

Next of Kin Registry (NOKR) International Emergency Contact System



Back in February, I wrote a Fact of the Week entitled “*What’s In Your Wallet?*” The objective was to bring to you the importance of keeping emergency contact information with you at all times. In that article, I gave you tips on how to make your very own emergency card. By the way, you may still access this story by going to:

http://www.kingscountyem.com/CountyKings/Preparedness_Fact_02152010_wallet.htm

While I was doing some research this past week, I came across another method of emergency information. It is called **Next of Kin Registry (NOKR)**. It was established in January of 2004 and is a **FREE** tool for daily emergencies and national disasters. It’s intended use is if you or your family member is missing, injured or deceased. NOKR is a central depository for Emergency Contact information in the United States and 87 other countries.

This free service will store all your emergency contacts, next of kin and vital medical information that would be critical to emergency response agencies. Stored information is only accessible via a secure area that is only accessible by emergency public trust agencies that have registered with NOKR. NOKR is the protector of this vital bridging resource to reconnect individuals and families after urgent events.

NOKR Fact: *Many people think that if they are carrying a driver’s license, identification card or credit cards, authorities will know who their emergency contacts are. These forms of identity only indicate who you are not who should be contacted in the event of urgent need. Who will speak for you or your family member when they can’t?*



Ways that NOKR can benefit you:

When you leave your home each day, no one will know who your emergency contacts are, if the need arises. Here are just a few scenarios where NOKR would become beneficial:

- You are injured and cannot speak.
- Your child is lost.
- Your family member is suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's.
- You are in an accident while traveling locally, nationally or internationally.
- Your home is lost in a fire while you're on vacation.
- Homeless family member injured or dies alone.
- Natural Disaster
- Terrorist Acts nationally and internationally
- Deceased person used to locate a next of kin or point of contact

NOKR's system is used during daily emergencies and was utilized for the following national and global disasters:

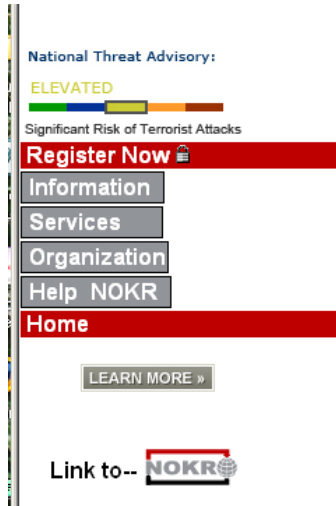
**2009 Fort Hood base shooting
2009 Samoa Tsunami
2009 Georgia Flooding
2009 Southern California Wildfires
2009 Swine Flu Virus
2009 Australian Fires
2009 Washington State Flooding
2008 California Wildfires
2008 Hurricane Disasters
2007 California Wildfires
2007 I-35 Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis, MN
2007 Virginia Tech College Shooting
2006 Indonesia Earthquake**

Who Else Uses NOKR?

- NOKR can be found on many government websites like the US Governments portal www.usa.gov and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security site <https://www.disasterhelp.gov/gathering-loved-ones.shtm>.
- NOKR is now a proactive service partner with the American Red Cross. <https://disastersafe.redcross.org/ServicePartners.aspx>
- NOKR has partnered with the National Center Missing Adults (MCMA) to become a force multiplier in locating adults missing in the United States.

How Can I Register?

You may register by going to <http://www.nokr.org> and fill out their online form, or print out their form for mail-in/fax.



- To the far left of the home page, you will see a red **“Register Now”** bar. You may click on that to begin your registration, or you may click on the gray **“Information”** bar and a drop down list will appear from which you may select.
- You may also request FREE Decals that will stick to your Drivers License that reads “Emergency Contact NOKR.Org”. This will also be found under the gray **“Information”** bar.
- There is a “Safe Kids” section under the **“Information”** bar as well.

The information is kept secured and is sent encrypted to a secure area on a separate server once you press the register button. This information is **not accessible** to the public and **is not located** on the same site you register.

Once this information is stored, it is only accessible via a secure password protected area that is only accessible by emergency public trust agencies that have registered with NOKR. For system integrity the information collected is never stored at the same location it is collected from. The NOKR system is backed up several times daily.

NOKR will NEVER ask for any intrusive information like your social security number or date of birth. NOKR does ask for age optionally which is used as a chronological identifier.



FREE EMERGENCY CONTACT DECAL

Life can change in a moment. Protect the ones you love, especially those who depend on you. Register your family on NOKR. It's free, secure and confidential.

For more on NOKR visit <http://nokr.org/nok/restricted/faq.shtml> for the answers to the most frequently asked questions, or visit their home page at www.nokr.org

Credits: Next of Kin Registry @ www.nokr.org