Help/SPOT Assist message, and one custom message I choose myself.
3. SPOT has a few limitations. First, communication only goes one way. You won't be able to contact me to ask questions. Also, I can't change the preprogrammed message without cell service.
4. The Help/Assist message is for minor issues like a vehicle breakdown. SPOT can also send SOS messages in a real emergency, but these go straight to a rescue service, not to you. So please don't be nervous about checking your emails or texts.
5. If you get a Help/Assist message, contact the appropriate emergency service in my area and give my location. If you're not sure who to call, try the county sheriff. You can also call 911 and ask to be connected to a dispatcher in my area. (This may take some time.)
6. Ask me about SPOT's tracking feature, which allows you to follow my movements online. If you do so, keep in mind that SPOT only transmits when I'm moving. Also, I may shut it off at camp to save batteries. So long periods with no transmission are normal.
7. Loss of SPOT contact isn't necessarily a cause for panic. It's totally possible that it could run out of batteries, lose satellite contact, fall in a den of rattlesnakes, etc. So let's agree on a reasonable time when you should take action if we lose contact.