

do thing



July Preparedness Step - Family Communication Plan

Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.

We rely on cell phones, text messages, email, and the internet to stay connected every day. During a disaster, however, those systems can become unreliable. Cell towers may be overloaded, power outages can disable internet service, and cordless phones may stop working altogether.

Taking a few simple steps now can help ensure you can communicate with your family when it matters most.

This Month's "One Thing"

Choose one simple action this July to improve your family's ability to stay connected during an emergency:

◆ Develop a Family Communication Plan

Create a list of important phone numbers for all family members, caregivers, workplaces, schools, daycares, and emergency contacts. Make sure everyone in your household has a copy. Keep copies in your home, vehicle, wallet, and emergency kit.

◆ Choose an Out-of-Area Contact

During a disaster, local phone lines can become overwhelmed. Long-distance calls often use different circuits and may still work when local calls cannot. Choose a trusted friend or relative outside your immediate area to act as a central contact person. If family members become separated, everyone can check in with that person and leave messages.

◆ Prepare Alternative Communication Methods

Keep a vehicle charger for your cell phone and ensure all family members know how to send and receive text messages. Text messages often get through when voice calls cannot. If you have a landline, consider keeping a corded telephone available, as it may continue to function during some power outages.

◆ Program ICE Contacts

Store emergency contact information in your mobile phone using the label "**ICE**" (**In Case of Emergency**). First responders may be able to use this information to contact your family if you are unable to do so yourself.

Emergencies can happen when family members are at work, school, daycare, or travelling. A communication plan reduces uncertainty and helps everyone know who to contact, where to get information, and what to do if normal communication systems are disrupted.

Small Steps Make a Big Difference

By taking one simple action this month, you can help ensure your family stays connected during an emergency.

Learn more at www.do1thing.com



JULY PREPAREDNESS STEP

FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Small Step. Big Difference.

HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS DURING A DISASTER.

This month's **"One Thing"** – Choose **ONE** action to help your family stay connected.



During a disaster, cell towers and Internet service may be unreliable.



1 DEVELOP A FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Mom: 555-123-4567
- Dad: 555-234-5678
- Grandma: 555-345-6789
- School: 555-456-7890
- Daycare: 555-567-8901
- Work: 555-678-9012
- Caregiver: 555-789-0123

- Create a list of important phone numbers for family, caregivers, work, school, daycares, and emergency contacts.
- Make sure everyone in your household has a copy. Keep copies in your home, vehicle, wallet, and emergency kit.



2 CHOOSE AN OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT



- Local phone lines can be overloaded during a disaster.
- Choose a trusted friend or relative outside the area to be your contact.
- If separated, everyone can check in with this person and leave messages.



3 PREPARE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION METHODS

TEXT MESSAGES MAY GET THROUGH



KEEP A CAR CHARGER FOR YOUR CELL PHONE



USE A CORDED PHONE DURING POWER OUTAGES



- Keep a vehicle charger for your cell phone.
- Make sure everyone knows how to send and receive text messages.
- Keep a corded telephone available, as it may work during a power outage.



4 PROGRAM ICE CONTACTS INTO ALL CELL PHONES



- Create a new contact in your phone.
- Name the contact ICE.
- Enter all phone numbers for the person you would like to have notified in a medical emergency.

EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.
A PLAN TODAY HELPS KEEP YOUR FAMILY CONNECTED WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

Get more tips at www.Do1Thing.com

PLAN → WATER → SHELTERING → FOOD → WORK, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY → UNIQUE FAMILY NEEDS → FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

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