

How to Create a Family Emergency Communication Plan

Teach your child one parent's cell-phone number or a good contact number

- Starting around the age of 5, kids are developmentally ready to memorize a 7 or 10-digit number.

Designate an out-of-state or out-of-area contact(s)

- This will be a resource and point person for your family to call.

Choose a location other than your home where your family can meet

- A place where you can go in case of a fire, flooding, or other emergency.
- Your meeting place might be a local park, school, or church. Walk to the site with your child so they know exactly how to get there.
- If you live in an area prone to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, make sure your family knows the evacuation routes and zones.

Designate a trusted friend or family member who can pick up your kid at child care or school

- If you are unable to get there due to a disaster situation. Be sure that you give official permission to release your child to that person.

Make a card with your plan for each adult's wallet

- Include contact names, your emergency location, and designated emergency contact person's number.
- Put a copy in your school-age child's backpack, and discuss the plan with your kids.

If you're not good at texting, improve your skills

- When cell phone signal strength goes down, texting often still works due to the fact it uses less bandwidth and network capacity than phone calls.



For more information on this and other emergency preparedness topics please contact Traci Dixon, Community and Rural Development Agent, at tdixon@ncat.edu or call (252) 459-9810



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