

Prepare for Hurricanes, Snowstorms and other Severe Weather

Verizon Wireless suggests a few tips on how technology can help keep your family connected in the event of an emergency.

Tips and Tricks:

- **Ensure that all battery-powered devices are fully charged** before the storm hits. This includes wireless phones and smartphones, MiFi cards, laptops, tablets, DVD players, flashlights and radios.
- **Program your smartphone to receive emergency alerts.** Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are free wireless notifications that are delivered to your mobile device as part of a new public safety system.
- To help preserve battery life, **turn off background data applications or Wi-Fi search services** if you have a wireless device that is capable of these communications.
- **Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers and email addresses**, including police, fire and rescue agencies; power companies; insurance providers; and family, friends and coworkers. Program them into your phone, smartphone, tablet or laptop and also have a hard copy handy, someplace easily accessible.
- **Backup your information on Verizon Cloud**, Verizon Wireless offers backup assistance through the Verizon cloud to store your phone's address book and contact information as well as pictures and other content on a secure server.
- **Download weather applications** and alerts that provide users with a variety of information such as radar images, forecasts and severe storm warnings.
- **Download apps and subscribe to alerts from aid and relief organizations** such as the American Red Cross' apps for first aid, hurricane and shelter, and the Commercial Mobile Alert System from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Wireless devices can be a key source of information and communication in an event of an emergency, so be sure to **keep phones, tablets, laptops, batteries, chargers and other equipment in dry, accessible locations like re-sealable plastic bags.**
- When communicating with family during an emergency situation, **opt for brief text messages rather than voice calls.** Text messages are likely to get through more quickly in a crisis.
- You can also use your phone to **follow local news, emergency contacts and community leaders via social media.**
- **Take advantage of your free flashlight app.** All smartphones have a free flashlight app in case the power goes out and you're left in the dark you can still get around.

Products and Services:

- Back up your archives and documents, including critical business data, stored on your computers. **Verizon's Online Backup & Sharing** will allow any small-business owner to back up these important files to secure remote servers that only the user can access from anywhere with an Internet connection. **Verizon's Cloud** allows individuals or families to sync and save important photos, videos, contacts, music, call logs and even text messages with secure storage.
- Consider adding a **Jetpack** to your disaster survival toolkit. A fully charged mobile hot spot can give you 4G LTE access instantaneously. Plus, Mobile Hotspot users can share their signal with several devices, enabling fellow disaster victims to gain access.
- Download the latest emergency preparedness apps and store emergency contact information on your mobile devices. Smartphones like the **Google Pixel** allow you to make emergency calls, even if there's an outage. You can also use your camera flash as a flashlight if the power goes out. The **Moto Z Droid** smartphone offers external battery packs that can attach magnetically to double your available battery life in an emergency.
- Purchase a vehicle phone charger for those times when electricity is down but you need to keep powered and stay connected. **The dual output** allows you to charge two devices simultaneously.
- Consider purchasing **CradlePoint**, a leading provider of 4G/3G network router solutions. The CradlePoint CBA750 is designed to allow businesses to use both wired (DSL/Cable/T1) and wireless (Verizon 4G LTE) data networks in parallel to ensure a seamless connection to the Internet if your primary data connection fails, protecting your network availability with the fastest backup solution today.
- Think about purchasing a **Mophie Juice Pack Powerstation** which quickly charges external battery for smartphones, tablets and portable gaming devices. In addition, Verizon Wireless offers a handful of other rechargeable batteries that allow you to increase your battery life.
- For small businesses, consider purchasing products like Intuit **GoPayment** and **Square** which can businesses continue to process credit cards during a power outage.
- Secure your home when you can't be there. **Canary Flex** is a wireless, weatherproof, HD security camera for indoor and outdoor use, with automatic night vision and motion detection. The Canary Flex will send an alert directly to your phone whenever it sense unexpected activity, enabling you to watch in real time or on recorded video.