

Verify emergency information

ACTION CHECKLIST

Check the source, time, exact location and evidence before acting on or sharing an emergency message. Compare independent sources when possible. A forwarded screenshot, logo or urgent voice note is not verification. Act on obvious immediate danger without waiting for a post to be confirmed.

[] Check the original

Find the actual organisation or person through an independently known channel. A familiar-looking account or copied badge can be fake.

[] Check place and time

Confirm the affected street, region and date. Old footage and information from another country can appear current when forwarded.

[] Compare independent information

Use radio, direct trusted observations and verified humanitarian or official sources as appropriate. Several reposts of the same claim are not independent confirmation.

[] Separate facts from guesses

Write what is confirmed and what remains uncertain. Do not treat a claimed ceasefire, route, water safety notice or aid offer as certain without recent verification.

[] Share carefully

Forward only necessary verified information with its time and source. Protect live locations and personal information. Correct earlier messages if they prove wrong.

WATCH FOR

Verification should not delay escape from visible fire, rising water or another immediate hazard. No source can guarantee that conditions remain unchanged.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If connectivity fails, use the observations you can obtain safely and your written plans. Do not travel into danger to confirm a rumour or follow a single anonymous message.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/verify-information/>

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