

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-125

Emergency Communications & Alerts Guide

A Practical Guide to Staying Connected Before, During, and After
Emergencies

Building Resilient Communities Together

Communication Saves Lives

During an emergency, accurate information and clear communication can make all the difference.

Whether facing an earthquake, wildfire, flood, severe storm, or other emergency, staying informed helps families make timely decisions and remain connected with loved ones.

Prepared families communicate before emergencies happen.

Why Emergency Communication Matters

Preparing your communication plan helps your family:

- Stay connected during emergencies.
- Receive important public safety alerts.
- Locate loved ones if separated.
- Reduce confusion and anxiety.
- Support a faster recovery.

Communication is one of the most powerful preparedness tools.

Build Your Family Communication Plan

Every family should decide:

- ☐ Who will be the primary emergency contact?
- ☐ Who will serve as an out-of-area contact?
- ☐ Where will family members meet if separated?
- ☐ How will children contact parents?
- ☐ How will older adults stay connected?
- ☐ Who will check on neighbors or relatives?

Write the plan down and review it regularly.

Stay Informed

Sign up for emergency notifications available in your community.

Stay informed through:

- ☐ Local emergency management agencies.
- ☐ Weather alerts.
- ☐ Local radio and television.
- ☐ Official government websites and social media channels.
- ☐ Trusted community organizations.

Rely on verified information.

Communication Tools

Keep these items available:

- ☐ Mobile phone.
- ☐ Portable charger or power bank.
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- ☐ Printed emergency contact list.
- ☐ Notebook and pen.
- ☐ Emergency whistle.

Backup communication methods are important if power or cellular service is interrupted.

If Family Members Become Separated

Remember to:

- ☐ Stay calm.
- ☐ Contact your out-of-area emergency contact.
- ☐ Go to your designated meeting place if it is safe.
- ☐ Use text messages whenever possible.
- ☐ Follow official emergency instructions.

Preparation reduces uncertainty.

Communication During Power Outages

If communication systems are disrupted:

- ☐ Conserve your phone battery.
- ☐ Turn down screen brightness.
- ☐ Use text messages instead of phone calls.
- ☐ Listen to emergency broadcasts.
- ☐ Recharge devices whenever safe opportunities become available.

Every battery charge matters.

Helping Children Stay Connected

Teach children:

- ☐ Important phone numbers.
- ☐ How to call 911.
- ☐ How to identify trusted adults.
- ☐ Where family meeting places are located.
- ☐ How to remain calm if separated.

Prepared children become confident participants in family preparedness.

Supporting Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

Ensure they have:

- ☐ Updated emergency contact lists.
- ☐ Accessible communication devices if needed.
- ☐ Backup charging solutions.
- ☐ Caregiver contact information.
- ☐ Regular communication plans.

Everyone deserves to remain connected.

Community Communication

Strong communities communicate effectively.

Consider:

- ☐ Checking on neighbors.
- ☐ Sharing official information.
- ☐ Helping those with limited access to technology.
- ☐ Supporting local volunteer efforts.
- ☐ Reporting hazards through appropriate channels.

Prepared communities care for one another.

Avoiding Misinformation

During emergencies:

- ☐ Verify information before sharing it.
- ☐ Use official sources.
- ☐ Avoid spreading rumors.
- ☐ Confirm emergency instructions through trusted agencies.

Accurate information protects everyone.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Update your family's emergency contact list.
- ☐ Choose an out-of-area emergency contact.
- ☐ Practice your family communication plan together.

Prepared families stay connected when it matters most.

Review Your Communication Plan

Review your communication plan:

- ☐ Every six months.
- ☐ After moving.
- ☐ After changes in household members.
- ☐ After updating emergency contacts.

Preparedness is an ongoing commitment.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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Preparedness is a journey, not a one-time event. Every small step you take today helps protect the people you care about tomorrow.