

The Europeans have readily adopted the use of Text Messaging for multiple applications. Currently the main users in the US are High School and College Students. There are web-based platforms available and there are interfaces that will allow 2-way communications world wide as "One-to-one," or "One-to-many" transmissions where we can keep track, transmit reminders, check-ins or send requests for help. Main stream America is slow in accepting and in showing the willingness to pay for this technology. FEMA is one of the Governemnt organizations that should immediately commit to the use of SMS Text Messaging as a pre-disaster warning and post-disasster means of communication when power and hard line phone capabilities are limited or non-existent. The use of cell phones increases dramatically after a disaster, therefore making it more difficult to obtain incoming or outgoing connections. The SMS messaging platforms use very little bandwidth and is transmitted at such a high rate of speed, most messages can be received and/or replied to in relatively real time.