



FIELD SAFETY REIMAGINED:

**LEVERAGING SOS TECHNOLOGY TO
COMBAT HIDDEN DANGERS**

SAFEGUARD SAFETY PAPERS: SOS TECHNOLOGY

[SafeguardEquipment.com](https://www.SafeguardEquipment.com)

Field workers face an array of dangers daily, from electrocution, arc flashes, slips, and falls to being struck by objects. While these are serious, well-known hazards that require constant vigilance, there are also other threats that are less predictable – medical emergencies, acts of violence, or accidents in remote areas. It's crucial for companies to equip field workers not just with the tools to handle these risks, but also with solutions that can summon help instantly when things go wrong.

The COMPASS Pro Emergency Response Solution by SAFEGUARD is designed to address the changing landscape field workers are encountering by offering emergency response alerts for electrical hazards, falls, or arc flashes, as well as haptic, visual and audible alerts for current and voltage. However, what truly sets it apart is the SOS button. This feature empowers workers to proactively call for help at the first sign of trouble—whether they're experiencing a medical emergency, threats to physical safety, or any unforeseen danger in the field. With a simple press of the SOS button, real-time location and status are sent to emergency contacts, shaving off critical response time and potentially saving lives.

Incorporating this technology means you're not only mitigating risks after they occur, but you're also preventing incidents from escalating into life-threatening situations. The COMPASS Pro's SOS functionality provides an extra layer of security that ensures workers are never truly alone, even in the most isolated environments. Safety doesn't stop at PPE and procedures; it's about having an immediate lifeline when the unexpected happens. And that's where the SOS function of the Safeguard Emergency Response Software excels—ensuring rapid, effective response when it's needed most.

Weapons in The Field

One of the **increasingly critical threats** facing field workers today is the hostility they may encounter while working in the field. Interactions with property owners and landowners can quickly escalate, **presenting dangerous situations for our workers.**

A recent example occurred in July 2024, when Hurricane Beryl swept through Texas, causing widespread power outages and damage across the state. "Knocking out power to more than 3 million homes and businesses..." Workers were sent out across the state to assess the damage and fix power lines, but work was delayed as frustrated residents began lashing out. This frustration led to "threatening messages, thrown rocks, and drawn guns against repair workers."¹

Such incidents aren't isolated. Field workers, particularly those in rural or remote areas, have increasingly faced dangerous encounters while performing routine tasks such as repairing power lines. This is especially concerning when long distances or difficult terrain amplify the challenges of ensuring workers' safety in these situations – **where average response times can be hours.**

1 <https://www.asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/latest-news/today-in-security/2024/july/houston-line-worker-threats/>

The responsibility extends beyond equipping workers with the technical tools needed for their jobs; it also includes **preparing them for the unpredictable**, including potentially dangerous human interactions. By addressing not only the technical challenges but also these unforeseen risks, companies can ensure a more comprehensive approach to field safety, **protecting** workers from both expected and unexpected dangers.

Motor Vehicle Crashes Can Happen Anywhere

Vehicle-related hazards are a serious concern not just for city-based workers but for **those out in the field as well**. Field workers often encounter erratic drivers or find themselves involved in accidents -- whether as the victims or, in some cases, the cause. According to OSHA, "Motor vehicle accidents, and rear-end collisions in particular, make up a significant portion of all accidents experienced by electrical workers."¹

These incidents can happen without warning, leaving workers in vulnerable situations, particularly in hard-to-reach or less accessible locations. When collisions occur, timely medical attention and access to emergency services become critical. Workers in isolated locations may be exposed to extreme weather conditions—be it heat or cold—while they wait for help or repairs. **Ensuring they can get the assistance they need quickly is essential in mitigating their urgent situation.**

Animal Encounters in the Field

While dog attacks are common among field workers, those in less accessible areas face even greater threats from wildlife such as raccoons, wolves, and snakes. In fact, "Over 47,000 people annually in the United States sought medical attention after being attacked or bitten by wildlife."² **Urban sprawl** brings field workers into closer contact with wildlife, even in suburban settings, increasing the frequency of potentially dangerous encounters. For field workers, this adds another layer of risk, making it critical to ensure they are prepared for such encounters with the right protective gear and instant communication tools to call for help if needed, even if they do not have their cell phone on them.

Whether in rural or suburban areas, preparedness is key, and the COMPASS Pro's SOS feature ensures workers can call for help the moment they sense danger.

1 <https://www.osha.gov/electrical-contractors/hazards-solutions>

2 <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1544&context=hwi#:~:text=estimate%20how%20many%20people%20are,approximately%208%20people%20died%20annually.>

Falling

Falls from poles and lower-level structures remain a **leading cause of injuries** and fatalities among utility workers, electricians, and construction professionals.¹ This risk is particularly severe in remote areas where immediate access to emergency services is limited, making rapid response times critical for worker safety. In high-stress situations, such as falls, workers may not have the ability to reach or unlock their phones. The COMPASS Pro's SOS button offers a simpler and immediate way to call for help, ensuring rapid response even when workers are incapacitated or **unable to manually access their phones**, ensuring timely assistance in even the most isolated environments.

To minimize the dangers, it is vital that field workers are **equipped with appropriate personal protective** equipment (PPE), including fall protection systems. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, "To prevent injuries when working on poles or towers, electrical power-line installers and repairers use fall-protection equipment. Safety procedures and training have reduced the danger for electrical power-line installers and repairers."² However, **accidents still happen**, and the best response system is still the workers best chance of surviving the accident.

The Unknown

Worker safety extends far beyond just providing personal protective equipment (**PPE**). While essential, PPE alone cannot address every risk, especially in emergencies where rapid communication and response are critical. For utility workers in remote or hard-to-reach locations, timely access to help is vital when accidents occur. Establishing robust **emergency response strategies**, like those offered by the COMPASS Pro, ensures workers have a way to summon assistance even when their phone isn't readily accessible or if they are incapacitated.

Prioritizing both accident prevention and emergency preparedness helps reduce injuries and safeguard lives. The COMPASS Pro is a solution that complements existing safety measures, providing peace of mind that help is always within reach, **no matter the circumstances in the field**.

Solution: Add COMPASS Pro to Your PPE.

Working in the field presents unique dangers, and having the right tools is **crucial for safety**. Devices that offer real-time detection and emergency response can be lifesaving in scenarios like accidents, fire danger, medical emergencies, or sudden falls.

Safeguard Equipment's **COMPASS Pro** is an essential tool for field workers, designed to provide advanced emergency prevention and immediate crisis response. This device alerts workers to energized lines, preventing electrical shocks and potentially dangerous falls. It's lightweight and can be easily attached to helmets or clothing, ensuring hands-free operation.

1 <https://www.osha.gov/stop-falls>

2 <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/line-installers-and-repairers.htm#tab-3>

Beyond voltage detection, the COMPASS Pro is paired with the **MobileApp** and **WebApp** that activate in emergencies, sending the worker's location to their designated emergency contacts through SMS and push notifications. This quick **communication** can be critical when time is of the essence, ensuring a faster response. The app also supports in-app communication with dispatch, allowing quick conveyance of the type of incident, and the precise location of the injured worker - **as well as providing alerts in cases of falls, head impacts, or no movement.**

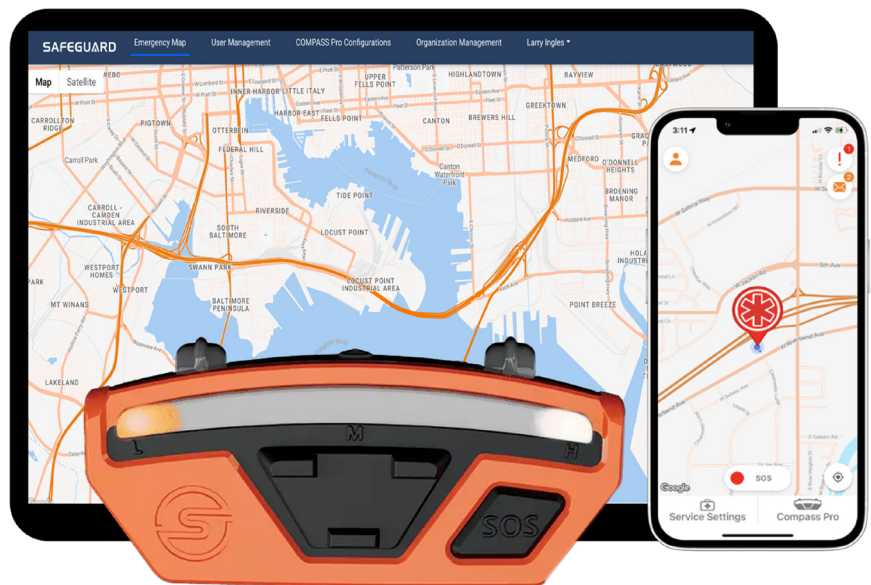
Prevention is just as crucial as **response** when it comes to field safety, and this is where the SOS function on the COMPASS Pro shines. While it's essential to have a system in place to react quickly after an incident, the true value lies in preventing dangerous situations from escalating to an emergency. The SOS button gives workers the power to signal for help as soon as they sense something is off — **whether it's an escalating confrontation, an unstable work environment, or even the feeling of an onsetting heart attack.** By enabling workers to act proactively, you're not just responding to emergencies — you're potentially preventing them from happening altogether — as well as providing a lifeline to your workers in their times of need. This immediate action can mean the difference between a minor incident and a major injury, **keeping your crew safer and more confident on the job.**

By integrating these tools, companies can significantly improve worker safety and response times, preventing injuries from escalating due to delayed assistance.

What would you do to keep your team safe?

For more information about the best way to protect your workers, contact Safeguard today to learn more about how the COMPASS Pro complete safety solution can keep your team safe and informed.

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