

Family Communications

When the unexpected happens

Al Lewey/K7ABL

Discussion Topics

- Definitions
- Will I be able to communicate with my family when things go wrong?
- What method of communication will I use?
- Do I have a plan?

Communications Emergency

- From a Public Perspective
 - A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system failure puts the public at risk
- From a Family Perspective
 - A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system failure puts the family at risk

Emergency Communications

- The need is unplanned and occurs with little or no warning
- Important activities cannot be delayed for convenience.
- Multiple or simultaneous critical messages need to be passed within a limited time frame

HOME AND FAMILY FIRST

“Before leaving on an assignment, be sure you have made all necessary arrangements for the security, safety and general well being of your home and family.”

What methods of communication do I have

- Land line
- Cell phone
- Internet
- Text message
- Social network
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Etc
- Radio

Land Line

- Lines may not be down
- Unusable due to high traffic
- Phones off hook
- Try long distance
- Pay phones- where are they- part of emergency system - have priority for getting back into service

Cell phones

- Down tower
- Broken land line
- High traffic
- Use text message (discuss later)
- Use social network (discuss later)

Internet

- Requires internet access
- Email
- Social networks
- Winlink (Discuss later)

Test Messages

- Learn how to use it
- Keep it short
- It may get thru when you voice call will not

Radio

- Unique ability
- Less traffic
- Ability to break in (emergency)
- Know frequencies
- Know which repeaters you can reach
- Know your simplex capability
- Packet
- Winlink
- APRS
- May need to act as net control

Have a plan

- Out of Town contact(s)
- Neighborhood meeting place and number
- Regional meeting place and number
- Coins