

Digital Preparedness Tips

By [Fairfax County, Virginia](#)

- Tell friends and family **you are OK** by use of text, e-mail, Twitter, Facebook and other social media.
- Learn how to send updates via txt and internet from your mobile/cell phone to your contacts and social channels, in case voice communications are not available. Avoid calling by telephone.
- If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 911. Remember, you cannot currently text to 911. If you are **not** experiencing an emergency, do not call 911.
- Save important phone numbers to your phone.
- Keep charged batteries and car phone chargers available as back-up power for your cell phone.
- Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power.
- Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, download music or videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help potentially lifesaving emergency calls get through to 911.
- If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use, if needed, during or after a disaster.
- Charge your digital camera or buy batteries for your film camera if you need to document storm damage afterwards.
- Stay connected via social media with your local emergency management office and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (www.ema.ohio.gov and @Ohio_EMA

