

# Mobile panic button

**H**ow safe are you and your colleagues? Conduct a poll in the average office and most property professionals will recount at least one anecdote reminding everyone that, while actual incidents are rare, many people have found themselves in uncomfortable situations without an immediate way of calling for help.

Awareness training and sensible office procedures are the first steps to minimizing risk and now technology can also provide additional assistance and reassurance to lone workers. Hand held GPS devices are being getting better, although these are still expensive to buy and operate and batteries require regular charging. In addition, the signal can be lost when indoors and effective operation depends on the device being remembered in the first place rather than left on a desk or in the car! A rape alarm, consisting of a siren powered by compressed air is an alternative that has been around for several years but setting it off is normally a reaction once a situation has developed and it depends on passers by hearing and reacting to the sound.

Maybe the answer lies in that favourite business tool of property professionals – the mobile phone? Mobile phones have the advantage of being constantly to hand so you don't have to remember another

device – and pretty well all of us keep ours charged. Furthermore, it's possible to locate a mobile phone, provided the process is approved by the networks.

MobileSOS, which has more than 1,000 property professional users, takes advantage of these characteristics, turning any mobile phone into a panic button. By pressing one speed dial button on your phone's keypad a message and your current location is sent out via voice, text and email to the contacts you've previously chosen, together with a recording of any background sounds – so your message goes to someone you trust to take control of your situation. Also available is a timer service that sends out a message if you fail to cancel within the preset time – perfect for viewings – and an "I'm ok" service to allow you to check in with the office.

Gilliaume Oosthuizen, chief technical officer of MobileSOS, says: "Everyone carries a mobile phone but it's unlikely you're going to be able to make a standard call and have a conversation in a difficult situation. MobileSOS gets the essential details to your contacts without even revealing that you've made a call. Just having it on your phone, for any time you may need help, is a great assurance for a few pounds a month\*."

NO amount of planning or technology can make you immune from unpleasant



situations, but sensible precautions and good technology will minimise the chances of these situations developing.

*\* Terms & conditions and usage costs may apply. MobileSOS corporate subscriptions can be bought by calling 0871 277 0911. [www.mobilesos.co.uk](http://www.mobilesos.co.uk)*

## Attending from a distance

Marmitek has launched the IP Eye Anywhere, an IP camera without infrared LEDs. IR LEDs are often built in standard IP cameras for extra lighting in the dark. A big disadvantage of these LEDs however is that they distort the colours of the image very badly. Because of the development of the IP Eye Anywhere without IR LEDs the result is a true-to-life rendering of the colours. With the professional lens of the camera an undiminished clear image, even in low light conditions, is produced.

With this camera you can watch or record the images live throughout the world and mail them (automatically) to your email addresses or FTP server without using a computer. The innovative technology of the technology is supported by every popular web browser, and results in the best possible picture quality. It comes wired, wireless, with or without built-in microphone, MPEG4 video compression and autonomous recording possibility (on USB stick).

It has a built-in web server with its own IP address. The ideal solution for 'watching or attending from a distance'.

The four models of the IP Eye Anywhere have been fitted with intelligent functions, which make it possible to operate the

cameras remotely. Secured access using a password means the images are 'for your eyes only'. The resolution and digital zoom can be adapted to your preferences. The camera has a function to mail images automatically to your pc, both periodic as through motion detection. With the included UltraView software recording, sending and saving of the material is a piece of cake. With this software you also can watch multiple IP Eye Anywhere cameras (up to 16) simultaneously.

The IP Eye Anywhere 10 (wired) and 11 (wireless) operate with the Motion JPEG format. This MJPEG supplies video files of high quality, because each image is saved separately as picture. But the files are not getting too large because the motion detector on the camera only makes a recording if there actually is something going on. The IP Eye Anywhere 20 (wired) and 21 (wireless) go a step further. Arthur van Horssen, sales & marketing manager of Marmitek, said: "These

advanced models use high quality MPEG4 compression. That means that you will always see flowing images, even if the connection to the internet is actually too slow. The compression keeps the video files small and therefore easy to send and watch, even on your mobile phone. Besides that, both cameras have a built-in microphone and can operate autonomously when there is no network or router nearby. We have fitted the IP Eye Anywhere 20 and 21 with a USB connection, so you can save the images on a USB stick and watch them later."

