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### Smart safety in cases of emergency

Olaf Kirschberger, Lüneburg, Basic + Advanced

The flood disaster of 2021 was a natural catastrophe involving severe flash floods and mudslides that cost the lives of more than 180 people in Germany alone. In Rhineland-Palatinate, more than seven hundred people were injured.

Many people with impaired hearing – some with "only" moderate hearing loss – were unable to hear the sirens or megaphone announcements of the rescue teams and emergency forces at night because hearing systems are not worn at night. The lives of these individuals are in acute danger in emergency situations such as these.

Using today's technology from alerting systems, or standalone systems (for travel), so-called cell broadcasting (warning text messages) can ensure that people with hearing impairments are notified early of hazards of this kind, even if they do not wear their hearing systems or speech processors.