



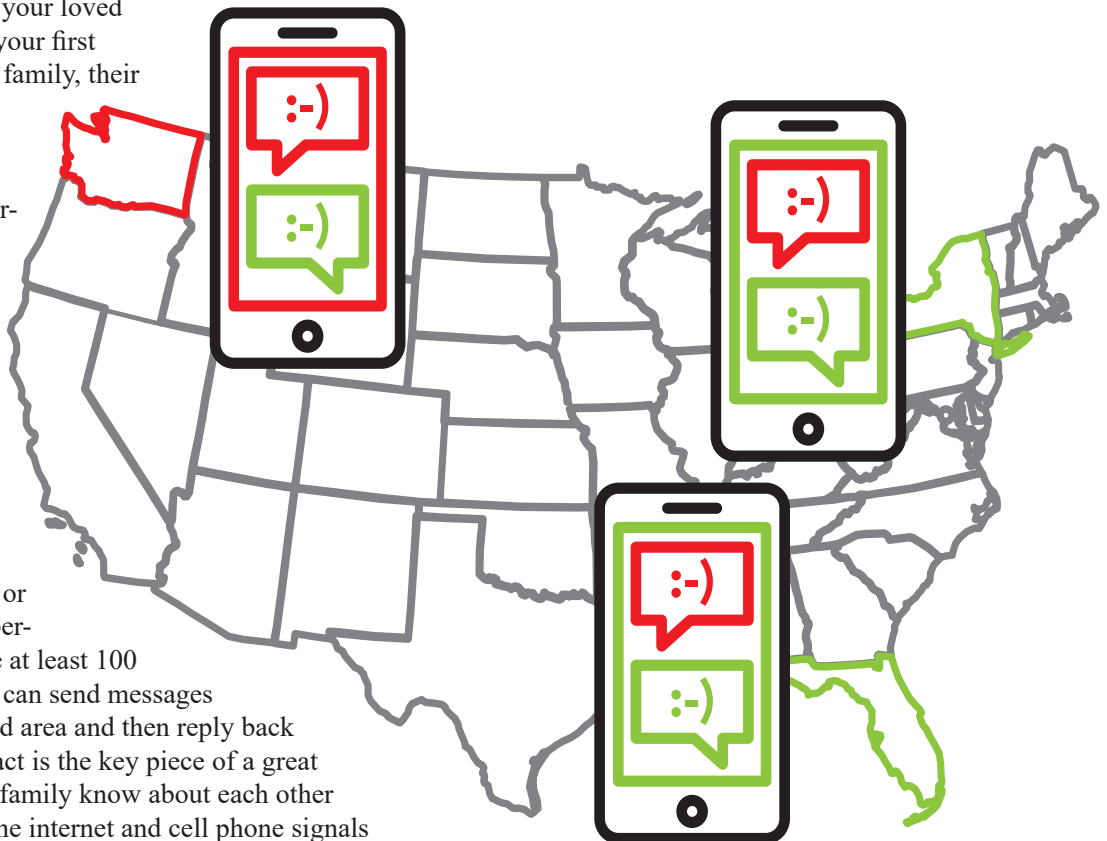
Prepare to be separated from your loved ones

If you are separated from your loved ones when disasters strike, your first thoughts will be about your family, their location and condition.

The stress of the event may make it difficult to remember even routine information, like phone numbers. We recommend that every household member have an out-of-area contact card in a wallet, purse or backpack at all times.

Out-of-area contacts

Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your contact person. This person should live at least 100 miles away from you. They can send messages to your family in the affected area and then reply back to you. An out-of-area contact is the key piece of a great communications plan to let family know about each other being safe — especially if the internet and cell phone signals are sparse following a major event, such as a big earthquake. It may be difficult to think during the stress of a disaster. Because normal routines have been disrupted, write down numbers and information ahead of time on an out-of-area contact card (See Action Plan for reference).



QUICK TIP: You may be able to send text messages to your loved ones on your cell phone. Keep these messages short.

Use the Web

Make sure to let your family know that these websites are available so they know to check for each other there.

The American Red Cross has a website that lets you search for loved ones and register yourself as “safe and well.”

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/>

Facebook has a “safety check” that can be implemented after a disaster.

<https://www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck/>

Official Sources

Know how officials will communicate with you. Counties and cities often have their local alert systems, the state of Washington will use the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts. This will come across all forms of media, TV, radio and smart phones. Sign up for your local emergency alerts at mil.wa.gov/alerts