

It's important to create a family emergency plan for friends and family before disaster strikes. FEMA offers a few easy steps to start your emergency communication plan:

- **Understand how to receive emergency alerts and warnings.** Make sure all household members are able to get alerts about an emergency from local officials. Visit [www.gwinnettema.com](http://www.gwinnettema.com) to see what is available in your area, and learn more about alerts by visiting the Warnings and Notifications webpage.
- **Discuss family/household plans for disasters that may affect your area and plan where to go.** Plan together in advance so that everyone in the household understands where to go during a different type of disaster like a hurricane, tornado, or wildfire.
- **Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family that includes:
  - phone (work, cell, office)
  - email
  - social media
  - medical facilities, doctors, service providers
  - school
- **Identify information and pick an emergency meeting place.** Things to consider:
  - Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite.
  - Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs.
  - If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations.
  - Examples of meeting places:
    - **In your neighborhood:** A mailbox at the end of the driveway, or a neighbor's house.
    - **Outside of your neighborhood:** library, community center, place of worship, or family friend's home.
    - **Outside of your town or city:** home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address of the meeting place and discuss ways you would get there.
- **Share information.** Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.
- **Practice your plan.** Have regular household meetings to review your emergency plans, communication plans and meeting place after a disaster, and then practice, just like you would a fire drill.