

Secure the Call Info Sheet

Year Established: 2003

Founder: Mike Morgan

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Mission Statement: Secure the Call's mission is to provide those who currently do not have a cell phone a free 911 emergency-only phone that they can use in the case of an emergency. Secure the Call never charges anyone for the phones they distribute through their community partners network. Additionally, as proud tree-hugging environmentalists, our goal is to keep all cell phones and tablets out of landfills and to repurpose them for those in need.

Location: Secure the Call is a nationwide organization with headquarters in Takoma Park MD.

Brief Description: Secure the Call, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that collects used and unwanted phones and tablets for redistribution to its 425 community partners. Community Partners consist of Senior Citizen Centers, Domestic Women's Shelters, Police and Sheriff's Departments.

Secure the Call is an all-volunteer organization that relies solely on the generosity of the community for its ability to provide 911 emergency-only phones to those in need. Secure the Call, in an average month, will collect around 500 phones and redistribute approximately 60% (all working phones) to its partners. All broken and unusable phones are properly recycled and never discarded.

How a 911 Phone Works: Any cell phone will call 911 anywhere in the USA without a service connection from a network provider. All 911 calls from any phone will always go thru. Typically, every account holder will pay a tax of 50 cents to 75 cents to their network provider so all 911 calls are free.

What condition does the phone have to be in to be donated to Secure the Call: Secure the Call accepts all cell phones and tablets, regardless of their condition. Phones that are not eligible for the program are properly recycled using the highest recycling standards available to the industry.

How do we collect phones: Secure the Call uses a number of collection concepts to get in the phones we need for the program. Over the past 14 years, we have developed a collection "barrel" that we place in desired spots. Currently, we have approximately 400 collection barrels in use today. Our largest commercial supporters are Whole Foods Market, ShopRite Stores, and

Navy Federal Credit Union branches. They represent half of our permanent locations. The other half are Police Stations, Libraries, Government buildings and Schools. Every year, we hold approximately 300 one-month drives at office buildings, large companies, and civic events. Most of these drives occur in the month of April in concert with Earth Day.

Around 20% of the phones that are donated to Secure the Call is sent to us by both US mail and by UPS. Secure the Call always asks that the person or organization donating the phones pay for the shipping. If needed – Secure the Call has a postage paid Merchandise Return Label that anyone can use for free shipping.

History of Secure the Call: In the Fall of 2002, Mike Morgan was visiting a friend of his, an officer with the Rockville, MD Sheriff's Department, when their lunch date had to be canceled. Mike's friend had to stick around the station and reprogram donated used cell phones that they were giving away the next day at a Senior Citizen Center. Mike stayed and helped. And, he hatched an idea. He would collect cell phones and have his kids and their friends reprogram the phones to satisfy their graduation requirements of community service. He would ask other police and sheriff departments if they too wanted free phones. One thing led to another and six months later he kicked off Secure the Call. Within 3 months, Secure the Call was providing free 911 phones to over 8 different stations in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. Two years later, Secure the Call was a national organization (as well as a 501(c)(3) non-profit) with over 175 community partners that were receiving free phones. Today – that list has grown to over 400 organizations.