



FAMILY COMMUNICATION EMERGENCY PLANNING

1. Family Meeting & Practice Drill

- **Sit down together** and walk through your plan on paper.
- Do a *practice drill* where everyone pretends the power is out and phones don't work.
- Test: can each person get to the meeting spot and recite the out-of-area contact person's number from memory?

2. Write It Down & Post It

- Create a **laminated wallet card** for each family member with:
 - Meeting spots (home, neighborhood, out-of-town)
 - Primary and backup contacts
 - Important phone numbers (memorize at least one!)
- Post a larger copy on the fridge or family command center.

3. Identify Multiple Meeting Spots

- **Primary:** Outside the home (ex: big tree in the yard).
- **Secondary:** In the neighborhood (ex: neighbor's porch, local park).
- **Regional/Out-of-town:** If you can't get home, where will you regroup?

4. No-Cell Communication Alternatives

- Teach kids how to use **landlines, pay phones (if available), or neighbor's phones**.
- Discuss low-tech options like **note leaving locations** (mailbox, under mat, taped to door) if someone passes by the house.
- Consider **two-way radios** if your family has them.

5. Assign Roles

- Parent A: Account for children.
- Parent B: Secure pets and documents.
- Teen: Grab go-bags.
- Each person knows *who* to look for and *who* they report to at the meeting spot.

6. Visual Map

- Draw a **simple map** of your home and neighborhood with arrows to the meeting spots.
- Color code for "fire," "flood," or "can't get home" scenarios.
- Place a copy inside go-bags.

7. Out-of-Area Contact Drill

- Choose a **relative/friend outside your city**.
- Everyone practices calling/texting *that one person* so messages can be relayed.
- Kids can practice writing down the number without looking.

8. Seasonal Check-Up

- Tie reviews to **holidays, start of school, or daylight savings time**.
- Use it like a "safety reset" for the family twice a year.