

- Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers – police, fire and rescue agencies; power companies; insurance providers; family, friends and co-workers; etc. – and program them into your phone.
- Store the number of a person to contact in your phone book under “I.C.E.” (In Case of Emergency) so authorities know who to call in an emergency should you be unable to.
- Distribute wireless phone numbers to family members and friends.
- Forward your home phone calls to your wireless number if you will be away from your home or have to evacuate.
- If your wireless device has texting capabilities, practice sending text messages. (Most have texting capability, but check before you need it.)
- Set up all social media and email accounts for you, your family and friends on all wireless phones, tablets and other devices as a method of communication and means to alert contacts of your status and location.
- Develop a systematic evacuation and communications plan with family and friends that includes what to do, who calls who, where to go, and what supplies and items you will take with you. This may include updating social media sites to provide updates about your status or location.

Take care of your wireless devices:

- Keep additional batteries charged and nearby.
- Keep car-charger adapters to charge your devices while on the road.
- Utilize a universal portable power pack with a micro USB connection to charge various types of devices.
- Use covers for devices to help protect them if dropped.
- Keep phones, Smart Phones, tablets, laptops, batteries, chargers and other equipment in a dry, accessible location. For example, if you are concerned about severe weather or flooding, it is a good idea to put them in a re-sealable plastic bag.

Know and use special wireless services:

- Weather applications and alerts provide users with a variety of information about weather conditions, such as radar images, forecasts and severe storm warnings.
- Location-based services provide peace of mind, so that you know where your family members are located. Specialized devices can provide single-button notification services for medical or other emergencies.

Wireless tips to stay connected and informed:

- Limit non-emergency calls to conserve battery power and free up wireless networks for emergency agencies and operations.
- Send brief text messages rather than voice calls – often text messages get through when wireless networks are overtaxed during a crisis.
- Check weather and news reports available through many Internet-connected wireless phones, and through other wireless phone applications, when power is out.
- Download apps and subscribe to alerts from aid and relief organizations such as the American Red Cross' [apps](#) for first-aid, hurricane and shelter.

In extreme conditions when your battery is running low and you are unable to charge it, consider conserving battery life:

- Establish an “on air” time as part of your emergency communications plan with family and friends during which you power up your wireless device to take calls or messages during designated times.
- Turn off background data applications or Wi-Fi search services if you have a wireless device that is capable of these communications. (Note that your device will not receive alerts while data is turned off.)