



Stay in touch in case of emergency

Being able to communicate with family, friends and emergency responders is essential. However, keep in mind that ordinary communication devices may not work properly during an emergency.

- Make a list of emergency numbers and contacts so you can reach loved ones and emergency responders. During emergencies or disasters, it is not really the time to search through directories to find contacts and coordinates.
- Share this list with your loved ones and be sure to include all numbers so you can be reached wherever you are. Remember that in the event of an emergency or major disaster, you will not necessarily be at home.
- If possible, use non-voice channels, such as text messages, email or social media, as they use less bandwidth than voice communications and can work even when telephone service is interrupted or overloaded.
- If you must use a telephone, be brief and give only essential information. Short phone calls help extend your cell phone's battery life.
- Place spare batteries or a mobile device charger in the emergency kit. Consider buying a solar-powered, hand-crank, or vehicle charger. If you don't have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card in your kit.
- If you are told to evacuate, and you can forward incoming phone calls at home, have them forwarded to your cell phone.
- If you don't have a hands-free device, stop your vehicle on the shoulder before texting, making a call, or using your device. It's the law !
- Try to keep data stored on your phone, email account and other channels up to date.
- Note: Cordless phones depend on electricity and will not work during a power outage. If you have a landline, try to keep at least one landline phone in the house.

Additional smart phone tips

- Record agreed safe meeting places on your phone's mapping app.
- To keep your battery running longer, reduce screen brightness and close applications you aren't using.
- To reduce network congestion immediately after an emergency, avoid using your mobile device to stream videos, download animations or play video games.
- Sign up for direct deposit and online banking from your financial institution, so you can access your funds and make electronic payments regardless of your location.

