

A Communication Plan for Your Friends & Family

In an emergency, the first thing you want to know is that your family is safe. Safety is no accident (pun intended). It requires planning, preparation and practice.

A vital step is to have a communication plan. Think of an emergency communication plan as another vital piece of your preparedness plan.

- You should create an emergency team of family members and perhaps someone who can look after a pet.
- Create contact cards – you never know if your cell phone battery will die. One contact must be out of town-as they won't be having the same emergency experience as you and can act as liaison to all and contact concerned friends and family outside of your team.
- Have a meeting place – when Bob lived in the San Francisco area his plan was to meet at a plaza his family liked and knew various routes to its location.
- Create a timeline for contact – every few hours then later every morning and every evening. Experts say texting is best. Keep any use of your phone short to save battery life—perhaps buy a few prepaid cheap cell phones. If you use social media post your status and mark yourself safe.

The linked article will take you through the steps to create a useable plan on how to communicate with loved ones and if necessary meet up with separated family members.

[How to Create an Emergency Communication Plan for Your Family](#)

The website also has information (and of course advertising) on putting together an earthquake bag. We have already discussed this in a [previous tip](#). You can also watch Teresa Jankus' [video presentation to residents on putting together an emergency kit](#), but if you find it easier the information is contained in the article above as well as items for purchase.

This article ends with the question: What about my pets? In 2018 ELEC hosted a local pet care expert in the community room. [That video is here](#). Your pets are part of your family. So your plan should include them too.

Next Month

What if I need to evacuate?