

Disaster Public Information Tips

During a disaster event, communications are going to be vital. However, they may also be impacted by the disaster event making it even harder to communicate. The following are tips you should know about to be Disaster Communications Prepared.

1. Before the Disaster

- Have all the phone, text and email information for all whom you need to reach written down. Provide a copy to each contact.
- Have a long distance phone contact for all families to call when separated during a disaster and unable to reach one another. Long distance service may still be available even when local service is jammed.
- Have a family meeting and discuss how your family should communicate during a disaster.
- Have a working battery-operated or crank AM/FM radio in your home.

2. How do you find out about:

- Electrical Power Restoration: Central Maine Power Outage website.
- Nearest Overnight Shelter: Waldo EMA or 211
- Community Warming Center: Town Office or Waldo EMA
- Mass Feeding Sites: Town Office or Waldo EMA
- General Assistance: Town Office, DHHS or 211
- State Roads Closed: newengland511.org
- Weather Brief: National Weather Service or commercial weather services
- Note: Please do not call 911 to find out information

3. How to find out what's going on

- Telephone – landline and cellular
- Email and Texting
- Social Media – Facebook and Twitter
- Television and AM/FM Radio
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Online information sources

4. How to find out what's going on when the telephone and internet systems are down

- AM/FM Radio
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Amateur Radio

5. Calling for Help

- 911 when you have phone service
- Try calling your Town Fire Dept if 911 service is down or your exchange is cut off
- Work with your town to set up a CB/FRS radio service at the Fire Dept

6. What information to report

- Requesting general assistance from Town
- Requesting housing, fuel and food assistance from Town, WCAP or DHHS
- Reporting your property damage to Town or County EOC