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University of Missouri officials announced last week a new mobile app that turns any smartphone into a personal safety device and allows users to access safety services at the touch of a button.

“We’re always looking for new ways to update security measures and ensure our students, staff and faculty feel safe and comfortable on campus,” Chief Doug Schwandt of the University of Missouri Police Department, said. “The Rave Guardian app is another safety tool that university officials believe will enhance the security of our campus community,”

MU decided to invest in the [Rave Guardian](#) because it provides users with an added layer of protection through a device familiar to many people — smartphones.

Rave Guardian is easy to use and provides direct access to emergency services with a touch of a button.

By downloading Rave Guardian to a mobile phone, users can invite friends and family to join their network as “guardians.” When needed, users can request one or more of their guardians to virtually walk with them on or off campus. During the timed trip, Rave Guardian will share your approximate location and route with your appointed guardian, and they can follow along using GPS.

Should users run into trouble during a trip, they can use the app to call 911 or the MU police department at the touch of a button — no dialing required — revealing their Rave Guardian profile and real-time location and facilitating a quicker emergency response.

Other features include:

- **Stored medical emergency information:** Users can build an app profile, including any personal and medical information, which can be shared with designated responders.
- **Submit information:** Text information, including photos, about suspicious activity or maintenance requests, such as when a light is out on campus, directly to MUPD.
- **Timer:** Set a timer in a few easy steps, and friends and family can watch loved ones walk at night or travel to a new area.
- **Call directory:** Access other emergency and campus numbers at the push of a button.
- **Links:** Direct links to various emergency and campus services.

The Rave Guardian app system will cost MU \$8,000 a year. The app is free for users and can be downloaded in the Apple or Google Play stores by searching for “Rave Guardian.”