

Phones

Establishing communication is first and foremost. In any disaster, even the small ones, being able to reach emergency services if they are needed and family and friends to make sure they're okay is imperative.

Basic Information:

- Landlines and cellular phones will not work dependably after disasters strike.
- If possible, have at least one landline that doesn't require separate electricity to use.
- Due to the possibility of a low battery, don't rely exclusively on your cellular phone. Consider purchasing a second battery; or, have a power cord that will allow you to charge or use the phone from your vehicle battery.
- Texting over voice calls may be more successful in a disaster. The demand of text is relatively smaller in finding its way on networks that will already be stressed out with calls.
- Write down important phone numbers for your family and program them into your cellular phone. One suggestion is to also enter the names of your credit card companies to make contacting them easier in case of lost or damaged cards at a time when you need them the most.
- Provide, in writing, the name and number of an emergency contact so they can be notified should something happen (preferable someone outside the disaster area.)