

HOW TO USE YOUR PHONE IN AN EMERGENCY



Cellphones are essential. However, some services may fail in the event of a disaster. Here are some ways you can use your phone effectively in case of an emergency.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Update your status on your various social media pages to let your friends and family know where you are. After you reach a safe location, post your location, and try to coordinate a meeting spot with loved ones.

TEXT SHELTER TO 43362



You can text SHELTER and the zip code of your location to 43362 to see what locations near you offer shelter in times of emergencies, such as schools and faith-based organizations. Texting can be more efficient than calling during an emergency as the message will continuously retry sending until it is received.

LOCATION SERVICES

Ensure that your phone's Emergency Location Service (ELS) is turned on. Dialing an emergency number while ELS is turned on will automatically send its location to emergency response partners, allowing them to pinpoint your location and send help. Most phones have ELS turned on by default underneath location settings.



TURN ON LOW BATTERY

The best way to extend your phone's battery life is to turn on the low battery setting in your phone's settings. Extending your battery life allows you to preserve your phone for as long as possible during an emergency when charging isn't available.



VOICEMAIL

Once you reach a safe location or shelter, update your voicemail to let others know where you're located in case friends or family are trying to reach you.

