

Use this guide to prepare your personal technology for power outages and other emergencies. No matter where you live, it is a good idea to be prepared for a blackout. Chances are during an emergency (earthquake, fire, storm, weather related event) you may lose power. Create a Personal Technology Plan!

Create an personal technology plan that includes:

- **Turn on Emergency Alerts:** Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEA, are messages sent by local and federal authorities, directly to your smart phones via the cellular network. Go to Settings>Notifications>Government Alerts on your Iphone. On you Android the setting is called Call Broadcasts or Emergency Alerts.
- **Turn off Do Not Disturb:** Emergency alerts sent by the government are meant to bypass Do Not Disturb. However during an emergency turning your cell phone ringer up and disabling Do Not Disturb will makes ure you don't miss critical information.
- **Enable Wi-Fi Calling:** If cell towers are down this feature is invaluable. Wi-Fi calling allows you to make phone calls to U.S. numbers over Wi-Fi.
- **Keep Everything Plugged In:** Keep everything plugged in before you lose power. You will want to have your phones, laptops, battery packs fully charged when the lights go out.
- **Consider Back Up Power:** There are many different types of back up power systems to consider. Generators, portable power systems, and solar power systems.

Be Prepared:

- Have a family plan. One that includes emergency supplies (flashlights, crank radio, first - aid supplies, food, water and shelter). Check supplies every 6 months.
- Make sure everyone in the family knows the plan. Talk with your children and practice your family plan.
- Create a written communication plan that includes the phone numbers of family, friends and important business contacts in case your phone dies and you can't access phone numbers.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.

Keep these six “P’s” ready in case immediate evacuation is required:

- **People and pets**
- **Papers, phone numbers, & important documents**
- **Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses**
- **Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia**
- **Personal computer hard drive and disks**
- **“Plastic” (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash**

Key Reminder:

- **Collect:** Contact information for your family & other important people/offices/doctors, etc
- **Share:** make sure everyone has a copy of the contact information in their wallet, purse, backpack
- **Practice:** Practice your family plan
- **TEXT IS BEST:** Text messages require less bandwidth than cell calls.

For more information on how to make a family communication plan visit: <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/create-your-family-emergency-communication-plan.pdf>