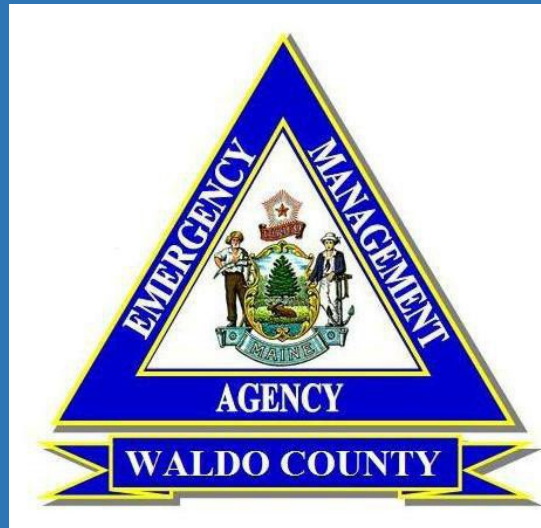


# **Emergency Communications for the Public**

**Brought to you by the  
Waldo County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**



# Emergency Communications for the Public

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 about how to be Disaster Communications Prepared.



# Before the Disaster strikes....

- Write down all the phone, text and email information for all whom you need to reach. 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.



# Before the Disaster, purchase a...

- A battery-operated or handcrank AM/FM radio. (\$25-\$75)
  - Can tune into local radio stations to find out what's going on even if you have no electric power.
  - Waldo County EMA has an emergency radio station at AM530 that will be turned on during a disaster
- A NOAA Weather Alert Radio (\$20-\$40)
  - Some AM/FM radios have this feature built in.
  - The radio will alert automatically to warn you of danger.



# Before the Disaster, purchase a...

- A couple of Family Radio Service (FRS) radios with extra batteries (\$40-\$60)
  - These may reach 1-5 miles and can keep you in touch with neighbors when phones are not working.
  - A neighbor 4 miles away could pass a message to someone else 4 miles further one.
  - May be monitored by emergency services or amateur radio operators.
  - Talk to your neighbors about creating a local radio net during a disaster.



# Before the Disaster, purchase a...

- A General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radio with extra batteries (~\$50)
  - These may reach 2-10 miles and can keep you in touch with neighbors when phones are not working.
  - A message can be relayed like the FRS radios.
  - May be monitored by emergency services or amateur radio operators.
  - Talk to your neighbors about creating a local radio net during a disaster.
  - Need to acquire a FCC license (\$80/10 year)
  - Belfast area GMRS repeater at receive = 467.5500 and transmit = 462.5500; TxPL=141.3.



# Before the Disaster, purchase a...

- If you want to spend a little more, consider a CB Radio (\$50 and up)
  - CB Radios can reach 1-20 miles depending on the type of radio and our location.
  - May be monitored by emergency services or amateur radio operators.
  - Talk to your family about creating a local CB radio net during a disaster.
  - Will need a 12 volt battery and an outside antenna for base stations. But they will reach a lot further.



# Before the Disaster, purchase a...

- If you want to spend a little more and spend more time, consider Amateur Radio (\$100 and way up)
  - You will need to take a written test to earn a FCC license.
  - Depending on the radio station, you can reach 1 mile or thousands of miles.
  - Specific frequencies are monitored by local emergency management agencies.
  - Waldo County EMA has a repeater on 147.27 + .600.





# During a Disaster, how to find out...

- Electrical Power Restoration: Central Maine Power Outage website or phone number.
  - <https://www.cmpco.com/wps/portal/cmp/outages/> or 800.696.1000
- 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](http://newengland511.org)
- Weather Brief: National Weather Service or commercial weather services
- *Note: Please do not call 911 to find out information*
- *Waldo EMA phone# (207) 338-3870*

# During a Disaster, call for help at ...

- If your telephone is working call 911
  - Do not use this number unless it's an emergency
  - Looking for information is not an emergency
- If you cannot call outside your phone exchange
  - Try calling your Town Fire Department
  - Know the non-emergency phone # before the emergency
- If phones are not working at all
  - Work with your town to set up a CB or FRS radio service with the Fire Dept
  - This should be worked out before the emergency



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# Emergency Communications for the Public

We hope this is helpful. Being able to find out what is going on and being able to reach out for help is very important.

However, being prepared to communicate during a disaster is up to you. Start now!

Good luck!

