

What's Your Emergency?

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**INT. SOMEWHERE VERY DARK - NIGHT?**

Scuffling sounds, scrabbling, someone struggling.

PAULO

Fuck.

More struggling, straining, heavy breaths.

PAULO (cont'd)

Gotcha.

One long beep of a phone powering on.

Three short beeps of a phone dialing.

OPERATOR

Nine-One-One, what's your emergency?

PAULO

I'm not entirely sure.

OPERATOR

Er, okay Sir, what's your situation?

PAULO

I'm trapped, in a coffin I think.  
It's pitch black and I can barely  
move due to being handcuffed. I'm  
also worried that if I move I'll  
accidentally disconnect this phone  
which is jammed in my back pocket.

OPERATOR

Oh --

PAULO

So when you ask what service I need,  
is there a 'rescue tied up people  
from premature burial' service?

OPERATOR

Well no, not exactly, that would be  
quite a niche service.

PAULO

Agreed.

OPERATOR

Can I take you're name sir?

PAULO

Sure, why the hell not. It's Paulo,  
Paulo Renda.

OPERATOR  
The missing Mafia guy?

PAULO  
Yes, the missing Mafia guy, now you  
gonna help me or not?

OPERATOR  
Sorry, yes. Are you injured?

PAULO  
Massive headache, from those goons  
that tried to ice me.

OPERATOR  
And they buried you?

PAULO  
I believe that's what they normally  
do with people in coffins.

OPERATOR  
So, you need an Ambulance, and  
probably the Police --

PAULO  
You think I'm pazzo? Can definitely  
treat the Police as optional.

OPERATOR  
Er, yes, I guess so.

A faint knocking sound.

PAULO  
Ambulance guys have digging gear?

OPERATOR  
Or girls.

PAULO  
What?

OPERATOR  
Could be female Ambulance personnel.

PAULO  
Does that make them more or less  
likely to have shovels?

The Operator doesn't answer.

PAULO (cont'd)  
So I don't give a rats fuck then.

OPERATOR  
Fire Service then.

Knocking sound.

OPERATOR (cont'd)  
Sorry, did you say something?

PAULO  
Not me, knocking from somewhere.

OPERATOR  
Hey, maybe, you aren't underground?

PAULO  
Hmm, I wonder.

Sounds of thrashing and exertion.

OPERATOR  
What's happening?

PAULO  
I'm trying to see if I can move the coffin any by rocking it.

OPERATOR  
And?

PAULO  
Nope, I'm definitely underground.

OPERATOR  
Okay, well I can get your location from your cell phone.

More knocking.

OPERATOR (cont'd)  
Can you tell where the knocking is coming from?

PAULO  
Beneath me.

Knocking again, a staccato rhythm.

OPERATOR  
As in underneath your coffin?

PAULO  
Yeah, I know, tell me about it.

The knocking repeats, definitely a pattern to it.

OPERATOR  
When I was a kid --

PAULO  
This betta be going somewhere.

OPERATOR  
I was a Boy Scout, took all my  
badges, and everything.

PAULO  
That's was the somewhere?

OPERATOR  
That knocking's morse code.

The knocking is louder, nearer, insistent.

PAULO  
What's it saying?

OPERATOR  
Something about you being close  
enough even if you aren't...

PAULO  
Aren't what?

KNOCKING.

OPERATOR  
Quite dead yet.

PAULO  
Bullshit.

OPERATOR  
Apparently, there's a really hot  
place for you, a bit farther down.

The violent cracking of wood is followed by Paulo's screams.

OPERATOR (cont'd)  
Sir, Mr Renda, Sir... do you still  
need assistance.

No answer.

OPERATOR (cont'd)  
Guess not.

The line, and Paulo Renda, are dead.