

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CHECKLIST

Page 1 of 2 | Prepare your household before power or communication services fail

1. EMERGENCY ALERTS AND INFORMATION

- ☐ Identify your city/county emergency management website and alert registration.
- ☐ Enable appropriate emergency alerts on household phones.
- ☐ Identify reliable local AM/FM news stations and NOAA Weather Radio coverage.
- ☐ Test your emergency radio and confirm its alert settings (if supported).
- ☐ Store spare batteries and know how to operate the radio without wall power.

2. PHONES AND BACKUP POWER

- ☐ Charge and test a portable power bank with your actual phone and cable.
- ☐ Keep compatible charging cables and a vehicle adapter with emergency supplies.
- ☐ Save offline maps, important addresses, and essential information.
- ☐ Know how to reduce battery use without disabling alerts you need.

3. WRITTEN CONTACT INFORMATION

- ☐ Print phone numbers for household members, schools, workplaces, and caregivers.
- ☐ Choose a primary and secondary out-of-area emergency contact.
- ☐ Give household members the contact list and a simple check-in message format.
- ☐ Keep protected copies in wallets, emergency bags, and the household binder.

Simple check-in format: Name - Location - Status - Next action

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Page 2 of 2 | Agree on meeting plans, practice, and keep this checklist current

4. MEETING LOCATIONS AND REUNIFICATION

- ☐ Choose a safe nearby meeting point outside immediate hazards.
- ☐ Choose a second meeting location elsewhere in your community.
- ☐ Identify an out-of-area destination for a larger evacuation.
- ☐ Agree what to do if a meeting point or travel route is unsafe.
- ☐ Coordinate child pickup, accessibility, transportation, and caregiver needs.

5. WHEN COMMUNICATION FAILS

- ☐ Practice a short text check-in when voice calls are not connecting.
- ☐ Know where to receive information if internet and cell service are unavailable.
- ☐ Agree when to shelter safely and when to follow evacuation instructions.
- ☐ Test any two-way or satellite devices before relying on them.

6. PRACTICE AND MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Run a household no-phone communication exercise.
- ☐ Test radio reception, spare batteries, cables, and charging equipment.
- ☐ Review your plan at least annually and after household contact changes.
- ☐ Replace damaged equipment and refresh printed information.

Household contact: _____

Primary meeting point: _____

Last reviewed: _____ Next review: _____

Always prioritize immediate safety and official emergency instructions over a prearranged meeting location. This checklist supplements, but does not replace, your full household emergency plan.