

**Be
Prepared!**

Make a Plan!

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to have an Emergency Communications Plan. This is in no way an exhaustive list, and we thank our friends at redcross.org, Ready.gov and FEMA.gov for their tips in compiling ours.

In the event of a community emergency, communication networks for cellphones and computers could be unreliable, and power could be out, too. You want each member of your household – including children, people with disabilities and others, as well as outside caregivers – to be able to reach each other, know what to do and know where to meet.

Compile Your Contact Information

- Every family member's phone numbers for mobile, work, school, landline
- Social media accounts
- Medical facilities, doctors, schools, other service providers
- One out-of-town contact who'll act as a central point of contact outside the emergency area

PRO TIP: If you're using a mobile phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not. This is because a text message requires much less bandwidth than a phone call. Text messages may also save and then send automatically as soon as capacity becomes available.

Everyone should carry a copy of the contact list in a bag, wallet or backpack and have it programmed in their cellphone. Post a copy at home in a central location like on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

Decide on an Emergency Meeting Place – or Two

Choose safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite – places that are accessible for everyone, including those with disabilities or access and functional needs – and animal-friendly locations if you have pets. Review and practice your emergency plan regularly. Twice a year is a good target.

Examples:

- In your neighborhood: the mailbox at the end of the driveway, a neighbor's house, a big tree nearby
- Outside of your neighborhood: library, community center, place of worship, family friend's house
- Outside of your town or city: the home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address and how they could get there

Be Informed

- Identify how local authorities notify the public of a disaster and how you can get information: through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations.
- At least one member of your household should get training in first aid and CPR, and know how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur in your area – is it prone to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes or tornadoes? When you travel, you know how to protect yourself should an emergency occur there, too.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

Tell your loved ones about the American Red Cross Safe and Well website on RedCross.org.

Include this step in your emergency communications plan. People in a disaster-affected area can register themselves as "safe and well" while family and friends who have the person's phone number or address can search for messages posted by those who self-register. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

**This emergency information compiled from helpful tips
on interstatebatteries.com/beready and redcross.org.**

