

Family Communications Plan

Your first concern during a disaster is usually for the safety of your family members. If disaster strikes without warning during your normal, busy day, how will you locate them?



Before Disaster Strikes

- ✓ Make a list of the phone numbers and addresses of places where each family member can often be found throughout the day: school, daycare, work, etc.
- ✓ Be sure to let your children's school know if someone else is authorized to pick them up in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Make copies of your vital records and store them in a safety deposit box. Store the originals in a safe place.
- ✓ Talk about it! Make sure to discuss all plans with your family and keep the phone number list in a place that everyone can find it.
- ✓ Make sure babysitters or other caregivers have access to the emergency information.



Out of area contact person

- Local phone service may be shut down in a disaster. However, you can usually make long distance calls.
- Ask a friend or relative that lives out of the area if they will be your contact person. Have each family member call this person to report their condition and whereabouts. Make sure every family member knows the phone number.



During and After Disaster

- ✓ Try to stay calm and take time to think.
- ✓ Call your out of area contact to update them on your situation and to obtain information about your family members. Keep calls as brief as possible.
- ✓ Listen to the radio or television for official information and instructions.

For a Family Emergency Communications Plan Template visit:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>