

## **SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS: AN APP FOR THAT TOO**

Prepare for severe weather hazards with free mobile apps on your smartphone. The FEMA App contains disaster safety tips, interactive lists for storing your emergency kit and emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters and open FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. The App is free to download through your smartphone provider's app store. Go to <http://www.fema.gov/smartphone-app> for more details.

The Red Cross also offers a suite of hazard-based preparedness apps. (Visit <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps> for more information) Download these apps today and be ready when severe weather strikes.

## **LIFE SAVING TEXT MESSAGES**

Stay ahead of the severe weather curve with emergency text message alerts sent directly to your mobile phone. These alerts won't get backlogged and can be life-saving because they inform the public to take preventive measures immediately. To get emergency alerts, first check to see if your mobile phone is equipped to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (<http://www.fema.gov/commercial-mobile-alert-system>).

Be sure to also subscribe for alerts in your area through [www.weather.gov/subscribe](http://www.weather.gov/subscribe) and local emergency management officials. For text message updates from FEMA (standard message and data rates apply), simply text PREPARE to 43362 to sign up and STOP to 43362 to unsubscribe.

## **GET TECH READY BEFORE POWER OUTAGES**

Power outages often accompany severe weather. Make sure you can stay connected with loved ones by using these technology tips:

- Keep extra batteries for your phone in a safe place or purchase a solar-powered or hand crank charger. These chargers are good emergency tools to keep your laptop and other small electronics working in the event of a power outage.
- If you own a car, purchase a car phone charger because you can charge your phone if you lose power at your home.
- Program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone.
- Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, closing apps you are not using and keeping phone calls brief.
- If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster.

For more information how to get ready before severe weather, visit <http://www.ready.gov/get-tech-ready>