



BE TECH READY

Technology has made it easier than ever to prepare for emergencies. Still, technology can be unreliable during emergency circumstances if you haven't planned to keep your devices protected and powered up. Here are some tips to make sure that you are tech ready.

- Download the **Ready Georgia** app to keep a copy of your family emergency plan at your fingertips. The app will also help you track which emergency supplies you need to purchase for your Ready kit.
- Use text messages, social media, and email to connect with friends and family during emergencies.
 - Mobile networks can become overwhelmed during emergencies, making it difficult to place and receive phone calls. Text messages require less bandwidth, which means they are able to be transmitted more reliably during times when many people are trying to use their mobile phones at the same time.
 - Social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter can also be an effective way to update family and friends during emergencies. Facebook's Safety Check feature allows users to easily post a status update indicating that they are safe during a time of disaster.
- Have an emergency charging option for your phone and other mobile devices. Smartphones have become a vital tool to receive emergency alerts and warnings, so it's important to make sure you can keep them powered up in an emergency.
 - At home: Prior to severe weather, make sure that all of your electronic devices are fully charged. If the power goes out, preserve battery power by minimizing device use. Keep a backup power source on hand to recharge your phone so that you can stay connected even during an extended power outage.
 - In your car: Keep a portable phone charger in your vehicle at all times, and consider purchasing a backup power supply to keep in your vehicle as well.
- Store important documents in a secure, password-protected flash drive or in the cloud.
 - There are a number of productivity apps for mobile devices that make this easier than ever, using your phone's camera as a scanning device. Capture electronic versions of important documents such as insurance policies and identification documents.
 - Backup your computer to protect photos and other personally important electronic documents.
 - Scan old photos to protect them from loss.
- Sign up for direct deposit and electronic banking through your financial institution to access your payroll funds and make electronic payments wherever you are. Federal benefit recipients can sign up by calling 800.333.1795 or at [GoDirect.org](https://www.godirect.org).

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