

12 Months of Preparedness

8. Communications

As you may have seen on TV, or even experienced, everything is chaos in a disaster. Getting help, finding out what is coming next, what you should be doing, finding each other, and then getting your medicines, contact with your doctor, and filing insurance claims all become major obstacles. A little planning up front and making a communications plan can help minimize the traumas in these things.

First of all, you should be signed up for [Linn-Benton ALERT](#) and [Corvallis-Alert](#). They will warn you of impending problems and have information for you in a disaster on your land phone, cell phone and email. The names of the alerts are hyperlinked to info on signing up, and the links are repeated below.

Mitigation *“the action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something”*

Some things you can do now to mitigate the communication problem after surviving a disaster.

- ✓ Make a list of all of your important phone numbers, put it in plastic sleeves and put copies in all of your emergency and evacuation kits, vehicle, and on your cell phone. Include relatives, doctors, insurance companies, pharmacy and whoever else you may need to contact.
- ✓ Arrange an out-of-region contact. Someone you can call to say you are OK and then all your friends and relatives can call them instead of trying to get a call into a disaster zone.
- ✓ Keep one or more battery or solar or crank radios in your kits. Emergency information will be broadcast on most operating radio channels.
- ✓ Keep your cell phone charged, and keep a charging adapter and cable in your vehicle to be able to charge your cell phone from your car battery.
- ✓ Talk with your neighbors and consider all purchasing walkie-talkies to be able to communicate and check on each other if phones are out of service.
- ✓ Consider getting an amateur radio (ham) license and radio to be able to talk to others without phone service, and to get emergency information

Links to emergency communication resources:

Linn-Benton Alert: <https://www.co.benton.or.us/preparedness/page/emergency-alert>

Corvallis Alert: <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire/page/corvallis-alert-emergency-notifications>

Solar/Crank Radio (one of many options): [Emergency Solar Hand Crank Radio - Aiworth](#)

MS-Office Template: [Office Template Emergency Contact List](#)

Information: [The Emergency Contact List that Every Homeowner Should Have](#)