HOW DO MY FAMILY AND I STAY IN TOUCH WHEN PHONES AND INTERNET ARE DOWN?

Agree on a meeting place before anything happens, keep contacts written on paper, and keep a battery or hand-crank radio. Ready.gov says to make a household plan to stay in touch, including a meeting place, and to leave a note at home if you evacuate.

THE STEPS

01 Write names and numbers on paper, because a phone with a dead battery cannot show them.

02 Choose a meeting place familiar and easy to find, and tell everyone.

03 Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and a NOAA Weather Radio, for local instructions.

04 Keep a phone charger or backup battery in your kit.

05 If you leave home, leave a note saying when you left and where you are going.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Paper contact list in every bag
- ☐ Meeting place agreed
- ☐ Hand-crank or battery radio
- ☐ Backup battery for phones

How we write it into your plan. In our plans we add a contact who lives outside your area, and a time each day your family checks in even if there is no signal.

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