

Article Name: Active-Shooter Alerts: Smartphone Apps for School Shootings

URL:

<https://www.tactical-life.com/lifestyle/military-and-police/smartphone-apps-school-shootings/>

Hero911 and SchoolGuard, an application active nationwide in K-12 schools and now colleges and private sectors. The applications have put into reality something that I had personally hoped to have: real-time notifications of school shootings in my area.

The SchoolGuard app technology gives school personnel the ability to simultaneously notify other staff members, 911, all other participating schools within 5 miles and any registered law enforcement officers on or off duty who are in close proximity (within 10 to 20 miles of the incident). Teachers and staff can download the application to their smartphones, and the notification is activated when they press the panic button.

Hero911 is an end-user application for law enforcement officers. When school personnel activate the panic button within the app, those qualified law enforcement officers who are registered and verified users will receive an alert through their phones. The alert is the sound of a siren. The registered law enforcement officers must be within 10 to 20 miles to be notified of the incident. They can respond if they are available to respond. Their response indicates whether or not they will respond in uniform. This is mandated information the responding officer must provide in order to notify responding officers of the presence of non-uniformed officers.

It has been estimated that cutting police response times by one minute could save 4.7 lives. The development of the SchoolGuard and Hero911 applications should provide a collective sigh of relief. Their development has the potential to curtail a deadly and disturbing trend of active shooters targeting defenseless children, teachers and school staff. Notifying available law enforcement within the vicinity may just be key to reducing the frequency of these events.