

## RapidSOS and South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy team up for enhanced access to emergency services

- 240 million<sup>1</sup> 9-1-1 calls are made every year in the U.S.; over 70%<sup>2</sup> are from mobile phones, which fail to provide exact location to emergency dispatchers
- 1 in 26<sup>3</sup> people in the U.S. will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime
- There are 150,000<sup>4</sup> new cases of epilepsy in the U.S. each year
- Haven represents a transformation in access to emergency services – from a phone call solely dependent on voice to a robust data connection for voice, text, medical/demographic data

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Goose Creek, S.C. (July 20, 2016).**

South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy (S.A.F.E) today announced a partnership with [RapidSOS](#), an advanced emergency technology start-up revolutionizing personal safety and family connectivity. The partnership will provide the RapidSOS Haven mobile app for free for one year, giving those associated with S.A.F.E. enhanced access to emergency services. Haven sends important data to 9-1-1 to aid in fast emergency response and better situational awareness for first responders.

Working together, RapidSOS and S.A.F.E will support those with epilepsy and their families, by connecting them to loved ones and providing peace of mind that emergency help is one touch away. When setting up the app, users conveniently enter all medical conditions, allergies, and medications, so that if an emergency occurs, life-saving information is communicated directly to 9-1-1. During an emergency, with one tap on the app, Haven connects to the nearest dispatch center anywhere in the contiguous U.S. In addition to establishing a voice connection, data is sent straight to 9-1-1, including:

- GPS location
- Type of emergency
- Relevant medical and demographic data
- Text messages: Haven speaks the text message if the dispatch center does not have the capability to receive texts. Currently works one-way (user to 9-1-1); two-way coming in future

Additionally, after an alert has been triggered, Haven notifies emergency contacts, so that family and friends are informed.

“Our partnership with S.A.F.E. supports people in South Carolina living with epilepsy, who have more nuanced medical needs than most,” said RapidSOS co-founder and CEO Michael Martin. “We want to make it possible for people with epilepsy and their families to reach help quickly and reliably when they need it most.”

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<sup>1</sup> National Emergency Number Association. <http://www.nena.org/?page=911Statistics>

<sup>2</sup> National 911 Program. *Review of Nationwide 911 Data Collection*. <http://www.911.gov/pdf/current911datacollection-072613.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Epilepsy Foundation. <http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/about-epilepsy-basics>

<sup>4</sup> The Epilepsy Foundation. <http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/about-epilepsy-basics>

The Haven app also includes access to RapidSOS' Family Connect feature. For the first time, people can call 9-1-1 on behalf of a loved one, transmitting their loved one's location and relevant data directly to the dispatch center closest to them. Additionally, Family Connect allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members' real-time locations without the distraction of a phone call or text, and easily ask family and friends for help. A user can choose who can see their location and when it is shared, ensuring privacy and control.

"With epilepsy, you never know when you may need to call for emergency help," said Karen St. Marie, S.A.F.E. Founder & Executive Director. "Being able to transmit vital medical information to emergency personnel with one touch is extremely beneficial to people with epilepsy and their families."

RapidSOS is offering Haven for free for one year to those associated with S.A.F.E. when they sign up here: <https://rapidsos.com/referrals/safe/>. The Haven app is available for iPhone and Android devices and works anywhere across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, with one touch emergency calling in over 250 countries and jurisdictional territories. For more information about RapidSOS and the Haven app, visit [www.rapidsos.com](http://www.rapidsos.com).

### **About RapidSOS**

RapidSOS was formed in 2012 by a team of M.I.T., Harvard, and Stanford grad students who had personal experiences with the challenges of the existing emergency communication infrastructure. Working closely with the 9-1-1 community, tech and telecom companies, and leading investors, RapidSOS is developing technology to predict and preempt emergencies before they occur, dynamically warn people in harm's way, and ensure that first responders are one touch away globally. Learn more at [www.RapidSOS.com](http://www.RapidSOS.com)

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### **About South Carolina Advocates For Epilepsy**

The mission of S.A.F.E. is to:

**Advocate** on behalf of patients, their families/caregivers

**Educate** people from all walks of life about epilepsy and seizure first-aid

**Inspire** patients, families, caregivers, students and community members to make a difference for themselves and others who deal with epilepsy on a daily basis

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