

Preparing to be Separated from Loved Ones

If you are separated from your loved ones when disasters strike, you immediately will wonder how and where they are. The stress of the event may make it difficult to remember even routine information, like phone numbers. Consequently, we recommend that every household member have an out-of-area contact card in a wallet, purse, or backpack at all times.



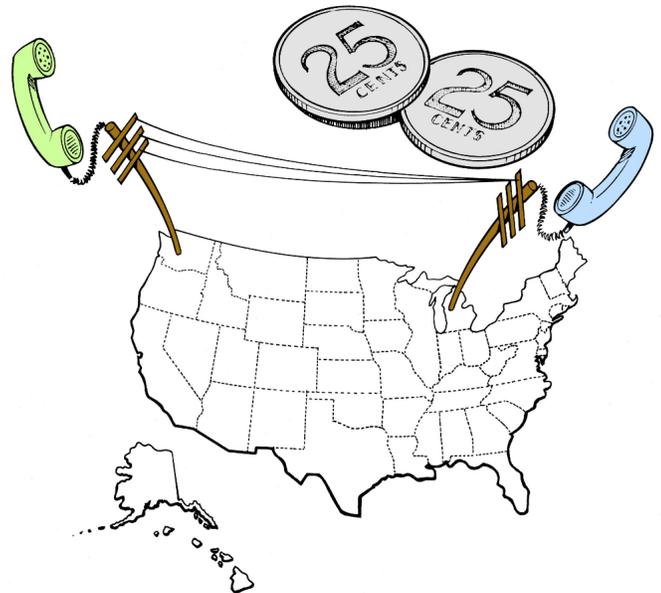
Contacting loved ones after disasters

1. Ask an out-of-area friend to be your contact person. This person should live at least 100 miles away from you. See *Did You Know* to find out why you can make long distance but not local calls.

Out-of-area contact:

Phone number:

After a disaster, all household members call this person to tell her or him how they are, and to find out how other household members are.



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



Did You Know

- Phone lines were “hardened” years ago to withstand nuclear attack and are quite resistant to damage. It’s difficult to make local calls not because of damage, but because of the number of people trying to call at the same time. Typically, however, you can make long distance calls.
- One reason the local phone system shuts down during earthquakes is because handsets get knocked from their bases. Help restore local phone service by making sure all your phones are hung up.
- You should keep a phone that does not require electricity. Cordless phones use electricity! - if power is out, they will not work.
- Pay phones are part of the emergency services network, and are a priority to be restored to service. Tape the coins needed to use a pay phone to your out-of-area contact card.

OUT OF AREA CONTACT PERSON

WHY? Local phone systems may be shut down in a disaster. However, you frequently can place a long-distance call.

www.emd.wa.gov

Name (print):

Phone number (with area code):

Cell phone number (with area code):

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2. Make small cards with this person’s name and phone number for all family members to carry in their wallets, purses, or backpacks.



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- cut apart
- prepare a card for each loved one