WHAT DO I DO WHEN THE INTERNET AND CELL SERVICE GO OUT?

Switch to what works without a signal: a battery or hand-crank radio for news, paper contacts and maps, cash for small purchases, and your agreed meeting place. Ready.gov lists a radio, local maps and a phone backup battery in its basic kit.

THE STEPS

01 Tune a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to a local station or a NOAA Weather Radio.

02 Use the paper contact list and the paper map from your kit.

03 Keep a small amount of cash in small bills, because ATMs and credit cards may not work.

04 Use your phone sparingly and keep a backup battery charged.

05 Go to your agreed meeting place if you cannot reach one another.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Paper map of your area
- ☐ Paper contact list
- ☐ Cash in small bills
- ☐ Phone backup battery

Sources: Ready.gov, Build a Kit; Ready.gov, Financial Preparedness; NOAA National Weather Service, NOAA Weather Radio. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.