CAN MY PHONE TEXT BY SATELLITE?

iPhone 14 and later can send Emergency SOS and, with iOS 18 or later, Messages via satellite in the US, Canada, Mexico and Japan, free for two years after activation, according to Apple. Google lists Satellite SOS on Pixel 9 models except the 9a. You need a clear view of the sky.

THE STEPS

01 Check your phone: iPhone 14 or later for Apple's satellite features; a Pixel 9 (except the 9a) for Google's Satellite SOS.

02 Update the phone. Messages via satellite needs iOS 18 or later.

03 Know the limits Apple states: a clear view of sky and horizon, delays from 30 seconds to several minutes, no photos, video, audio or group messages.

04 Trees and canyons block the signal, and Apple says it may not work above 62 degrees latitude.

05 Apple says Messages via satellite is not for emergencies. Use Emergency SOS for those.

06 For remote country, check-ins and tracking, consider a dedicated satellite messenger.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ A recent iPhone or Pixel, updated
- ☐ Practice outdoors, in the open
- ☐ A paper contact list
- ☐ A charged battery and backup

Sources: Apple Support, Emergency SOS via satellite; Apple Support, Messages via satellite. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.