

Safety First: Episode 2

How to Find Your GPS Coordinates on Your Smartphone

by International Mountain Connection

Hi I'm Michelle Onofrey with International Mountain Connection. Welcome to Safety First.

If you're lost or injured in the mountains you have to call mountain rescue but do you know how to say where you are where is your specific location using GPS coordinates?

Well in this video I'm going to share with you how to use your smartphone to find your exact location or your GPS coordinates.

When I say GPS coordinates this is the longitude and latitude of your exact location. I'm also going to answer the important question, "Do I need an internet connection to find my GPS coordinates?"

I know sometimes technology can be overwhelming and a little scary but don't worry we're going to go through it step by step. So are you ready? Let's go!

Before we get started you need to know how to turn on and off the location services on your smartphone and you need Google Maps.

So we need to start with enabling the location services on your phone and most phones have a screen with all of the different icons for things like internet connection, wi-fi, airplane mode, and there's also an icon that looks like this.

And this is for location services, so you just want to tap that icon and it's going to light up and so now your location services is turned on.

If you don't know where to find the location services on your phone to be able to turn it on and off don't worry all you have to do is go to Google type in enable location services and the kind of phone that you have and you'll have directions that will lead you directly to it so don't worry!

So when you're using Google Maps to find your location you need to make sure that your location services are turned on.

If you forget it's really easy to turn it on within the Google Maps application but I want to make sure that you know how to turn on and off this service because I find that it drains my battery for my phone really quickly.

So after finding your GPS coordinates and you send them to someone it might be a good idea to go ahead and turn off the location services just so you have your battery a little bit longer in case mountain rescue needs to contact you, you have that extra battery life.

So now that we know how to turn on and off location services let's talk about Google Maps. So as I said before it doesn't matter if you have an iPhone or if you have a phone using android you can download Google Maps on either system so it's really easy.

I'm going to be showing you my screen from an android phone but for an iPhone it should be very similar. So if you don't already have Google Maps installed you need to go either to the Google App store if you're running on android or the Apple Store if you're running on iOS.

If you're not familiar with downloading applications, yes you need an internet connection to download the application, but after that let's talk about finding your GPS coordinates. Do we still need this internet connection? What do you think? Yes or no?

So now you know how to turn on and off your location services and you've downloaded Google Maps, so we're ready to go.

When you open up Google Maps it's going to look something like this. You should have a blue dot on your screen. If you don't have a blue dot on your screen showing your location you just need to tap on this icon here and the blue dot will show up.

In the beginning you're going to see a really big blue circle and then it's going to go down to one blue dot that just means that the satellite is fixed on your location.

So to find your GPS coordinates all you have to do is put your finger on that blue dot and you're going to press and hold for two seconds. When you press and hold the blue dot in Google Maps you're going to drop a pin.

You're going to have a red pin appear on your map and that is going to be the exact location and you're going to see coordinates at the bottom and at the top of your screen and these are the coordinates of your location.

All you have to do is put your finger over the coordinates and press down and you will have a pop-up that comes up that says "copy address" and you tap that and the address will be on your clipboard or you'll see a little bar at the bottom and you can swipe to the left and you'll see the icon to share and then you can share using different applications.

If you open Google Maps and the icon here is red with a question mark don't panic! It just means that you didn't turn your location services on and this is what I was talking about before.

It's really easy to fix this all you have to do is press that icon and hold your finger down a pop-up will come up and it says "to continue turn on device location which uses Google's location service". So all you have to do is tap ok and you're ready to go.

The red question mark should disappear. It should become blue and you can go on as we talked about.

Just remember that once you have found your GPS coordinates and you have copied and shared them with whoever you need to share them with that you go ahead and turn off those location services so you don't drain your battery.

And of course we have the most important question! Do we need an internet connection to find our GPSs coordinates using our smartphone?

The short answer is no, you do not need an internet connection to get your GPS coordinates.

If you look at any of the screen shots that I shared with you, my internet service was turned off the entire time. So for you to find your GPS coordinates Google is really cool.

They're helping you find your coordinates using a satellite and you do not need an internet connection.

However to send this information to mountain rescue you do need to be able to make a phone call or send a text message.

If you don't have an internet connection, you will not be able to use Facebook or WhatsApp to send this information.

I suggest that you practice all of the information that I talked about today: turning on and off your location services, opening Google Maps, finding your location, finding your GPS coordinates, and sharing your GPS coordinates.

It's really easy to watch a video and say Oh yeah I understand, I've got it. No big deal. But it's another thing to actually have to do it, especially if you are injured or you are lost and maybe you're a little stressed or panicked.

And this way you'll have some practice and it'll be a little bit easier for you to be able to send these coordinates to mountain rescue.

So remember to practice.

Remember you don't need an internet connection to find your GPS coordinates but you do need at least a phone connection to be able to call or send a text message with your GPS coordinates to mountain rescue.

Talking about whether or not you have an internet connection or a phone connection brings up a really good point.

When you have different messages from your phone saying emergency services only or if you see an x what do these things mean?

Well in the next Safety First episode I'm going to explain to you what it means and what services are actually available when you have these messages on your phone.

If you want to know when the next International Mountain Connection video is released, all you have to do is click on the subscribe button and the bell and why trust International Mountain Connection with your English training?

Because Brian isn't in the kitchen. He's in the mountains. I'll see you soon! Bye!