Phones or the cell network are down

If anyone is hurt or in danger, call 911.

1. **Call 911 only for emergencies.**[1]
2. **Text instead of calling.** Texts may get through when calls don’t, though they can be delayed.[1]
3. **Keep calls short** and only pass on vital information. Fewer calls also saves battery.[1]
4. **Wait 10 seconds before redialing** a call that didn’t connect.[1]
5. **Turn on a battery or hand-crank radio** for official news. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts warnings 24 hours a day.[2]
6. **Use your paper contact list** and your plan’s meeting place if you can’t reach each other.[3] [4]

Don’t: redial over and over. It adds to the jam.[1]

Stay-Go Guide · official steps, checked 16 November 2026 · Follow your local officials first.

Sources

1. Federal Communications Commission: Emergency Communications: tips for communicating during an emergency
2. NOAA National Weather Service: NOAA Weather Radio
3. American Red Cross: Power Outage Safety
4. FEMA / Ready.gov: Make a Plan

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