



Wireless Emergency Alerts

Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, are free messages sent directly to your cell phone, warning you about severe weather, AMBER Alerts, and threats to safety in your area. To find out if your mobile device is capable of receiving WEA alerts, contact your cellular service or check out www.ctia.org/WEA.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

TECHNOLOGY: Back up your data

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for last. If it is too big to take with you, put it in a heavy-duty plastic bag. Secure the bag tightly. Place it on a table or some other higher location. Do not leave them on the floor. Floodwaters after a hurricane generally cause the most damage to electronics.

Take paper out of printers. Unplug everything from power before you leave the building.

During the Storm

Keep up with news and information about approaching storms and other disasters. Use weather or storm-tracking apps, available for smartphones and tablets, to monitor storm's progress. Subscribe to text alerts from local emergency management agencies or news outlets. Weather radios and commercial television and radio are good sources for warnings before storms arrive and to let you know when the danger has passed.

Social media can be a valuable information source during disasters. Twitter feeds from local news and weather sources can provide important information specific to your community.

Use the tools that provide the best

information source for your area. You may find using multiple approaches work best for you. For example, you may want to supplement the information you get from a weather app and Twitter with a dedicated NOAA weather radio.

After the Storm

Text messages are the best way to communicate with loved ones in or out of a disaster area. If cell phone towers are overloaded, a short text has a better chance of getting through than a phone call. Four letters—IMOK—will tell people the most important message—that you and your family are fine.

Invest in either a solar charger or a battery-operated charger to keep your devices powered. Turning electronic equipment on after it has gotten wet is a sure way to ruin it permanently. If your devices get waterlogged, open them as much as you can and let them dry out for at least 72 hours. The biggest mistake people make is turning equipment on too soon after it has gotten wet. If the equipment has gotten saltwater in it, then the data on it is most likely irretrievable.

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