

SIGNAL ACTION GROUP TEXT LOOP GUIDELINES

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I.Description: What is Signal?

Signal is a free downloadable mobile and desktop communications application (app) which uses the process of encryption to secure communications between you and the rest of the world. It only needs a working internet connection and phone number to work. Once you have downloaded signal from your app store a text will be sent to the phone number you provided with a verification code which you will need to complete the process and allow you to use the app fully. Currently Signal works on Android smartphones running version 2.3+, iPhones and Apple devices running iOS 8.0+, and desktop computers. Android/Kindle and other tablets aren't currently supported.

II.Purpose

Signal text loops or "groups" are for time sensitive and secure communications. They are not intended for personal replies, announcements, nor questions intended to be directed at individual people (including "Whose number is this?"). If you need to do so please do so in direct messages or in a separate group. Suggestions, motions or proposals may be better suited for email communication.

III.Upkeep: How to use signal

Once you have downloaded and verified your phone number you can begin using signal to send encrypted calls, texts, and files. You also have the option of using signal to securely take/share photos, audio and video files in a text message or during a call. Android users are recommended to set a password for Signal itself (this option is not available for iphone at the time of creation of this document). Regardless of iOS or Android, it is encouraged that you set up a password lock for your actual phone.

A) Text Loops

You form what we call signal loops loops and what signal calls "groups" in which a bunch of numbers are added. Once added to a loop any member of that loop has the capability to add whomever they please. When added to a loop you have the ability to mute all notifications for that loop or leave at any time. Once added you will remain on the loop until you choose to leave. There are no moderators and as such no one has the ability to remove members of a text loop. When someone adds another person to the loop the person who is joining should text the loop ("Hey George here!") both as an introduction and as a way to allow other members of the loop to add the new person as a contact in case they do not have their number. We typically use signal to communicate before and during actions. Once an action is done members of the loop should leave and delete the loop from their phone (unless this is a neighborhood loop). Keep in mind Signal is most suited to be used by small groups of people

participating in one-time actions or for a specific purpose. Therefore the bigger the text loop the more work it will take to maintain. This is especially true when members of the loop change their individually assigned “encryption key” or what signal likes to call a “safety number”

*If you are having trouble adding other signal users to a text loop, try adding their name and number to your phone’s default contact storage first, then wait for a signal message that says, “Comrade B has joined signal!” and then add them to the loop.

B) Encryption key (Safety number) changes

If you re-install signal or get a new phone/number, Signal will assign you a new “safety number”. Most of the time a safety number change was due to those reasons yet in extreme cases it may mean that someone’s communications have been compromised. As a result when your safety number changes your messages will display “unverified number” to your contacts until they verify your new safety number. If you get a new phone, phone number or reinstall the app it is your responsibility to contact an active loop member or communications delegate and tell them of the change. That loop member or delegate should then hit the update button on the loop, then send a message to the loop notifying the rest of its members that the safety number change was due to a reinstall or phone/number change. Once this process is complete your contacts can trust more securely that there is end to end encryption. **DO NOT VERIFY A NEW SAFETY NUMBER BEFORE YOU HAVE CONFIRMED THE CHANGE.**

C) Disappearing messages

Signal has a function called “disappearing messages” which automatically deletes all text messages at the end of a set time. This can be used both in a personal conversation or on a text loop. You can set the clock anywhere between 30 seconds and 1 week. For example; if you set the disappearing messages clock to 30 seconds any message to the loop afterwards will only appear for 30 seconds *after opened*. If you set it to a week, when a user opens the conversation/group all messages will be disappear within a week. This is relative to each signal user in the loop. This pattern will continue until the disappearing messages clock is changed or turned off. You can do this by clicking the clock icon at the top of your screen in a conversation or a loop. If you have set signal up on your computer (at the time of creation of this document); if you send a message from your computer, or if you haven’t updated your signal application, that user will automatically turn off disappearing messages when they send a signal message.

Try setting it for 1 week in times of low-risk activity (neighborhood fascist watch, working groups, etc) and adjust it to a quicker time as risk increases (protests, actions, cop/nazi watch).

D) Making calls

As stated before, calls may be made using signal but only to other signal users. There is also a Video calling option.

Go to settings > advanced > enable “call relaying” to hide you IP address.

*Signal call quality depends on internet/wi-fi network speeds, so some users may experience poor audio quality or voice latency in times of slow/poor reception. If you can’t hear a caller, you may have

to hang up send a signal text or perform the call off Signal. 2G/3G users may not experience the same call quality as 4G/LTE/Wi-Fi users, for example.

IV. Using the communications loop

this guide will be made available for ALL participants, not just those on the “comms loop”. You may be included in other loops based on your roles (medic, scouts, emcees, security, etc) but this section is specific to the communications loop:

A) Delegate structure (proposed)

The following delegates will be on a communications loop the day of the action:

3 security delegates

1 social media recon delegate

1 scouting delegate

1 media delegate

1 medic delegate

1 communications delegate

This will streamline communications so that participants from the entire rally aren't clogging up a huge loop. Additionally, the Security group and scouts may have their own communications mechanisms, so this loop is for cross-group important comments and questions only, and so that the communications delegate can check in with various roles and make sure everything is running smoothly.

B) What to and what not to post

Examples of using the communications loop might include:

“a medic is needed by the tunnel entrance....!”

“about how many people are on the front steps?”

“is there water somewhere?”

“a fight broke out up front....can we get security?”

“here's a photo of someone threatening violence on 4chan...”

“can anybody find _____? their child is looking for them”

“my phone is about to die”

What not to post?

Examples that should consider using another method outside of *the comms loop*:

(may be appropriate on other loops, use your judgement)

“that guy in the MAGA hat said the n-word”

“who is that speaking?”

“what a stupid haircut!”

“anybody got another mirror I can use?”

“did anyone bring a knife?”

The point is to cut down on chatter while still getting people what they need. No one's head will get bitten off, but try to be courteous.

Don't post anything illegal

Be specific

Use Cardinal directions

V. Phone Tips and Security Culture

Everything about our phones, internet, and Signal seem to usually be great until the day of an action, right? Therefore we should prepare to answer your questions and try to keep all communications running smoothly. A communications delegate will make themselves available to all working groups to be on hand to answer questions and help with setup and maintenance. We will have spare battery packs, internet access and (hopefully?) a place to go use wi-fi if absolutely necessary.

A few tips will help us all stay safe:

- Keep your Signal Application **updated (check “App Store” (iPhone) and Google Play Store / F-Droid (Android)).**

- Have a fully charged phone

- If you aren't on any significant loops, turning your internet off will save battery power, which can be helpful if someone else's phone is dying or you need to switch delegates

- Communications delegates will spend a significant amount of time looking at their phones. A roll call may be used to check in, especially if there is significant ground movement. Please please please please follow the conversation on this loop. A communications delegate may send a scout or someone to find you. If you're the medic and haven't checked in for ten minutes we will want to make sure you're okay.

- Turning off your location is a good idea, (unless you get lost of course) and will save your battery

- Turning your brightness down saves significant battery. So does staying off Facebook :D

- Remember to be cognizant about what information you're sharing and why.

- We're here to build a movement, not for pats on the back or ally cookies. There's a way to congratulate ourselves and our comrades without loudly boasting. Remember, our enemies and the State are constantly watching, so taking to Twitter to talk about anything illegal or even braggadocious could land you in a really precarious situation. The alt-right are still consistently looking for people to doxx.

- Don't panic, and don't let paranoia or making mistakes keep you from getting things done, having fun and expressing yourself! This is all a learning experience.

Aside from running off fascists and building solidarity with oppressed communities, we also want to build a strong culture of resistance to the surveillance State, while sharing skills and developing the ways in which we, the people, harness technology, communicate with each other, and keep each other safe. Remember, we all we got!

Sincerely,

The c0mms team