

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE NETWORK

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## COMMUNICATIONS

*This is not a comprehensive survival guide or prepper handbook.  
It is intended to help you identify weaknesses in your systems.*

### INTRO:

The Communications portion of this document will cover a variety of topics. It will range from simple communication devices to much more complicated communication systems. As with everything else, multiple layers and redundancies are recommended.

### OLD SCHOOL:

There is something to be said for old school communication devices. Objects such as signal mirrors, whistles, or clickers have been used for a very long time. They obviously require no internet or electricity and have very few, if any, moving parts that could break. Light weight, compact, and literally no instruction needed, these are must haves for your bug out bags.

### TRADITIONAL:

Next on the list are options that used to be common ways of exchanging information. Bulletin boards at local grocery stores or post offices have helped locate many lost animals or find employment. However, they have been replaced with electronic methods that reach far beyond a reasonable local range, can be taken down, and are likely being monitored.

Setting up local methods of communication such as bulletin boards at local establishments, newspapers, local magazines, and radio stations is great ways to stay in touch.

### PHONES:

Cell Phones will probably be the first line of contact for most. However, most don't realize that in an emergency situation, texts are more likely to get through than a call. It would be wise to keep an old-fashioned address book with lists of numbers and addresses, just in case. Also, a solar powered charging station could be a life saver.

TIP: Keep an address book with all of your important numbers and addresses  
**WRITTEN DOWN!**

Another layer of communication is a phone connected to a landline. ***This will only work if the phone is not wireless and it is not run through the internet.*** These will likely still be up and running in a grid down situation. As with cell phones, be sure to keep a list of phone numbers and make a special note of any that are landlines. If possible, try to have the landline numbers for at least one local person and another outside of your region. Having a person outside of your area can give you and your family a

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- 1 Old School: signal mirror, whistle, clicker
- 2 Traditional: bulletin board, newspaper, radio
- 3 Phones: cell, landline
- 4 Radios: crank, walkie talkie, HAM

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point of contact in case you get separated in a regional disruption. ***It cannot be stressed enough to have these numbers written down.***

TIP: Keep a laminated a list of numbers (including local and long-distance landlines), addresses, and other important information in your wallet *and* bug out bag.

## RADIOS:

If your location is without power, having a hand crank radio could be a valuable tool. Obviously, this would only allow you to receive information, not transmit. Also, you may be able to communicate two ways short distances with walkie talkies. But by far, the best way to stay in touch with others both locally, regionally, and beyond would be through short-wave radios.

Although HAM radios require a special license, equipment, and training, they can keep you connected and able to share important information. It is highly recommended that your group establishes and participates in a weekly/bi-monthly/or monthly communication called a “net”. A net is a regularly scheduled HAM radio check-in for a specific group of people. It occurs at a specific time, on a specified channel.

As with the phones, having the capability of solar charging and having frequencies and other pertinent information written down will be extremely important.

TIP: Keep an old cell phone, cell phone charger, extra short-wave radio, and solar powered charging device in a faraday cage.