

What is AirFlare?

An app that transforms an outdoor adventurer's phone into a safety and rescue beacon. AirFlare enables a search team to quickly locate an adventurer in need of assistance, whether in or out of cell service. AirFlare also provides a number of self-help features, for example, the ability to determine the exact location of a friend or family member with a single push of a button, and to quickly navigate to them.

How does AirFlare work?

An outdoor adventurer downloads the AirFlare app to their IOS or Android mobile phone and fills out a short profile which is stored in a Registry. That's it, once downloaded, the AirFlare app does not need to remain open. There is no user action necessary to be discoverable by a search team looking for you, or by a previously authorized contact who has initiated a peer-to-peer request for your location. Following are scenarios in which AirFlare Search Technology is used:

Rescue self-initiation:

1. With a single push of a button, an AirFlare subscriber can pull their phone's GPS coordinates into a message that can be sent to an emergency contact, to 911, or can be read over the phone. Text messages can often be sent in poor cell service environments where phone calls will not connect.
2. If an adventurer calls in a rescue, but cannot describe their location, a search team can send a text message to the caller whether or not they have AirFlare on their phone. Upon receipt, the caller "accepts" the message, and GPS coordinates are automatically pulled into a reply message that are sent back to the search team.
3. AirFlare provides location specific emergency contact information, for example, the number to ski patrol at the resort you are currently at, or whether the county you are currently in has Text-to-911 capability.
4. AirFlare enables use of the phone's camera flash as a power-conscious SOS strobe.

Lost / Missing Adventurer:

1. When a search is initiated for an AirFlare subscriber, a notification is automatically sent to the subject's phone. If the phone is within cell service, it will push its coordinates back to the search team in 20 seconds, unless the subject intervenes and declines.
2. If the subject phone is out of cell service or in airplane mode, an AirFlare Detector is configured by the search team to search specifically for the subject's phone. Carried in a jacket pocket or flown in the air via drone or helicopter, the Detector sees through trees and other terrain barriers. When the Detector comes within range of the subject's phone (typically within ½ mile), it alerts the searcher the subject is in the vicinity, and can be used as a homing device. A Detector can also be configured to search for a non-AirFlare subscriber, but with a reduced probability of detection.
3. When a Detector comes within range of a lost subject phone with AirFlare installed, it instructs the phone to push its GPS coordinates back to the searcher.
4. Returned GPS coordinates can be viewed by search teams from a desktop or mobile device in GIS applications such as Google Earth, mobile GPS applications such as Gaia or Avenza, or native IOS Maps or Google Maps applications.

False Alarms:

Searches often end as false alarms. It's just the nature of the business. When a search is initiated for an AirFlare subscriber, a notification is sent to the subject's phone. If the phone is in cell service, it will push its coordinates back to the search team*, regardless where in the world the subject is located. If the subject phone is out of cell service, the notification is queued, and coordinates are returned when the phone comes back into cell service.

** The subject is provided 20 seconds to decline sending coordinates. If declined, the search team is notified of the action.*

Peer-to-Peer Assistance:

Two or more AirFlare subscribers can pre-authorize the ability to locate each other within cell service with a push of a button from the AirFlare app, and view the returned location on a map. This feature helps friends and loved ones keep track of each other on outings and adventures, and is a powerful tool for time-sensitive scenarios like snow suffocations where a partner might be the closest person to locate and assist.