International Map Industry Association
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David Thomas

Founder/CEO

Adventure Safely

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

AdventureSafely® - an App that Saves Lives

The AdventureSafely app is intended to save the lives of hikers, mountain bikers, and others who venture off into remote areas where there is little or no cell coverage. How can a mobile app help you if you are in an area where there is no cell coverage? There are two different ways that this app can help a person if there is no cell coverage. Attend this talk to learn about our unique strategy for speeding search and rescue efforts in such remote areas.

BIO

David Thomas is an avid dual-sport motorcyclist and a former Bell Labs Engineer with a master's degree in Computer Science. After going on many long rides by himself (e.g. in remote areas, a couple of hours before sunset, with a storm coming in…), he began to think about safety - most importantly, realizing that it would be better if someone back home had an idea where he was riding.

He knew that there were little pockets and crumbs of usable cell coverage sprinkled around in many remote areas thought to have "no cell coverage." What if an app could be written that would take advantage of these "texting locations," to periodically (automatically) send a text with GPS coordinates to a contact person back home?

So he set out to dust off his IT career by simultaneously learning the Java language, Object Oriented Programming, and the Android API. A significant learning curve! Fast forward about 6 years of working in his spare time, and the AdventureSafely app is finally available for us all to use. Mr. Thomas has spoken at several conferences about the technology he has developed and has two patents applied for, in spite of never having had a paying job in this field.