FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

When the phones stop working is the wrong time to decide how you will find each other. Fill this in together, print two copies, and put one in the glovebox and one with your documents. Write in pen.

HOUSEHOLD — EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOBILE	OTHER NUMBER	EMAIL OR HANDLE

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT — THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT LINE ON THIS PAGE

In a regional disaster, local lines jam before long-distance ones do. Everyone calls this one person, and that person becomes the switchboard. Pick someone far enough away to be unaffected.

Name _____ **Phone** _____ **City and state** _____

NEAREST TRUSTED NEIGHBOR

Name _____ **Phone** _____ **Address** _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS — OUTSIDE THE HOUSEHOLD

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE	OTHER NUMBER

CRITICAL SERVICES

SERVICE	NAME AND PHONE NUMBER
Doctor	
Pharmacy	
Veterinarian	
Insurance	
Emergency management	
School / childcare	
Utility (gas / electric)	

SET YOUR PHONES UP NOW — ALL FOUR ARE FREE

These decide whether a warning ever reaches you. Tick them off once done.

- ☐ **Leave Wireless Emergency Alerts on.** The government alerts that buzz your phone for tornadoes, flash floods and evacuation orders. Do not switch them off.
- ☐ **Install the FEMA app** and add every place your family lives, works and goes to school.
- ☐ **Sign up for your county or city alert system.** Usually Nixle, Everbridge or CodeRED.
- ☐ **Set an ICE contact and Medical ID** on each phone's lock screen, so responders can reach you without unlocking it.

Which local alert system did you sign up for?

If a call will not go through, text your location and the word “emergency” to **911**. Text-to-911 works in most of the country and gets through when voice networks are saturated.

FAMILY MEETING SPOTS

1 · Just outside your home

For a sudden emergency like a house fire. Close enough to walk to in seconds.

Place name it so a child could describe it

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2 · Outside your neighborhood

For when you cannot get home at all. A library, a church, a relative's house.

Place and address

Directions from home, school and work

LAYERS 1 & 2

Each layer takes over when the one above it fails. Fill in all three now, while it is easy.

LAYER 1 · NORMAL

Cell and internet are working. This is your default.

Primary messaging app

Backup app a different network

Code words

Short, ordinary words. They let you say the real thing on a line someone else may hear.

“I am safe”

“I need help”

“Bug out”

Everyone checks in within

No reply? Escalate after

LAYER 2 · REGIONAL OUTAGE

Towers overloaded or down, internet spotty. Fall back to radio and paper.

Landline at home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

FRS / GMRS walkie-talkies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Family channel

Backup channel

NOAA weather frequency

School pickup protocol who collects them, and who the school will release them to

Neighbor check-in who you check on, and who checks on you

LAYER 3 · GRID DOWN

Nothing electronic is reliable. Pre-agreed times, places and signals.

Ham callsign

Frequency

Net time

Satellite phone or messenger

Message drop location

Who checks the drop, and how often

Signal for "we are OK" a light, a flag, a marker

Signal for "we need help"

Walking route to meeting spot 1

Alternate walking route different roads, in case the first is blocked

MEDICAL INFORMATION

One row per person. A responder who finds this knows in seconds what would otherwise take an hour.

NAME	BLOOD TYPE	ALLERGIES	MEDICATIONS AND DOSES

ANYTHING ELSE YOUR FAMILY NEEDS WRITTEN DOWN

WALLET CARDS — FILL IN, CUT OUT, ONE PER PERSON

✂ CUT ALONG THE DASHED LINE ✂

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name

Out-of-area contact and phone

Meeting spot 1 · outside home

Meeting spot 2 · outside neighborhood

Radio channel / Code word for “safe”

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