

# Family Communications

When the unexpected happens

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# 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