

# What Cell Phones Can & Can't Do - Fact & Fiction

As I have said before, a little truth goes a long way to a lot of fiction ;-}

## **Not Quite - The worldwide emergency number for cell phones is 112.**

112 is the *Europe*-wide emergency phone number. Throughout **most** of the European Union and some neighboring countries, dialing 112 *will* connect callers to local emergency services. The system **doesn't** include **North** and **South America**, **Asia**, or **Africa**.



According to some sources, many — but not all — cell phone models are pre-programmed to redirect calls made to any of the most common emergency numbers (e.g., 911, 999, 000, 112) to the proper local services regardless of the caller's location. And many — but not all — cell phone models and service providers will allow the most common emergency numbers to be dialed even if the caller is outside his or her regular service area, or the phone lacks a SIM card. However, no mobile phones can put through calls, emergency or otherwise, from locations where no cell service exists at all.

Within the U.S., dialing 911 remains the most direct and reliable way of contacting emergency services regardless of what kind of phone you use. **Don't dial 112**, unless you want to play 'Russian Roulette' with your life.

Also most cell carriers **do not** charge minutes, etc when dialing 911, even on stolen, hacked or burn phones.



## **FALSE - Unlock a car door with your cell phone and a spare remote key.**

Cell phones and remote keyless entry systems work on entirely different radio frequencies. Therefore, cell phones are incapable of re-transmitting the signal from a remote key to unlock a car door. Now if you have a service like OnStar, you can use any phone, cell or not, to call and they can remotely unlock your vehicle.



**FALSE - Press \*3370# to access 'reserve battery power.'**

On **some** Nokia phones, users can punch in special codes and toggle between speech codec modes to

- 1) enhance voice transmission quality at the cost of diminished battery performance
- 2) enhance battery performance by decreasing voice quality. Apparently, some users have misconstrued the latter as "*tapping into reserve battery power*". On that score the **email is doubly erroneous** because \*3370# is the code for *enhancing* voice quality, so using it actually *decreases* battery life!



**Not Exactly - Press \*#06# to disable a stolen cell phone.**

On **some** cell phone models, but not all, pressing \*#06# will cause the phone's 15-digit **International Mobile Equipment Identity** to be displayed. Some service providers, **but not all**, can use that information to deactivate the handset. In any case, it isn't necessary to supply an IMEI number to cancel your cellular account in the event of theft; simply call your provider, give them the appropriate account information, and tell them the phone was stolen.



**Basically TRUE - Make 411 calls on your cell phone without charge by dialing (800) FREE 411.**

Though cell phone users **may still incur a charge** for minutes used, depending on the specifics of their plan. Additionally, cell phones are '*line of sight*' devices. If a cell phone cannot '*see*' a cell tower, you get '*No Bars*'.



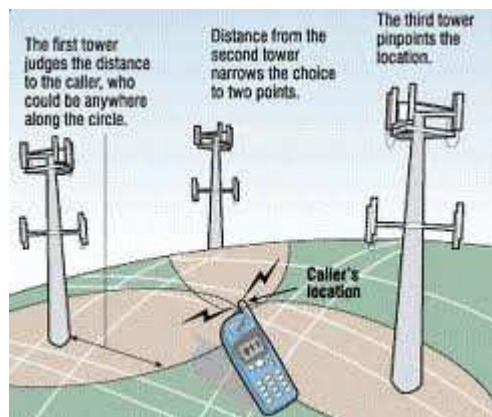
**Cell phone towers** are also line ‘*line of sight*’ devices that use satellites to bounce signals and beat the curve of the earth and hence your call makes it to the other side of the world. In fact when cell phones first came into existence the ‘*relay*’ of the cell signal was tower to tower and calls were often slow and ‘noisy’.

Satellite phones use direct satellite signals and in *some* models, if a satellite is not available, it will use a cell tower to reach a satellite that is within target.

GPS and GIS tracking is something that is being utilized via Law Enforcement and Fire/Safety/Rescue organizations. It is also being incorporated in the national EAS system. This technology was derived from the military, as are most of modern conveniences today.



Most cell phones emit a GPS signal even if you do NOT have that service activated on your phone. In the majority of cases the cell phone must at least be turned on to function. In many 3G and 4G phones your cell or *SmartPhone* type phone can be turned *off* and its location *still* pinpointed. Which results in people removing their battery, in order to avoid being located.



## What Cell Phones Can & Can't Do – Continued

Even cheap 'burn' phones that do not have GPS technology can be tracked via triangulation of the cell towers being used when a call is sent or received. The 'snoopers' just don't have any idea *who* is actually using the phone.

Any 'wave' single, shortwave, microwave, etc for phones, TVs and radio, *can be intercepted* IF one has the knowledge, skill and equipment to do so. This is much easier to do via a hard core cabled system, like your land line phone.



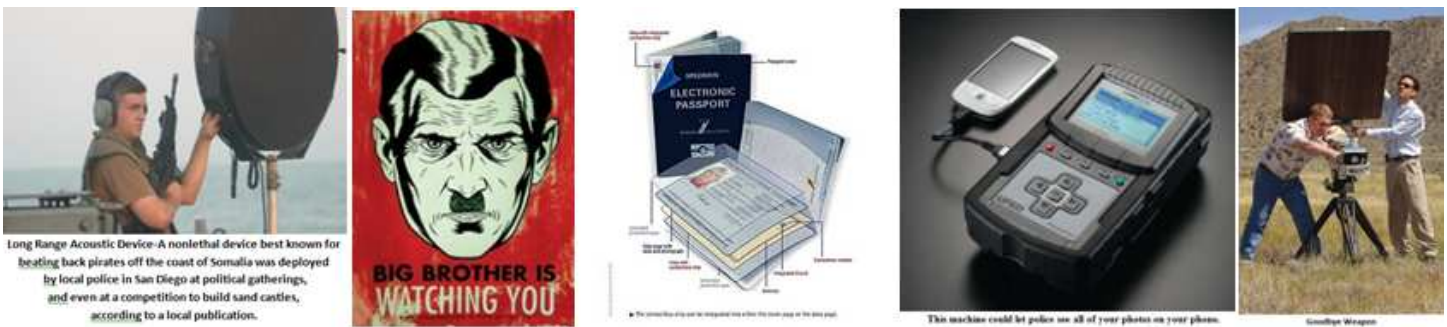
Like most things this locating, scanning and 'tapping' technology can be good and bad.



In emergencies when you don't know where you are and the like, this is good.



If there is someone planning a murder or something horrendous like that, and the authorities use proper channels to get warrants and such, this is good.



**When the government bypasses our Constitution to see if *their* fears are true or not – this is very, very bad.**



How a cell phone actually works, blows a few conspiracy theory ‘facts’ out of the water.

*“Today is the Tomorrow that you worried about Yesterday”*

TNT



## Resources

50 Emergency Uses for a Camera Phone	<a href="http://www.disasterprep101.com/documents/50PhoneCam.pdf">www.disasterprep101.com/documents/50PhoneCam.pdf</a>
Cell Phone Functions	<a href="http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/household/cellphones.asp">http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/household/cellphones.asp</a>
Cell Phone Tips	<a href="http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/c/cell%20phones.htm">http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/c/cell%20phones.htm</a>
Mobile Phone Tips - Things You Never Knew Your Mobile Phone Could Do	<a href="http://www.hoax-slayer.com/mobile-phone-tips.shtml">http://www.hoax-slayer.com/mobile-phone-tips.shtml</a>
Mobile World Sparks Cell Phone Spam Onslaught	<a href="http://www.scambusters.org/cellphonespam.html">http://www.scambusters.org/cellphonespam.html</a>
Things You Never Knew Your Cell Phone Could Do	<a href="http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/business/a/cellphone_tips.htm">http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/business/a/cellphone_tips.htm</a>
What you can and can't do with cell phones	<a href="http://savannahnow.com/exchange/2012-01-01/what-you-can-and-cant-do-cell-phones">http://savannahnow.com/exchange/2012-01-01/what-you-can-and-cant-do-cell-phones</a>
How Cell-phone <b>Viruses</b> Work	<a href="http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/cell-phone-virus.htm">http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/cell-phone-virus.htm</a>
10 Ways We Are Being Tracked, Traced, and Databased	<a href="http://nwoobserver.wordpress.com/2010/07/11/10-ways-we-are-being-tracked-traced-and-databased/">http://nwoobserver.wordpress.com/2010/07/11/10-ways-we-are-being-tracked-traced-and-databased/</a>
6 Creepy New Weapons the Police and Military Use To Subdue Unarmed People	<a href="http://www.alternet.org/world/151864/6_creepy_new_weapons_the_police_and_military_use_to_subdue_unarmed_people/?page=entire">http://www.alternet.org/world/151864/6_creepy_new_weapons_the_police_and_military_use_to_subdue_unarmed_people/?page=entire</a>

## What Cell Phones Can & Can't Do – Continued

Big Brother 2.0: 10 New Ways That The Government Will Be Spying On You And Controlling Your Behavior	<a href="http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/big-brother-2-0-10-new-ways-that-the-government-will-be-spying-on-you-and-controlling-your-behavior">http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/big-brother-2-0-10-new-ways-that-the-government-will-be-spying-on-you-and-controlling-your-behavior</a>
FISA legislation, which makes government spying on citizens legal-both George W. Bush and Barack Obama have supported it	<a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25355673/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25355673/</a>
Facebook Is Now Using Facial Recognition Technology – Have You Checked Your Privacy Settings Lately?	<a href="http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/facebook-is-now-using-facial-recognition-technology-have-you-checked-your-privacy-settings-lately">http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/facebook-is-now-using-facial-recognition-technology-have-you-checked-your-privacy-settings-lately</a>
Facebook Video- How to Disable Facebook's Facial Recognition Feature	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&amp;v=JJOFFOX98nY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&amp;v=JJOFFOX98nY</a>
SCARY: Cops Who Pull You Over And Download All Your Phone Data	<a href="http://www.businessinsider.com/scary-cops-who-pull-you-over-and-download-all-your-phone-data-2011-4">http://www.businessinsider.com/scary-cops-who-pull-you-over-and-download-all-your-phone-data-2011-4</a>
Can You Hear Me Now? The Truth about Cell Phones and Cancer	<a href="http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=can-you-hear-me-now">http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=can-you-hear-me-now</a>
Carrier IQ: Researcher Trevor Eckhart Outs Creepy, Hidden App Installed On Smartphones (VIDEO) (UPDATE)	<a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/30/carrier-iq-trevor-eckhart_n_1120727.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/30/carrier-iq-trevor-eckhart_n_1120727.html</a>
Carrier IQ: The Sony rootkit all over again (Can someone legally record almost everything you do on your phone without telling you? Yes. Meet Carrier IQ, whose software is installed on nearly 142 million handsets)	<a href="http://www.infoworld.com/t/tingely/carrier-iq-spying-your-cellphone-180425">http://www.infoworld.com/t/tingely/carrier-iq-spying-your-cellphone-180425</a>
Cell Phone GPS Tracking	<a href="http://www.countrysurvival.com/cell-phone-gps-tracking/">http://www.countrysurvival.com/cell-phone-gps-tracking/</a>
Cell Phone Spying by Carrier IQ? Define Spying (The wireless services that have implanted Carrier IQ on Android and Blackberry phones)	<a href="http://news.discovery.com/tech/carrier-iq-cell-phone-spying-111202.html">http://news.discovery.com/tech/carrier-iq-cell-phone-spying-111202.html</a>
Cops Can Search Your Phone Without a Warrant	<a href="http://www.countrysurvival.com/cops-can-search-your-phone-without-a-warrant/">http://www.countrysurvival.com/cops-can-search-your-phone-without-a-warrant/</a>
FCC, FEMA offer new tech tips for emergencies Special to CNN	<a href="http://articles.cnn.com/2011-09-22/tech/tech_mobile_mobile-emergency-tip-sheet_1_cell-phone-emergency-kit-preparedness?_s=PM:TECH">http://articles.cnn.com/2011-09-22/tech/tech_mobile_mobile-emergency-tip-sheet_1_cell-phone-emergency-kit-preparedness?_s=PM:TECH</a>
GIS Best Practices: Using GIS with GPS (EAS & Cellphones)	<a href="http://www.aeroterra.com/PDF/using-gis-with-gps.pdf">http://www.aeroterra.com/PDF/using-gis-with-gps.pdf</a>
Guidelines on Cell Phone and PDA Security (DRAFT) Special Publication 800-124 2008-SP800-124	<a href="http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-124/SP800-124.pdf">http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-124/SP800-124.pdf</a>
History of Cellular and Mobile Phones-PCS-Digital Cell Phones	<a href="http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blcell.htm">http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blcell.htm</a>
How a Satellite Phone Works When Other Phones Stopped Working	<a href="http://www.globalcomsatphone.com/articles/how.html">http://www.globalcomsatphone.com/articles/how.html</a>
How Cell Phone Communications Work	<a href="http://www.howstuffworks.com/cell-phone.htm">http://www.howstuffworks.com/cell-phone.htm</a>
How Cell Phone Communications Work	<a href="http://peacecraft.tripod.com/infomining/cellphon.htm">http://peacecraft.tripod.com/infomining/cellphon.htm</a>
How Cell Phone Communications Work	<a href="http://www.cell-phone-accessories.com/how-does-cell-phone-work.html">http://www.cell-phone-accessories.com/how-does-cell-phone-work.html</a>
How Cell Phone Communications Work	<a href="http://www.privateline.com/mt_cellbasics/">http://www.privateline.com/mt_cellbasics/</a>
How do cellular phone towers work?	<a href="http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/CancerCauses/OtherCarcinogens/AtHome/cellular-phone-towers">http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/CancerCauses/OtherCarcinogens/AtHome/cellular-phone-towers</a>
How do Satellite Phones Work?	<a href="http://www.njlawman.com/Articles%202/Satellite-Phones.htm">http://www.njlawman.com/Articles%202/Satellite-Phones.htm</a>

## What Cell Phones Can & Can't Do – Continued

How Do Satellite Phones Work?	<a href="http://www.dailynewarticles.com/article/623/14510/How_Do_Satellite_Phones_Work.html">http://www.dailynewarticles.com/article/623/14510/How_Do_Satellite_Phones_Work.html</a>
How do satellite phones work?	<a href="http://curiosity.discovery.com/question/how-satellite-phones-work">http://curiosity.discovery.com/question/how-satellite-phones-work</a>
How Satellite Phones Work When Land Based Communication Fails	<a href="http://www.globalsatellitecommunications.com/communication_fails.html">http://www.globalsatellitecommunications.com/communication_fails.html</a>
How to Communicate Across Satellite Networks	<a href="http://www.gilat.com/Content.aspx?Page=how_to_communicate_across_satellite_networks">http://www.gilat.com/Content.aspx?Page=how_to_communicate_across_satellite_networks</a>
Is Your Cell Phone Spying on You?	<a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josh-levy/phone-spying-technology_b_1123726.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josh-levy/phone-spying-technology_b_1123726.html</a>
Is Your Cell Phone Spying on You? (Developed as a mobile analytics platform, Carrier IQ's software can be found on most Android, BlackBerry and Nokia phones -- over 140 million)	<a href="http://news.discovery.com/tech/your-android-smartphone-secretly-spying-111201.html">http://news.discovery.com/tech/your-android-smartphone-secretly-spying-111201.html</a>
Mobile phones on aircraft	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phones_on_aircraft">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phones_on_aircraft</a>
Police Can View Email Without Warrant	<a href="http://www.countrysurvival.com/police-can-view-email-without-warrant/">http://www.countrysurvival.com/police-can-view-email-without-warrant/</a>
Questions and Answers About Wireless Phones, Do Wireless Phones Pose a Health Hazard?	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/cellphones/qa.html">http://www.fda.gov/cellphones/qa.html</a>
Satellite Phone - How does it work?	<a href="http://www.highspeedsat.com/satellite-phone-how.htm">http://www.highspeedsat.com/satellite-phone-how.htm</a>
Satellite Phone FAQs	<a href="http://www.bluecosmo.com/pages/Satellite-Phone-FAQs.html">http://www.bluecosmo.com/pages/Satellite-Phone-FAQs.html</a>
Smart Mapping for Law Enforcement Settings, Integrating GIS and GPS for Dynamic, Near-real Time Applications and Analyses (EAS & Cellphones)	<a href="http://www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume_08/12-Sorensen.pdf">http://www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume_08/12-Sorensen.pdf</a>
Stalkers Exploit Cellphone GPS	<a href="http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703467304575383522318244234.html">http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703467304575383522318244234.html</a>
The Law Enforcement Surveillance Reporting Gap	<a href="http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1806628">http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1806628</a>
The Physics of Cell Phones	<a href="http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/2003/4/03.04.07.x.html">http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/2003/4/03.04.07.x.html</a>
U.S. police increasingly view private email, instant messages	<a href="http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215730/U.S._police_increasingly_view_private_email_instant_messages">http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215730/U.S._police_increasingly_view_private_email_instant_messages</a>
Using GIS with GPS (EAS & Cellphones)	<a href="http://www.esri.com/library/bestpractices/using-gis-with-gps.pdf">http://www.esri.com/library/bestpractices/using-gis-with-gps.pdf</a>
2004 US Admin caught providing private data on Arab Americans to Homeland Security	<a href="http://epic.org/privacy/census/foia/">http://epic.org/privacy/census/foia/</a>
ACLU wants to know how Michigan cops use 'data extraction devices'	<a href="http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20055431-1.html">http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20055431-1.html</a>
Active Denial System	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_Denial_System">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_Denial_System</a>
China Readies Super ID Card - A Worry to Some	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/19/world/china-readies-super-id-card-a-worry-to-some.html?pagewanted=1">http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/19/world/china-readies-super-id-card-a-worry-to-some.html?pagewanted=1</a>
Control Freak Society: Government To Monitor School Lunches With Cameras	<a href="http://www.infowars.com/control-freak-society-government-to-monitor-school-lunches-with-cameras/">http://www.infowars.com/control-freak-society-government-to-monitor-school-lunches-with-cameras/</a>
Control Freak Society: Video - Cameras videotape the eating habits of school children	<a href="http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/national/cameras-videotape-the-eating-habits-">http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/national/cameras-videotape-the-eating-habits-</a>

## What Cell Phones Can & Can't Do – Continued

	<a href="#">of-school-children-20110512</a>
Crime Prediction Software Is Here and It's a Very Bad Idea	<a href="http://gizmodo.com/5517231/crime-prediction-software-is-here-and-its-a-very-bad-idea">http://gizmodo.com/5517231/crime-prediction-software-is-here-and-its-a-very-bad-idea</a>
FBI wants businesses watching for customers paying with cash	<a href="http://www.wnd.com/2011/08/332925/">http://www.wnd.com/2011/08/332925/</a>
February, 2009, Barack Obama placed the Census Bureau under the direct control of the White House	<a href="http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0209/020609cdam2.htm">http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0209/020609cdam2.htm</a>
Futuristic tattoos can monitor health, link you to the web	<a href="http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/08/11/futuristic-tattoos-can-monitor-health-link-you-to-the-web/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NP_Top_Stories+%28National+Post+-+Top+Stories%29&amp;utm_content=Google+Reader">http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/08/11/futuristic-tattoos-can-monitor-health-link-you-to-the-web/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NP_Top_Stories+%28National+Post+-+Top+Stories%29&amp;utm_content=Google+Reader</a>
L.A. jail tests 'intolerable heat' beam on brawling inmates	<a href="http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/08/24/l-a-jail-tests-intolerable-heat-beam-on-brawling-inmates/">http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/08/24/l-a-jail-tests-intolerable-heat-beam-on-brawling-inmates/</a>
London police use facial recognition to ID riot thugs	<a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/08/11/london-riots-facial-recognition.html?ref=rss">http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/08/11/london-riots-facial-recognition.html?ref=rss</a>
No More Privacy: Smart Meters Are Surveillance Devices That Monitor The Behavior In Your Home Every Single Minute Of Every Single Day	<a href="http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/no-more-privacy-smart-meters-are-surveillance-devices-that-monitor-the-behavior-in-your-home-every-single-minute-of-every-single-day">http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/no-more-privacy-smart-meters-are-surveillance-devices-that-monitor-the-behavior-in-your-home-every-single-minute-of-every-single-day</a>
Pittsburgh deploys teargas and sirens to keep G20 demonstrators at bay	<a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/sep/24/g20-pittsburgh-protest-police">http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/sep/24/g20-pittsburgh-protest-police</a>
Privacy Impact Assessment for the REAL ID Act	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_realid.pdf">http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_realid.pdf</a>
Say Hello to the Goodbye Weapon	<a href="http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2006/12/72134?currentPage=1">http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2006/12/72134?currentPage=1</a> ; <a href="http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2006/12/72134?currentPage=2">http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2006/12/72134?currentPage=2</a>
Sonic Warfare Erupts in Pittsburgh, Honduras	<a href="http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2009/09/sonic-warfare-erupts-in-pittsburgh-honduras/">http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2009/09/sonic-warfare-erupts-in-pittsburgh-honduras/</a>
Sonic Warfare Video - LRAD Sound Weapon... Not so bad! G20 Scenes from Lawrenceville	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8NMyUHfHhM&amp;feature=player_embedded">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8NMyUHfHhM&amp;feature=player_embedded</a>
State to 'spy' on every phone call, email and web search	<a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/6534319/State-to-spy-on-every-phone-call-email-and-web-search.html">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/6534319/State-to-spy-on-every-phone-call-email-and-web-search.html</a>
Terrorist watch list hits 1 million	<a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-03-10-watchlist_N.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-03-10-watchlist_N.htm</a>
U.S. a Real ID Card	<a href="http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAr eaID=140&amp;subsecid=290&amp;contentid=250075">http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAr eaID=140&amp;subsecid=290&amp;contentid=250075</a>
U.S. a Real ID Card Privacy	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_realid.pdf">http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_pia_realid.pdf</a>
U.S. National ID Card	<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8175139.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8175139.stm</a>
Video - BREAKING ALERT: Mass Arrests, Tear Gas, Sound Weapons used Against WIU Students	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufKv-5t0t4E">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufKv-5t0t4E</a>