

Numbers Everyone Should Have on Speed Dial

Edited from original article

By Jason Daley, Best Life

1. U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs' Overseas Citizens Services

You thought you were just bringing home a ceramic monkey, but instead you've picked up a concussion, 73 stitches, and a trial date in a Moroccan drug court. Luckily, you have the U.S. Department of State's Overseas Citizens Services on speed dial. Their case officers can assist in handling robberies, medical emergencies, missing passports, and pretty much any other sort of calamity that could ruin a family vacation. 202-501-4444

2. Weber Grill-Line

Wondering how to yank the beer can out of the chicken, keep grilled red snapper from falling apart, or smoke rib tips? Ring a certified barbecue expert (known as a "CBE" in BBQ-speak) at the Weber Grill-Line. These veteran grill jockeys — the line has answered more than a million calls since its debut in 1989 — are on call seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. central time (closed on Christmas). 800-474-5568

3. Language Line Services

This number offers 24-7 emergency translations of more than 170 languages from Icelandic to Urdu to Fukienese (say it out loud). All you need to do is enter a credit-card number — it's \$3.95 a minute — and within a few seconds, a translator will hop on the line. Finally, an easy way to firm up account details with those well-intentioned Nigerian businessmen who keep e-mailing. 800-752-6096

4. 411-SONG

Unidentified catchy tunes — they're as infectious as smallpox. Next time you're dying to find out the title and artist of a song, dial 411-SONG. Hold your cell phone up to the speaker for 15 seconds, and the service will identify the tune from its database of 2.5 million songs (sorry, no classical or live tracks) and then send you a text message containing the title and artist and an option to buy the

song. The call is free, as is the first time you try it. After that, you are billed 99 cents per text message. 866-411-7664

5. GOOG-411

The Internet giant has now wrapped one of its rainbow-colored tentacles around 411, ending the reign of pay information services, which never seem to have the listing you need anyway. 800-466-4411

6. In Case of Emergency

Started by paramedics in 2005, the ICE program is an effort to get people to list their emergency contacts in their phone under the label ICE. Then, if you're in an accident, police or hospital staff can use your cell phone to notify your family or friends quickly. Simply input the phone numbers and store them as "ICE-wife," "ICE-dad," "ICE-daughter," etc. Some people also put a small red sticker on their phone to let emergency services know it contains ICE numbers.