

Tech Savvy

The internet and social media are the [third most popular](#) way for Americans to gather and share emergency information with loved ones. With effective planning, it is possible to take advantage of technology before, during and after a crisis to communicate with family and friends. Here are some ways to incorporate technology into your emergency plans:

- Learn how to send text updates from your mobile phone to your contacts in case voice communications are not available;
- Program “In Case of Emergency” contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone;
- Purchase a solar powered or hand crank charger to keep your electronics running if you lose power at home; and
- If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use during or after a disaster.

FEMA offers several ways to be tech savvy for disaster preparedness. The FEMA [smartphone app](#) contains an interactive emergency kit list, emergency meeting location info and more to help you get started. It’s available for Apple, Blackberry and Android devices. Increase your technological know-how by joining the [text message program](#) to receive regular safety tips for specific hazards and to search for open shelters and disaster recovery centers.