GSA is committed to providing a safe and secure meeting environment. The following are suggestions for how you can protect yourself in situations that may occur during the meeting.

Always remember that in a life-threatening emergency, dial 911. If you are within the convention center or hotel, it is helpful to have someone notify a staff member or building employee if possible to avoid delays with emergency responders.

If an emergency or situation occurs at any time during the conference and you need additional assistance from GSA, please notify a GSA staff member in the Phoenix Convention Center, North Building, Room 123, or call +1-602-239-5906 as soon as possible after any incidents. (After hours, you can text or call +1-720-507-7523.)

Important phone numbers in case of emergency:
@ Convention Center: Dial 85 using a house phone or +1-602-262-7271 when using a cell phone.
@ Sheraton Phoenix Downtown: Dial 0 (or 911 for emergency responders) using a house phone.
@ your hotel: Dial zero for the hotel operator.

Within the city:
Phoenix Police Department, 200 Washington Street:
+1-602-262-6011
Non-Emergency Dispatch: +1-602-262-6151
Silent Witness: 480-WITNESS
Banner–University Medical Center Phoenix, 1111 E McDowell Road: +1-602-839-2000

Also Recommended: If you have a cell phone, create an emergency contact entry and list it under “ICE” (In Case of Emergency). On the back of your meeting ID badge, please write an emergency contact name and number for someone who is attending the meeting with you.

FIRE SAFETY

While at the Convention Center: Study the floor plans in the meeting program for the exits nearest to your session room as well as to other rooms you plan to visit, including the exhibit hall.
While at Your Hotel: Locate the fire exits on your floor, put your room key close to where you sleep, and check the windows to see if they open.

In case of fire:
• Keep your room key with you;
• Never open a door without first checking for smoke or heat (if the door feels warm, don’t open it);
• If smoke is present, keep low to the floor—do not walk upright;
• Do not use elevators;
• If smoke is in a stairwell, avoid it—choose another route or return to your room if there no accessible way out.

If you must remain in your room during a fire:
• Let someone know you are in the room—if the phone works, call for help;
• Open or break (if necessary) the window for fresh air, but not if you see smoke outside;
• Hang a bed sheet out the window to signal firefighters;
• Fill the tub and sink with water;
• Soak towels and sheets (and blankets if necessary) and use them to keep smoke out of your room by blocking door cracks and ventilation grills;
• If your room is smoky, place a wet cloth over your nose and mouth.

STREET SAFETY

When Leaving the Convention Center or Other Meeting Venue:
• Take off and stow your meeting badge;
• Don’t walk through isolated areas;
• Keep alert for potentially dangerous situations;
• Find others to walk with you;
• Take a cab if you have had too much to drink (don’t make yourself an easy target).

If You Are Accosted:
• Comply with attacker demands as calmly as possible, but do not allow yourself to be moved to a secondary location;
• Get a good description of your attacker;
• Call the police.

Find more city safety tips on our meeting mobile app or on our meeting website, community.geosociety.org/gsa2019.

GSA is happy to provide these reminders to help make your meeting safer, but please remember: You are responsible for your own safety.