



As you move forward in disaster preparedness, think about how you would keep in touch with your family members if you were separated. It is important to have:

- A family communications plan.
- Emergency numbers for family and friends. Be sure to include contacts for people who are out of town because in a disaster, it may be easier to make long-distance phone calls if local phone lines are be jammed.
- Local numbers for fire and police.
- A plan that works in the event that phone and cell phone services are down.



Make a family disaster plan:
[The Red Cross has many templates for a family plan](#), making it easier to create one on your own. Also, keep a family communications plan wallet card with you. Both resources will help make your family plan quick and effective.



Consider purchasing two-way radios:
In the event phones are out of service, two-way radios are useful pieces of equipment. Be sure to familiarize yourself with how to use them before you need them!

If you use your cell phone during an emergency:

- Use text messaging, email or social media, as these use less bandwidth than voice communications and may work even if the audio phone service is disrupted.
- Keep your conversation brief and convey only vital information to conserve bandwidth and phone battery.
- Conserve your battery by reducing the screen's brightness and closing apps you are not using.
- To reduce network congestion, avoid streaming videos, downloading entertainment, or playing games.

[Click here for past newsletters and other emergency preparedness tips](#)



How is your emergency kit coming along? We want to see it. Send pictures of your progress to communications@tvwd.org. We will feature customer photos in future publications.



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