

Emergency numbers for your Phone when traveling abroad by Shannon

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Looking up your destinations' emergency phone number isn't a standard vacation-planning step. But the old adage of "its better to be safe than sorry" rings true – no one who finds themselves in an emergency situation abroad expects it to happen to them. We are all familiar with 911 in the US but what number do you dial when you are in a foreign country. Emergency numbers around the world are not something you want to be trying to figure out in the midst of extreme danger.

It only takes a few minutes to find the number that may save you or someone else's life, thus making it the one thing you should be adding to your phone before a trip aboard. Consider it part of your itinerary research process.

Emergency Numbers around the World: Here are some popular English-speaking destinations emergency numbers around the world and how to find any other one you need,

- Australia uses 000 and New Zealand uses 111
- Canada and Mexico use the North American standard of 911, as do all American Territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands)
- Much of the Caribbean uses the North American 911 standard including Antigua and Barbuda (911 and 999) Aruba, the Bahamas (911 and 919), Bermuda, Bonaire, Belize, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts, St Lucias (911 and 999), St Vincent (911 and 999) and Turks and Caicos.
- The European Union has created a universal number of 112. Several non-EU countries in Europe including Norway and Switzerland have also adopted the 112 standard. Outside of the E.U. India also uses 112, as well as South Korea. However, in South Korea, use 1330 for medical emergencies as this number is specifically for foreigners in Seoul.
- Jamaica uses 110 for fire, police, and ambulance and 119 for police.
- The Philippines uses 911.
- Japan uses two numbers – 110 for ambulance and fire and 119 for police.
- South Africa seems to be the only English-speaking country to use more than three digits – 10177 for ambulance and fire and 10111 for police.
- The United Kingdom uses both 999 and the 112 E.U Standard.
- In Hong Kong the emergency number is 999.
- Brazil uses 190 for police, 192 for ambulance and 193 for fire.

In non-English speaking countries there is no guarantee the operator will speak English. However the Department of State provides a list of emergency numbers around the world organized alphabetically and it's a good idea to have your destinations number saved regardless.

Once you have the number for the country you are visiting take the time to store it in a place easily accessible, such as your mobile device but you should also remember it in case your phone is not readily available in an emergency. Even if you do have your phone handy, you will be able to retrieve the number faster if you know it by heart rather than fumbling through your contacts and wasting precious time. It only takes a minute, and it really is better to be safe than sorry.

As back-up to the 911 equivalent consider saving the nearest US Embassy's direct and/or emergency line into your contacts. This could be helpful in less urgent emergencies like a lost passport or an evacuation situation – each of which could require official assistance.