Session Plan: Using apps to monitor disasters near you

Session overview:

This session will give learners the practical skills to be able to monitor nearby disasters using Government emergency services apps. This will help them in their emergency planning and allow them to make informed decisions about what to do. They will feel confident in knowing that the information they are using is from a reliable source.

Learning objectives:

To increase knowledge and confidence in using government produced emergency services apps to monitor nearby disasters.

Suggested session length:

40 minutes

Resources to prepare:

Print a CaptureIT sign in form (for Be Connected sessions), and the tip sheet "Finding reliable disaster information online" for learners to take away from the session. Prepare the learning resources you plan to share on a large screen during the session and have them open on your device ready to show. Learners to "Bring your own" (BYO) Device or be set up with a loan device at your organisation prior to the session. WiFi password and details displayed clearly in the learning space.

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Prior knowledge:

Learners should have access to a device that can download and install apps. If learners aren't sure what apps are, there is an entire topic on the Be Connected Learning Portal dedicated to apps with several courses for learners to complete.

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment	Resources
Introduction and welcome	5 minutes	Learners sign in using the CaptureIT form (for Be Connected sessions) and connect to WiFi. Welcome everyone to the session, ask them to introduce themselves to each other. Consider using an icebreaker activity.	Learners feel more comfortable with you and in the learning space.	• CaptureIT form • Laptop, data projector, screen, cables, speakers • WiFi password
Group discussion	5 minutes	Ask the group who has used a map based app before like Google Maps. Explain that the maps on the government emergency app are similar to those, but instead of using them for things like getting directions, they show information relating to bushfires/natural disasters.		• Finding reliable disaster information online

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment	Resources
Online learning	10 minutes	Ask learners to complete the 'Getting apps for iPhones & iPads' or 'Getting apps for Android phones & tablets' online course on the [Be Connected learning portal]().	Learners feel more confident downloading apps from app stores.	• [Getting apps | Free Online Course | Be Connected]()
Demonstration	8 minutes	Show how to find a government issued emergency service app in official app stores. Show learners how to see the: • reviews of the app, • who made it, • the cost, • how to download and install the app, and • how to keep it updated through the app store. Demonstrate how to open the app and discuss the features of it, which may include: • Maps of hazards • Creating "watch zones" in areas near them • Setting up notifications	Learners understand the Government managed emergency apps available to them. Learners understand how to search for and download a reliable emergency services app on their device.	

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment	Resources
		- Warning levels and categories - Menu - Planning ahead for disasters Advise that, if set up, notifications will be sent when a situation arises/changes. They are not to be 100% relied upon as notifications may be disabled on the device or not work due to network disruptions. Learners should check manually and have a back up plan.		
Practical activity	7 minutes	Using their devices learners can go onto their app stores, search for their emergency services app and download it onto their device if they choose. Ask learners to open the app and set up watch zones, (they can do this at home if they prefer). Walk around the group offering support and answer questions, as needed.	Learners can download their emergency services app and use its features more confidently e.g. to set up watch zones.	

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Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment	Resources
Session wrap up	5 minutes	Remind learners that while the Australian or State Government issued apps are reliable, it's important to make sure they're not solely relying on them. Local radio and other communication platforms such as official social media channels should also be monitored, and in the case of a blackout their internet connection may not work. Wrap up the session. This is a good opportunity to mention any other sessions you may be running about preparing for a crisis or using social media.	Learners feel comfortable downloading and using government apps to monitor disasters in their areas.	

Suggested next steps:

Good Things Foundation has two other session plans to help your learners understand what online resources are available to assist them during a disaster. They are:

- [Using the internet to stay safe during a disaster](#)
- [Using Facebook to keep updated during a disaster](#)