

Make A Plan*

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

Family Emergency Communications Plan

- It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact.
- You may have trouble getting through, or the telephone system may be down altogether, but be patient.
- In an emergency, landline telephones and Cell phones may become congested or fail. Consider backup communications devices such as Ham Radio, CB Radio, FRS/GMRS Radio.
 - Make sure to have batteries or means of backup power for these devices.
 - Make sure every member of your family that can knows how to use these communications devices and where they are kept.
- Keep an portable battery operated am/fm radio available for news broadcasts.

Emergency Information

Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method is to broadcast via emergency radio and TV broadcasts. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call, or emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Emergency Plans

You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

*Material Adapted from <http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/>